

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MASTER SYLLABUS

SW3710

SOCIAL WELFARE AND THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION: HISTORY, TRENDS AND BASIC CONCEPTS

I. COURSE DOMAIN AND BOUNDARY

This course provides content about the history of social work, the history and current structures of social welfare services, and the role of policy in service delivery, social work practice, and attainment of individual and social well-being. This course assists students in developing a critical understanding of the social welfare system in this country, with special emphasis placed on its historical development. Course content provides students with knowledge and skills to understand major policies that form the foundation of social welfare and contemporary social welfare trends are discussed within their social, political, and economic contexts. The historical underpinnings and current structure of the social work profession are described. Social welfare policy issues (e.g., poverty; homelessness, etc.) are analyzed with respect to social work's commitment to the attainment of individual social well-being and economic and distributive justice on behalf of oppressed populations. The dual role of the social worker as advocate for progressive change and knowledgeable resource broker is explained.

This course will assist students understand the historical development of social policy and issues that applied to the needs of populations both from a U.S. centric and an international perspective.

This course emphasizes the impact of historical and recent social welfare policies on minority groups, including women, the differently abled, the aged, and those with differing sexual orientations within the United States. Students are introduced to the institutional forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and the strategies of change that advocate for social and economic justice.

II. STUDENT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL OBJECTIVES

- A. Understand definitions, scope and basic concepts of social welfare (e.g. what is meant by social welfare, social problems and social policy) in the U.S.

- B. Understand the history of social welfare from the English Poor Laws to the current status of the welfare state with an understanding of how economic, political and cultural conditions affect changes in policies and practice.
- C. Demonstrate an awareness of historical and contemporary definitions of social problems and social welfare; identify historical trends in social welfare.
- D. Outline the values, history, and present structure of the social work profession, including the current language within the NASW Code of Ethics that address policy practice.
- E. Assess the impact of historical social welfare policy on minorities, women, and other oppressed populations.
- F. Assess and analyze social welfare problems (e.g. poverty) and various policy solutions that address the problem (e.g. income maintenance programs).
- G. Understand the reciprocal impact of globalization on policy formulation

III. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Student achievement of the knowledge and skill objectives is assessed via quizzes, in-class short answer examination, and a written assessment of the historical trends of a particular social welfare policy, including the various definitions of the problem over time..

IV. TEXTS/REQUIRED MATERIALS

Day, P. J. (2006). *A New History of Social Welfare, 5th edition.* Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

V. ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

Course content begins with defining what is meant by social welfare and how the definitions, structure and public opinion vary by culture, context, and time. Although international consideration in the development of social welfare services and systems will be examined, the focus of the course will be on the development of social welfare within this country. An attempt is made to link the prevailing social welfare system in this country with its historical background, tracing the roots of the current welfare system. The review will begin with the English Poor Laws of 1600 and end with social welfare at the beginning of the 20th century. Through out the course, the commencement and growth of social work as a profession will be discussed. The final segment of the course assesses social welfare policy issues, and explains the role of the professional social worker in terms of advocating on behalf of oppressed populations for social and economic justice.

VI. COURSE OUTLINE

<p>Session 1 Introduction to the course and each other. Review the syllabus, course purpose, format, norms and assignments</p>	<p>Assignment: Read Chapter 1 Values in Social Welfare and Chapter 2 The Institution of Social Welfare</p>
<p>Session 2 Foundations of charity and control. American Social Values, Issues of Discrimination. Basic Institutions of Social Welfare Perspective on social Welfare, Profession of social work Historical definitions of social welfare. Traditional boundaries of social welfare. Historical purposes of social welfare policy. International and historical ideas as the underpinning the American social welfare system. Key events in the history of social welfare.</p>	<p>Assignment: Read chapter 3 The Beginnings of Social Welfare: Political economy and Early Societies and</p>
<p>Session 3 Dark and middle ages, Dissolution of feudalism Poverty becomes a crime Protestant reformation; Elizabethan Poor Laws of 1601 Emergence of Capitalism</p>	<p>Chapter 4 Feudalism and the Welfare State</p>
<p>Session 4 Social welfare in the New World: Examination of history of social welfare as a function of ongoing social, political, and economic changes. The effect of attitudes, values and culture in the development of social welfare in the New World and over time</p>	<p>Assignment: Read chapter 5 Social Welfare Move to America</p>
<p>Session 5 The indigenous Peoples of America European Invasion Social Welfare in the Colonies Slavery in the Colonies The New Nation and its Constitution</p>	<p>Assignment: Read chapter 6 America to the Civil War</p>
<p>Session 6 Beginning of the social welfare state.</p>	<p>Assignment: Read Chapter 7 The American Welfare State Begins. Read chapter 13 pages</p>

<p>Progressive Era as beginning of Child Labor Laws, Juvenile Justice reform, unionization. Effects of the Depression and reforms during the ‘New Deal’.</p> <p>Means tested versus entitlement programs. Beginning history of the social work profession; Charity Organization Society, Hull House, etc. Values of social work including social and economic justice. Political ideology and values</p> <p>The first civil rights movement; Private Philanthropy; Social treatment in the 1800s; social control; nonwhite Minorities; The Women’s movement</p>	<p>461-465, Globalization, the International Economy and American Social Welfare</p>
<p>Session 7</p> <p>The Civil War and after; Post war political economy population, immigration and the people</p> <p>Emerging philosophies and social welfare</p> <p>Public welfare efforts, The professionalization of social work</p> <p>Moving toward reform</p>	
<p>Session 8</p> <p>Test Chapter 5,6,and 7</p>	<p>Assignment: Read chapter 8 The Progressive Era, War, and Recovery</p>
<p>Session 9</p> <p>The progressive Era</p> <p>Population Movements and Immigration; Oppression of African Americans and Native Americans</p> <p>Labor and the Unions; Social Welfare in the Progressive Era; The Professionalization of Social Work</p>	<p>Assignment: Read Chapter 9 The Great Depression and Social Security for Americans</p>
<p>Session 11</p> <p>The state of the nation under Eisenhower; Civil Rights Before Kennedy; Johnson and the Great Society; Welfare, Civil Rights, and the Social Work Profession</p> <p>Changes and turbulence in social welfare. ‘Great Society, War on Poverty, Beginning of health care reform (Medicaid; Medicare), Civil Rights and other social movements. Defining poverty and income maintenance.</p>	<p>Assignment study for test chapters 8-10</p>
<p>Session 12</p>	<p>Assignment: Read Chapter 11 The Return to</p>

Test chapters 8,9,10	the Past
Session 13 A retreat from the Welfare State; Social Programs in the 1970's; Other social Welfare Programs; Civil Rights in the 70s	Assignment: Read chapter 12 The Reactionary Vision and Chapter 13 the Decline of Social Responsibility
Session 14 Biting the Conservative Bullet; Reganomics; the New Federalism; Basic Needs Programs; Civil Rights Under Reagan and Bush; The International Element; Values and Dependency; The synergistic Cycles of History; the Why of Values analysis Conservative Revolution – political backlash regarding the welfare state; Regan's supply side economics and the effect on poor and oppressed populations. Newt Gingrich and the Personal Responsibility Act. Welfare Reform under Clinton.	
Conservative Revolution – political backlash regarding the welfare state; Regan's supply side economics and the effect on poor and oppressed populations. Newt Gingrich and the Personal Responsibility Act. Welfare Reform under Clinton.	
<u>Session 15</u> Introduction to policy analysis; assessing policies within a social welfare agency. Achieving social and economic justice via policy reform. Student Evaluation of Teaching	

NOTE: Syllabus subject to change based on the needs of the class.

Suggested Assignments:

- 1) Exam/Quiz on Historical Content
 - a. Exams covering course content will occur throughout the course.

- 2) Paper: Assessing a Social Welfare Issue Over Time
 - a. Student selects a social problem that is of particular interest to them
 - b. Describe the current social problem and provide evidence of the impact and the demographics of the population it affects.
 - c. How has the topic been treated historically? When was it first identified? Was it identified the same as it is today? How is the historical and current definition different?
 - d. What are services/policies that are in place to alleviate problem? How has this changed over time?
 - e. Who receives the services? How does this compare to whom is most affected by the problem?
 - f. How do social stigma, discrimination and/or societal prejudices affect the definition and policy solutions?
 - g. Discuss your personal belief of the problem and what you think the causes of the problem are.
 - h. How does the treatment of this issue relate to Social Work values and ethics

- 3). Paper: Analysis of a Social Welfare Issue over time of a westernized and non westernized country compared to the United States. Using the issue chosen for assignment 2, choose two countries to compare and contrast with the historical and current development to the United States.

- Student selects a social problem that is of particular interest to them
- a. Describe the current social problem and provide evidence of the impact and the demographics of the population it affects.
 - b. How has the topic been treated historically? When was the topic initially identified as a problem? Was it identified the same as it is today? How is the historical and current definition different?
 - c. What are services/policies that are in place to alleviate problem? How has this changed over time?
 - d. Who receives the services? How does this compare to whom is most affected by the problem?
 - e. How do social stigma, discrimination and/or societal prejudices affect the definition and policy solutions?

- f. Discuss the global differences and similarities of these countries compared to the United States.
- g. How does the treatment of this issue relate to Social Work values and ethics?

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