

SOCIOLOGY 470: SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

TERM: SPRING 2012—MW 11:00-12:15
INSTRUCTOR: MICHAEL MARTIN
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OFFICE HOURS: TR 9:30 -10:30 , MW 9-10:30, OR BY APPOINTMENT

DATES TO REMEMBER:

<u>Class Dates:</u>	
February 29:	Examination I
April 11:	Examination II
March 28:	Term paper due
May 9:	Final Examination Period, Wednesday, 8-9:50
<u>Class Presentations:</u>	
February 22:	Housing Crisis/Policy
March 7:	Social Security Crisis/Solutions
April 2:	Welfare Policy/Reform
April 16:	Mental Health Policy/Deinstitutionalization
April 25:	Health Care Policy/Crisis

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course analyzes the historical development, current content, and adequacy of social welfare policies in the United States. Specific policy areas to be discussed include income maintenance (including social insurance and public assistance), mental health, health care, and aging.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the semester each student should be able to:

1. compare and contrast the alternative views and frameworks of social welfare policy;
2. identify the essential components of the policy-making process;
3. discuss the history of the development of social welfare policies in the United States;
4. recognize the major themes and issues in contemporary social welfare policies such as mental health, income maintenance, health care, and aging;
5. analyze current social welfare policies for strengths and weaknesses;
6. evaluate the effectiveness of recent reforms and proposed changes in social welfare policies;
7. assess the impact of social welfare policies on specific populations such as the poor, women, single parents, and ethnic minorities.
8. write more effectively.

CLASS FORMAT:

The primary methods of instruction are lectures, class presentations, and class discussion. Class attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed two unexcused absences during the semester except on guest speaker and class presentation days; on guest speaker and class presentation days, the *Dean of Student Affairs, Ken Marquez*, must excuse all absences. Unexcused absences on guest speaker or class presentation days are counted as five absences. Each unexcused absence beyond the allowed two will reduce a student's final grade average by one point.

READINGS:

American Social Welfare Policy: A Pluralist Approach, 2010, H. Karger and D. Stoesz, Sixth Edition, Allyn & Bacon (*Required textbook*).

Other assigned readings can be found on Blackboard in the *Learning Modules* tab. Be patient as it takes some time for the longer readings to download.

CRITERIA FOR STUDENT EVALUATION:

Examinations:

All students are required to take three examinations that will comprise 60% of the final grade. Examinations may consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and short essay questions and will cover all lectures, assigned readings, and videos. Tentative examination dates are **February 29, April 11, and May 9**.

Class Presentation:

Students will develop a class presentation and lecture on a specific policy area; this lecture will be a minimum of 45 minutes in length and will be presented orally to the class. The oral class presentation comprises 10% of the final grade. Social welfare policy topics include the following:

- Housing Crisis/Policy in the US*
- Social Security Crisis/Solutions (OASI component)*
- Health Care Crisis/Policy*
- Mental Health Policy/Deinstitutionalization*
- Welfare Policy/Reform (AFDC / TANF)*

Term Project:

Each student will complete a written term paper that will comprise 30% of the final grade. The term paper will be based on the social welfare topic that was orally presented to the class; it is a written analysis of the social policy topic and should be a *minimum* of **eight** typed, double-spaced pages, excluding the title and reference pages. The final draft of the term paper is due **March 28**. In addition, an electronic copy of the paper must be submitted to www.turnitin.com by class time on **March 28**.

To submit a paper to www.turnitin.com, the Class ID for Sociology 470 is **4704329** and the Password is *soc470*.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON PLAGIARISM: If you plagiarize someone’s work (i.e., turn in the same paper that someone else has turned in, if you quote sentences from another source without using quotations and citing the source, or if you turn in a paper that is not your individual, independent work for this specific class), you will receive an automatic **ZERO** for that portion of the grade. If you do it again, you will **FAIL** the course. In addition, any assignment completed for this course should be independent and a unique paper just for this class. You cannot turn in work that is or has been completed for another class or that is part of another class’s assignment. **ALL RESEARCH PAPERS WILL BE SENT TO *turnitin.com* TO CHECK FOR PLAGIARISM.**

The grade information is summarized in the box below:

Examinations	= 60%
Class Presentation	= 10%
Research Paper	= 30%
	100%

Final letter grades will be assigned using the following distribution:

- A** : 90-100 %
- B** : 80-89 %
- C** : 70-79 %
- D** : 60-69 %
- F** : Less than 60 %

ADDITIONAL CLASS POLICIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hints on writing effectively and clearly, editing, and referencing and citing in American Sociological Association (ASA) style can be accessed through the Nielsen Library’s homepage: click on “How do I...? Guides” and then “Write Citations...”

Accommodations: If you require course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability, if you have emergency information to share with me, or if you need particular arrangements in the case the building must be evacuated, please make an

appointment with me as soon as possible. My office location and hours are listed on the first page of the syllabus.

Electronic Devices: Please turn off all electronic devices including cell/smart phones and put them away prior to the start of class. Interruptions due to electronic devices will result in the student being asked to leave class and receiving an unexcused absence.

CLASS TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Dates	Topics and Activities	Readings
W, Jan 18	Overview of syllabus Introduction to social policy	
M, Jan 23 W, Jan 25 M, Jan 30 W, Feb 1	Policymaking: often less than rational and very political Social work: a common vision of just social welfare policy Alternative views of social welfare: to help or to control Using welfare to control poor women	“Social Policy and the American Social Welfare State,” Chapter 1 in Karger and Stoesz. “Poverty in America,” Chapter 5 in Karger and Stoesz. “ <i>Tax Dollars and Value Reading</i> ” can be found under the <i>Learning Modules</i> tab in Blackboard. “ <i>Wealth and Income Reading</i> ” can be found under the <i>Learning Modules</i> tab in Blackboard.
M, Feb 6	Origins of the modern welfare state A significant turn of events: the Great Depression and New Deal	“ <i>Safety Net Reading</i> ” can be found under the <i>Learning Modules</i> tab in Blackboard.
W, Feb 8 M, Feb 13	The great War On Poverty: the Great Society Successes and Failures	“ <i>Great Society Reading</i> ” can be found under the <i>Learning Modules</i> tab in Blackboard.
W, Feb 15	Guest Speaker-- Homelessness	
M, Feb 20	Snow Day: No Class	
W, Feb 22	Class Presentation: Housing Crisis/Policy in US	“Housing Policies,” Chapter 16 in Karger and Stoesz.

M, Feb 27	Housing Policy in US Homelessness	
W, Feb 29	Examination I	
M, March 5	Undoing/redoing the American "Welfare" State: 1980- present The great assault on welfare: a big and easy target Welfare is OK as long as we don't give it to the poor	" <i>Bigger as Better.</i> " can be found under the <i>Learning Modules</i> tab in Blackboard.
W, March 7	Class Presentation: Social Security Spring Break: March 12-16	
M, March 19	Aging policy in the US: getting old is not for wimps Long-term care for the elderly: a challenge Changing stereotypes and the evolution of aging policy	"Social Insurance Programs," Chapter 10 in Karger and Stoesz. " <i>Aging Policy Reading</i> " can be found under the <i>Learning Modules</i> tab in Blackboard.
W, March 21 M, March 26 W, March 28	The Social Security safety net The looming crisis in Social Security	" <i>Social Security Reading</i> " can be found under the <i>Learning Modules</i> tab in Blackboard.
M, April 2	Class Presentation: Welfare Policy/Reform	
W, April 4 M, April 9	Welfare reform over the years Recent efforts at reform: successes or failures Misconceptions about welfare and TANF The reality of living on welfare: living the life and walking the walk	"Public Assistance Program," Chapter 11 in Karger and Stoesz. " <i>TANF Policy Reading</i> " can be found under the <i>Learning Modules</i> tab in Blackboard. " <i>Welfare Stigma Reading</i> " can be found under the <i>Learning Modules</i> tab in Blackboard.
W, April 11	Examination II	
M, April 16	Class Presentation: Mental Health Policy/ Deinstitutionalization	
W, April 18	Mental health policy in America: from the asylums	"Mental Health and Substance Abuse Policy," Chapter 13 in

	to the community Deinstitutionalization and the community mental health movement	Karger and Stoesz.
M, April 23	Introduction to the health care system and emerging crisis The escalating cost of health care Managed Care as a possible solution The Canadian Model	“The American Health Care System,” Chapter 12 in Karger and Stoesz. “ <i>U S Health Care System Reading</i> ” can be found under the <i>Learning Modules</i> tab in Blackboard.
W, April 25	Class Presentation: Health Care Crisis/Policy	
M, April 30 W, May 2	Health Care (continued)	
Wednesday, May 9, 8-9:50	Final Examination	

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY TERM PAPER:

The following format and topic headings are recommended, if applicable, for the social policy analysis:

Introduction (short introduction on the origin or history of the social policy)

Current Policy (the details of the current policy)

Debates, Discussions, or Problems with the Current Policy

Proposed Changes (proposed solution to mentioned problems)

The following guidelines must be followed:

- eight typed, double-spaced pages of text using normal margins and font sizes
- a title sheet with paper title, name, phone number, and e-mail address
- a reference page with at least eight references
- no more than two website references
- at least two book references (no encyclopedias, opposing viewpoints, **course textbook**, or **class lecture** references)
- at least four research journal or periodical references (no newspaper or popular magazines)
- citations and references using ASA format (please highlight text citations in red print)

- use your own words (**no direct quotes**)
- a visit to the Writing Studio is recommended but is not mandatory
- a hard copy of the paper must be submitted to the instructor at class time on the due date and the paper must be submitted to www.turnitin.com by class time on the due date

The term project will be graded using the following rubric:

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	OK
Quality of Writing (editing, proofing, grammar, clarity, and organization)				
Clearly Focused Social Policy Issue and Understandable Format				
Intellectual Quality of the Paper and its Analysis				

GRADE = _____

	Points Lost
Absence of title page with title of paper, name, phone number, and e-mail address	5 points
Use of a format other than American Sociological Association (ASA) for text citations and references	10 points
Citations in the text that are not referenced on the reference page; references on the reference page that are not cited in the text; the absence of citations and references	10 points
Failure to follow directions regarding minimum paper length and number and types of references	5 points
Failure to provide the instructor with any requested reference materials	25 points
Failure to use your own words (extensively copy an author's words verbatim or simply string together a series of direct quotes)	Up to 50 points
Failure to submit the term paper on the due date	5 points a day
Failure to submit paper to www.turnitin.com by the designated date	50 points

FINAL GRADE ON ASSIGNMENT= _____