

U.S. Social Welfare (Fall 2012)

Tufts University / Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning (UEP 240)

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Scheduled Time: Monday 1:30 – 4:20pm

Classroom Location: Anderson 309

The primary aim of this graduate course is to introduce students to the U.S. social welfare state and related social policies. The course readings and discussions cover basic questions about U.S. social welfare:

- *What are the key characteristics of the U.S. social welfare state? And, what are some of the major debates about social policy?*
- *What kinds of social and demographic factors mold social welfare policies? And, in particular, how has race and gender interacted with the making and implementation of social policies?*
- *What kinds of social welfare initiatives have been implemented by national administrations?*
- *How do political institutions, political parties, and the courts influence social policies?*
- *What is, or should be the role of the “free market” or “privatization”, or the faith-based sector, in the production or distribution of social goods?*
- *What are characteristics and debates about poverty, and how should this challenge be addressed?*

The course provides students with a number of ‘competencies’ adopted by UEP in 2008. In addition to an introduction to “specific policy or planning content-based knowledge related to professional interests,” competencies include an understanding of the following:

- the history, theory and processes of both policymaking and planning...with implementation...;
- the role(s) of government, governance...;
- the administrative, legal, and political aspects of policy...;
- “...relationship between the market and polis...;

The course is organized into four parts: historical context; institutional and political contexts; tools for implementation of social welfare; and an in-depth look at two specific topics: poverty and welfare reform. Students will have opportunities to explore specific social policies of interest via readings and completion of course requirements. I will use select presentations throughout the course to highlight policies in the areas of public health, social security, poverty, welfare

reform, and other areas. And, assessing how these policies and related politics touch upon race and gender will reflect a discussion stream throughout the course.

Course requirements include:

1. completion of all required readings;
2. presentations based on course readings, but I will also assign short articles or news reports about developments relevant to social policy;
3. completion of written assignment (18-22 pages), will be discussed in class;
4. attendance/participation at one public forum addressing a social policy or issue, and brief presentation in class

Required readings are included in the course packet and available from Gnomon Copy. A few selections (marked with an asterisk \*) will be emailed to students.

*Please note:* since this is a very interactive/discussion course please refrain from using pc/mac computers/ipads, etc. in this class – would greatly appreciate your cooperation.

**Session 1 (9/10): Introduction: Social Welfare/Social Policy and National Context**

The first session will be devoted to an overview of the course and readings; expectations regarding readings and class participation; discussion about the final papers; introductory remarks about social welfare in the U.S.

**Part One: Historical Context**

**Session 2 (9/17): U.S. Social Welfare From the ‘New Deal’ to Present**  
(the New Deal period; approaches and key policies of national administrations and presidents towards a range of social policies)

Read: C. Noble, “The New Deal”, *Welfare As We Knew It: A Political History of the American Welfare State* (London: Oxford University Press, 1997) - packet

J. Quadagno, “Unfinished Democracy” in L. Kushnick and J. Jennings, *A New Introduction to Poverty...* (NYU Press, 1999) -packet

I. Katznelson, “White Veterans” When Affirmative Action was White (New York: W.W. Norton, 2005) – packet

**Session 3: (9/24): Impact of Civil Rights Movement on U.S. Social Welfare**  
(historical dynamics shaping race in U.S. society, and how such might impact social policies today)

Read: M. Katz, “Reframing the Underclass Debate” *The Underclass Debate: Views from History* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992) - packet

D.C. Hamilton and C.V. Hamilton, “New Democrats –and More Republicans: The 1990s”, *Dual Agenda: Race and Social Welfare Policies of Civil Rights Organizations* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997) - packet

President Lyndon B. Johnson:

*Annual Message to Congress on State of the Union* (Jan 8, 1964)  
*Special Message to Congress: The American Promise* (Mar 15, 1965)  
*Remarks at Signing of Medicare Bill* (Jul. 30, 1965)  
*To Fulfill These Rights: Howard University Commencement Address*  
(Jun 4, 1965) - packet

Note: As an alternative to one of the substitute sessions, students should view at least one chapter of Henry Hampton's video series, *America's War on Poverty* (PBS, 1995). I will place the video series on library media reserve. The reading packet includes a synopsis of the various chapters under this collection.

## Part Two: Institutional and Political Context

**Session 4 (10/1):**      **Key Characteristics and Debates Associated with U.S. Social Welfare**  
(major components or ideas molding the U.S. social welfare state; key political and policy debates, especially regarding race and gender)

Read:                      J.E. Schwarz, "How False Images Become Accepted Doctrine"  
*America's Hidden Success: A Reassessment of Public Policy from Kennedy to Reagan* (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1988) – packet

*Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2010*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Report 1031 (July 2011), pp. 1- 9; 36-45 - packet

B.T. Dill, et al., "Race, Family Values, and Welfare Reform" in L. Kushnick and J. Jennings, *A New Introduction to Poverty...* (New York: NYU Press, 2002) – packet

M. Ali, et al., *State of the Dream: Austerity for Whom?* United for a Fair Economy, Boston, Ma. (January 2011) \*

10/8: University Holiday

**Session 5 (10/15):**      **Role and Impact of Courts on US Social Policies**  
(U.S. judiciary as maker, arbiter, implementer, and evaluator of social policy)

Read:                      *The Federalist Papers*, No. 10 and No. 51 - packet

C. R. Sunstein, "Why Does American Constitution Lack Social and Economic Guarantees?" Chicago – Public Law and Legal Theory Working Paper No. 36, Law School, University of Chicago (January 2003) \*

D. Butt, *The Courts and Social Policy in the U.S.*, The Foundation for Law, Justice and Society and The Aspen Institute (July 2007) - packet

**Session 6:**                    **Special Class Assignment** (this will be in place of the substitute day – will explain details in class)

### **Part Three: ‘Tools’ for Implementation of Social Welfare**

**Session 7 (10/22):**        **The Free Market: Social Security as Laboratory**  
(essential features of the free market as mechanism for determining social policies; debates about free market versus government / civic arena for delivery of social welfare; pro’s and con’s privatization of social security)

Read:                            M. Friedman, “Relation between Economic Freedom and Political Freedom” and “Role of Government...” *Capitalism and Freedom* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962) - packet

J.S. Hacker and N. Loewentheil, *Prosperity Economics: Building an Economy for All* (Creative Commons, 2012), pp. 1- 35 \*

M.Hieger and W.Shipman “Common Objections to Market-Based Social Security System: A Response” CATO Institute, July 22, 1997) and, G.Anrig and B. Wasow, “Twelve Reasons Why Privatizing Social Security is a Bad Idea” (DISCOVERY Foundation, 2005)

**Session 8 (10/29):**        **Government as Response to Free Market: Module on Fair Housing**  
(Role of government in the area of fair housing; significance in terms of current issues/problems)

Read:                            Fair Housing Act - Sec.800 [42 U.S. C. 3601 note] Short Title \*

S. Goodloe, “Fair Housing Report Demonstrates HUD’s Efforts to End Housing Discrimination” – Press Release HUD no.11-179 (August 29, 2011) \*

*History of Fair Housing*, <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD> \*

**Session 9 (11/5):**        **The Nonprofit Sector** (taxonomy of nonprofit sector; challenges and contributions; role of smaller and community-based nonprofits)

Read:                            A. Blackwood, *The Nonprofit Sector in Brief*, The Urban Institute, Washington D.C. (2008)

P. Eisenberg, “Looking Ahead: What is the Future for the Nonprofit World?” in S. Palmer, *Challenges for Nonprofits and Philanthropy* (Medford, Ma.: Tufts University Press, 2005) – packet

N. Folbre, "Demanding Quality: Worker/Consumer Coalitions and 'High Road' Strategies in the Care Sector" *Politics and Society*, vol. 34, no. 1 (March 2006) \*

R. Abelda, et al., *Counting on Care Work: Human Infrastructure in Massachusetts*, University of Massachusetts Boston (September 2009) \*

11/12: University Holiday

**Session 10 (11/26): The Faith-based Sector**

(overview of history and contemporary impact of faith-based organizations in social welfare; pro's and con's re: faith based sector as key for delivery of social welfare)

Read: *Charitable Choice: Overview of Research Findings on Implementation*, U.S. General Accounting Office, GAO-02-337 (Jan. 2002) – packet

R. J. Kissane, "How Do Faith-Based Organizations Compare to Secular Providers?" *Journal of Poverty*, vol. 11, no.4 (2008) \*

D.J. Wright, *Taking Stock: The Bush Faith-Based Initiative and What Lies Ahead*, The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government at State University of New York at Albany, pp. 1-57 \*

**Session 11 (11/19): Criminal Justice Systems as Social Policy**

Read: B. Western, "Reentry: Reversing mass imprisonment" *Boston Review* (July/August 2008) – packet

L. Bobo and V. Thompson, "Unfair by Design: The War on Drugs, Race, and the Legitimacy of the Criminal Justice System" *Social Research* vol. 73, no.2 (2006) \*

*Too Little Too Late: President Clinton's Prison Legacy*, Justice Policy Institute, Washington DC (Feb. 2001) – packet

Julia S. Jordan-Zachery, "The Female Bogeyman: Political Implications of Criminalizing Black Women" *Souls: Journal of Black Culture*, vol. 5, no. 2 (Spring 2003) - packet

## Part Four: Poverty and Welfare Reform

### Session 12: (12/3):

#### Poverty

(significance in terms of size and other characteristics; civic debates about nature/causes and responses to poverty; welfare reform)

#### Read:

L. Mead, "Introduction" and "Crisis of Reform" *The New Politics of Poverty: The Nonworking Poor in America* (Basic Books, 1993) - packet

P. Cohen, "Culture of Poverty Makes a Comeback" *The New York Times* (Oct. 17, 2010) and S. Steinberg, "Poor Reason: Culture still doesn't explain poverty" *Boston Review*, ONLINE JANUARY 13, 2011 \*

*Poverty in America: Consequences for Individuals and the Economy*, U.S. Governmental Accountability Office, GAO-07-343T (Jan. 24, 2007) \*

C. DeNavas-Walt, et al., U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports P60-238, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the US: 2010* (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington D.C., 2011) \*

### Session 13 (12/10):

#### Welfare Reform

#### Read:

F.F. Piven and R.A. Cloward "Relief, Labor, and Civil Disorder" *Regulating the Poor: The Functions of Public Welfare* (New York: Vintage Press, 1993) -packet

R. Asen, "Women, Work, Welfare: Rhetorical History of Images and Women in Welfare Policy Debates" *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, vol. 6, no. 2 (2003)

S.F. Schram & J. Soss, "Success Stories: Welfare Reform, Policy Discourse, and Politics of Research" *Annals, AAPSS*, 577 (September 2001) - packet

P. Edelman, "Welfare and the Poorest of the Poor" *Dissent Magazine*, vol. 56, no. 4 (2009) \*