

**SYLLABUS
SOCIAL POLICY 322
SPRING 2009**

Dr. Deborah Sturtevant

Work phone: 616-395-7916

Office hours: Wed. 1pm-4pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will offer an examination of social welfare policy issues (such as poverty, homelessness, and mental illness) and the significance of social, economic, and political factors that influence policymaking and implementation. This course considers agency policies, local ordinances, state and federal legislation, and global treaties – policies at all levels of national and international interest.

This course provides theoretically based models for the analysis and presentation of social policy in legislative, administrative, and agency arenas. The course focuses on both the content and process of social welfare policy.

Content will be provided about strategies of intervention for achieving social and economic justice and for combating the causes and effects of institutionalized forms of oppression in a global society. Students will gain both an understanding of social policy analysis and their role as social workers in effecting social policy change in their agencies, communities, and the world.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

The instructor will use lecture and discussion, small groups, guest speakers, videos and a field trip to the state Capitol to engage in our state chapter of NASW sponsored political advocacy day.

REQUIRED TEXT

Popple, P. & L. Leighninger. (3rd edition) Policy-Based Profession: An Introduction to Social Welfare Policy for Social Workers. Allyn & Bacon. 2004.

NASW. National Association of Social Workers Policy Statements. Social Work Speaks. 2006-2009.

EVALUATION

1) policy paper	30%
2) position paper & oral testimony	30%
3) homework 1 and 2	15% each
4) attendance and participation	10%

Attendance and participation will be considered in the final grade for this course.

- Always keep an extra copy of any written material that is turned in because you will be responsible to supply an additional copy upon request.
- Students with special needs or disabilities should communicate that with the instructor so appropriate accommodations may be made.
- Academic integrity is expected in all classes. Please refer to the College Catalog to review the plagiarism policy.
- You are expected to attend all classes and to participate in class. Assignments must be completed on the date designated. This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

As reflected in the completion of the assignments and successful completion of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate competence in many of these competencies listed below:

- 1) Apply critical thinking skills within the context of professional social work practice.
- 2) Understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards and principles and practice accordingly.
- 3) Practice without discrimination and with respect, knowledge, and skill related to clients' age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 4) Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and apply strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice at all levels of society on

local, state, national, and international levels.

- 5) Understand and interpret the history of the social work profession and its contemporary structures and issues.
- 6) Apply the knowledge and skills of generalist social work practice with systems of all sizes.
- 7) Analyze, formulate, and influence social policies.
- 8) Evaluate research studies, apply research findings to practice, and evaluate their own practice interventions.
- 9) Use communication skills differentially across client populations, colleagues, and communities.
- 10) Function within the structure of organizations and service delivery systems and seek necessary organizational change
- 11) Integrate Christian perspectives with the knowledge, skills and values of the social work profession.

LIBERAL ARTS FOUNDATION

In this course, the theoretical knowledge you have gained from several of your core and cognate discipline courses will be utilized. Political Science will help you to understand the major political ideological perspectives in this country which impact upon policy process and content. Sociology will provide you with an understanding of social problems, social movements and institutional development. Your liberal arts study of religion and philosophy will help you understand the values, ethics inherent in policymaking. Your written, verbal and critical thinking skills will aid you in analyzing policy and presenting your policy positions and papers.

HUMAN DIVERSITY

Students' studies of language, culture, sociology, political science, psychology, and history offer insights into diverse populations, their cultural beginnings, how needs of diverse groups are or are not met, and will inform policymaking as it seeks solutions in a diverse global society.

POPULATIONS AT RISK

Students will gain an understanding of populations at-risk through course discussions and readings. The impact of policy on at-risk populations will be considered throughout the course.

SOCIAL WORK VALUES AND ETHICS AND THE CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

It is specifically in the practice of social work where professional and personal values and ethics and religious perspectives are integrated and converge or battle one another and cause personal strife. You will have ample opportunity throughout the semester to learn and understand social work values and ethics inherent in policymaking; and examine your religious perspective as it relates to specific policies considered in class.

PROMOTION OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Students will learn about their role in bringing about policy change by studying policy content and policymaking processes of judicial, legislative, administrative, and agency policies at the local, state, national and international levels. Students will gain an understanding of social and economic justice issues in policymaking and their role as agents of change.

COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan. 8	Course Introduction The Generalist Model of Social Work
Jan. 10	The Policy Based Profession Individual and Society Professional Social Work Practice Implications *Chapter 1
Jan. 15, 17	Defining Social Welfare Policy Policy/Social Policy Defined Ethical Issues *Chapter 2
Jan. 22, 24	Social Welfare Policy Analysis Multiple Models Introduced Type of Analysis for this class *Chapter 3
Jan. 29, 31	Policy Analysis from an Historical Perspective History of Social Welfare Policy English Poor Laws through Clinton Reform *Chapter 4

Jan. 31	<u>Homework 1 Due</u>
Feb. 5	Social/Economic Analysis Social Problem Analysis Economic Analysis *Chapter 5
Feb. 14, 19	Politics and Social Welfare Policy Policymaking Process Political Perspectives Nitty-Gritty, How a Bill Becomes Law *Chapter 6
Feb. 21, 26, 28 Mar. 4, 6	<u>Testimony and Position Papers</u>

This part of the course follows the textbook examples of US macro policies and systems using the framework for analysis proposed by its authors. Students can compare these chapter analyses to their own as they prepare their papers. Under each topic, the professor uses her international experiences for comparative policy analysis in countries she has worked and draws upon the international experiences of her students for discussion. The last lecture is reserved for a focus on international work of the professor and her work with students over the past 10 years.

Mar. 11	<u>Field Trip to State Capitol</u>
Mar. 13, 25	Poverty Analysis using framework Great Depression Social Security Act War on Poverty Devolution Welfare Reform Temporary Assistance for Needy Family Global poverty comparisons
Mar. 27 April 1	Aging Analysis using framework Great Depression – work programs Entitlement Programs Social Security and expansion

Older Adults Act
Global Demographics

April 3, 5

Mental Health

Analysis using framework
HMOs, DRGs, Cost containment
Deinstitutionalization
Managed Care
Person Centered Plans
Community Based Care
Global comparisons

April 8

Homework 2 Due

April 10, 15 **Substance Abuse**

Analysis using framework
Prohibition
Inpatient-Outpatient-Community Based
Drug Testing Policies
Housing/Support Services
Dual Diagnosis
Global comparisons

Apr. 17

Child Welfare

Analysis using framework
Child Rescue Movement
Child Abuse Laws
Foster Care
Family Preservation

Apr. 24, 26

Global Policy Issues - Child Welfare Refugees, Immigration, Health

Community Development Theory
Global Treaties – Environment, Peace, Hague Treaty, UN Rights of the Child, Child Trafficking
International Organizations, International Social Work
Analysis Applied – History, Social/Cultural, Political, Economic.

Videos developed by the professor and her students in global service, policy and systems development, and applied and academic research Guatemala, China, and Romania. Hope student video on Africa.

April 17-24 **Final Paper Due**
ASSIGNMENTS

Part I: Position Statement

In social work practice, a position statement is a form of policy declaration. Position papers are position statements that generally provide detail and specificity arising out of an analysis and are aimed at enlightening and educating as well as influencing. You may choose from state, federal, or international policies.

You are required to hand in a 1 to 2 page position statement in letter form. You are required to use the following format:

1. Identification of the bill and its sponsor.
2. Brief summary statement of your position.
3. Summary of the issues and rationale for your position.
4. Statement of recommendation for changes.
5. Identification of person or organization.

Part II: Oral Testimony

You are required to give oral testimony that will be video-taped. You are required to use the following format:

1. Identification of the person giving testimony.
2. Statement of appreciation to the hearing committee.
3. Brief statement of position taken.
4. Summary of issues and statement of rationale.
5. Statement of recommendations or changes.
6. Offer of assistance and thanks.

Time allowed: 3 to 4 minutes.

Final Policy Paper

Analyzing a Social Policy

The purpose of this assignment is to provide an actual opportunity for application of an explicitly stated framework used in the text to analyze a particular social welfare policy. You may choose from state, federal, or global policies.

Essentially, each student will be writing a critique analyzing a social policy. The critique must utilize a framework for social policy analysis. Note that the emphasis is on the use of the analytic framework and on criticism both positive and negative and not on mere description. The framework to follow is found on pages 37-39 of your textbook. Use the framework as an outline to include the following headings: Historic, Social/Cultural, Economic and Political dimensions of policies. This framework is applicable for all levels of policy analysis studied in this course. You must add an Introduction stating why you have chosen your policy for analysis and Conclusion that considers your interpretation of the policy, its benefits/limitations and any recommendations for modifications that you would make.

Generally speaking, this should be limited to no more than 15 double spaced and typed pages with additional reference pages in APA style. It should be inclusive and not narrow, but need not be all encompassing in dealing with all details of the policy.

The paper will be evaluated on the basis of clarity, reasonable accuracy, explicitness in organization, support for arguments, correctness in spelling, grammar and form, and the extent to which the product relates to the task. Late completion of assignments will be accepted only in unusual circumstances and when advance arrangements are made with the instructor.

Homework Assignment 1

Select a policy statement from “Social Work Speaks” to review and answer the following questions: (Please use double spaced, 12 point font, on two to three pages maximum).

Identify Policy Statement from the book.

1. Do you agree with the policy statement in “Social Work Speaks”, disagree with the policy statement, or agree with some parts and disagree with others? Explain your response.
2. Using the social work Code of Ethics analyze the policy from a professional perspective. Is it consistent with the code of ethics as you understand it? Explain your response using the relevant values and ethics.
3. Is the policy consistent with your personal values? Could you implement this policy without personal reservations? If so, explain. If not, why not?
3. Suggest any revisions that you would make to the policy if you were elected to participate in the next delegate assembly.

This is due on January 31 when you come to class. You may turn it in early. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior permission is granted.

Homework Assignment 2

AGENCY SCAVENGER HUNT

Working in teams of four, your task is to find as many of the items identified below as you can. The purpose of this assignment is to become familiar with local human service agencies, to engage in teamwork, to advocate on your own behalf with agency staff to access the needed resources, and to examine agency documents.

You may receive these items from as many local agencies as you wish though you must have items from at least three different agencies. These items must be placed in a folder in the order listed.

Good luck and have fun!!!!

1. Agency Organizational Chart - nonprofit agency
2. Pencil rub of the name Deb Sturtevant from Mental Health Services.
Name found on building dedication plaque inside entrance.
3. Board agenda for one month from September - November, 2006 board meeting.
4. Agency brochure about services.
5. Client intake form or application for services.
6. Client rights information (confidentiality or affirmative action statement).
7. Agency budget or financial statement.
8. Spanish language agency newsletter or brochure.
9. Wage and salary guidelines.
10. Signature of social worker on business card or letterhead.

You will be asked to discuss and analyze these materials in class. Be prepared!

SWK 322 - BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Add in:

Global frameworks for analysis including Social Development Model
Paper examples, assignment examples of global work.
Global research.
SWK 241 and SWK 401 assignments and global lectures.

Global Theoretical Perspectives

Assess mapping and global cross-cultural perspectives.

Fulbright Sr. Specialist candidate

Romania, Guatemala, China, Costa Rica, Africa

ISTR presentations in Geneva, Toronto, Bangkok

International Ed. Committee

Program Evaluation, Conferences Workshops

Hague Treaty in Child Welfare

UN Rights of the Child

UN refugee policies

UN child trafficking

UNICEF

World Vision

Bethany International

Alliance for Children Everywhere

Amity Foundation

Federation of Child Welfare Organizations in Romania

Bethany Romania

Bethany Guatemala

UNELA

Students: 10 Guatemala, 8 Guatemala, 4 Romania, 4 Africa, 1 China, 1 Central America

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