UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Graduate School of Social Work
www.sw.uh.edu

COURSE TITLE/SECTION:  SOCW 7367/33364 – Advanced Social Welfare Policy Analysis

TIME:  Tuesdays 6-9 p.m.

FACULTY:  Bob Fleming  OFFICE HOURS:  before and after class
           (also available by appointment)

E-Mail:  bob.fleming@ymail.com  Phone:  832 545-3328

I.  Course

   A.  Catalog Description

   Provides knowledge of comparative social welfare systems and policies, the impact of policy on clients and communities, and the skills of policy analysis.

   B.  Purpose

   This course is one of two required social welfare policy courses and is offered to all students in the foundation curriculum. It provides knowledge of social welfare systems and policies, the impact of policy on clients and communities, and the skill of policy analysis as a means to achieving social and economic justice for oppressed groups. A comparative perspective is included.

II.  Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

1.  delineate skills in initiating, formulating, implementing and evaluating social welfare policies and programs;
2.  demonstrate a knowledge of cross-cultural comparative perspectives of social welfare systems and several models of social policy and program analysis;
3.  describe how political and legislative processes influence social welfare policy and program development;
4.  discuss how social work professionals can affect the formulation, implementation and modification of social policies and service delivery systems;
5. understand how social welfare policy formulation and program
development may exclude oppressed groups from participation, and how
full participation can be insured; and
6. understand how social welfare policy analysis may be used to advance or
hinder the pursuit of social and economic justice.

III. Course Content

This course will include the following topical (content) areas:

1. overview of social policy;
2. governmental social insurance and income maintenance
   programs;
3. fields of policy practice; and
4. alternative welfare programs.

IV. Class sessions will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and in-class
   exercise. Guest speakers will address the class.
   Lecture material and guest speakers are intended to supplement, not review
   the readings. Because readings are a major
   source of learning, students are expected to study this material as it is
   assigned. To make sure they do so, a short
   reading quiz will be given at the start of every class period.

V. Textbooks

Karger, Howard Jacob and Stoesz, David. American Social Welfare Policy: A

Other readings as assigned.

VI. Course Requirements

The final grade for this course will be based on the following
   assignments:

Participation and preparedness – 10 points. The success of this course is
   completely dependent on the interest, investment, and contribution of its
   members; therefore, attendance is mandatory.

Reading Assessments – 10 points. Quizzes will be given on each reading
   assignment. All quizzes are open book. Questions are a combination of
   multiple choices, fill-in-the blank, and true/false.

Group Presentation – 30 points. Small groups of three-four students will
   make 30-45 minute class presentations on two topics that supplement the
assigned readings each week. A list of such topics is provided for groups to consider. Students may suggest other topics as appropriate.

**Group Map of the American Welfare System – 10 points.** The same small group of three-four students will map the American Welfare System as it applies to a specific family and turn in the map to the instructor.

**Policy paper – 40 points.** Students will be required to write a policy paper. The paper should be between 6-8 pages, double-spaced, typed, and referenced APA style.

Students will choose a specific field of social policy that corresponds with the textbook. A format for policy analysis will be provided to students.

**VII. Grading**

*Criteria for letter grade:*

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
95-100=A & 77-79=C+ \\
90-94=A- & 74-76=C \\
87-89=B+ & 70-72=C- \\
84-86=B & 67-69=D \\
80-83=B- & 66 or less=F
\end{array}
\]

Policy on grades of I (incomplete): The grade of I (incomplete) is a conditional and temporary grade given when students are passing a course but, for reasons beyond their control, have not completed a relatively small part of all requirements. Incompletes will be given only under exceptional situations after consultation with the instructor.

**VIII. Consultation**

Contact instructor by phone or e-mail for appointment.

**IX. Addenda**

**Disabilities.** Whenever possible, and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, the University of Houston will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. Please call 713 743-5400 for more assistance.

**Plagiarism and academic dishonesty.** All written assignments must be original student work. Ideas, concepts, and words of others cannot be used without attribution of the source. References and citations are required. Plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for that assignment and additional disciplinary procedures in accordance with the academic honesty policy.
X.  Course Outline

8/28  First Class

9/4  Second Class
Chapter 1. Social Policy and the Social Welfare State
Quiz
Selection of Groups and Group Projects

9/11  Third Class
Religion and Social Welfare Policy
Karger Chapter 3
Quiz
Handout: Karger Social Welfare Policy analysis (handout for use in writing required paper)

9/18  Fourth Class  Handouts: New York Times Neediest Cases Fund

9/25  Fifth Class
Poverty in America
Karger Chapter 5
Quiz
Class Exercise: What Makes People Poor?
Group Projects: Emancipation, Reconstruction, and the Freedman’s Bureau
Conditional Assistance Programs: Mexico’s Oportunidades

10/2  Sixth Class
Chapter 10. Social Insurance Programs
Class Exercise: How Would You Lift People Out of Poverty?
Quiz
Group Projects:
1.  G.I. Bill of Rights
2.  Federal Student Loan Program

10/9  Seventh Class
Chapter 9. Tax Policy and Income Distribution
Quiz
Group Project: The Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC)

10/16  Eighth Class
Chapter 12. The American Health Care System
Quiz
Lecture: Obamacare Explained
Group Projects: Universal Health Care in Massachusetts
Harris County Hospital District

Note: Topics for Policy Analysis Due

10/23 Ninth Class
Chapter 17. The Politics of Food Policy
DiNitto: Chapter 5
Quiz
Group Project: Houston Area Food Bank and Area Community Assistance Ministries

10/30 Tenth Class
Chapter 15. Child Welfare Policy
Quiz
Group Project: Children’s Assessment Center

11/6 Eleventh Class
Chapter 4. Discrimination in American Society
Quiz
Group Project: Casa Juan Diego
Gay Marriage in the U.S.
Group Project: India: The Reservation System (affirmative action) for Dalits (untoucables)

11/13 Twelfth Class
Chapter 14. Criminal Justice
Quiz
Group Project: Harris County Jail
Texas Prison System
Community Policing

11/20 Thirteenth Class and Fourteenth Class
11/27 Chapter 12. The American Welfare State in International Perspective
Quiz
Group Presentations:
Social Welfare Policy in Non-Democratic Political Cultures
1. China: One Child Policy
2. Resettlement of Populations: The Cherokee Trail of Tears
Social Welfare Policy in Developing Countries
1. Worldwide Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria
2. The Millenial Challenge Corporation

Map the American Welfare System Assignment Due
12/4 Final Class
POLICY PAPERS DUE