

**Northeastern State University**  
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Department of Social Work  
Tahlequah, OK  
Fall 2002  
SH 205

**INSTRUCTOR:**

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**COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER:**

**CLASS DAYS & TIMES**

SOWK 4863 Social Policy

Thursday 2:00-4:40 p.m.

**PREREQUISITES:**

SWOK 3473 Social Welfare

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:**

Introduces the student to social welfare policy issues with emphasis in the areas of health and mental health, families and children, and economic security. It provides a beginning knowledge base for professional practice roles in the analysis, formulation, and implementation of policy and emphasizes the need for social reform through policy advocacy.

**COURSE PURPOSE:**

Social Policy is a required course for social work majors. The goal of the course is to equip beginning generalist social work professionals with knowledge, values, and skills. We will investigate social welfare policy within a political context. Course content includes current patterns of provision of social welfare services, the role of social policy in helping or deterring people in maintaining or achieving optimal health and well-being, and the effect of policy on social work practices. Assignments are designed to teach students to analyze current social policy within the context of historical and contemporary factors that shape policy. Course context also includes information regarding the political and organizational processes used to influence policy, the process of policy formulation, and the frameworks for use of critical thinking skills related to social and economic justice.

## **EXPECTED COURSE OUTCOMES:**

The student will be expected to achieve the following objectives:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of social welfare policies on diverse client systems, workers, agencies, communities, and institutions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the relationship between social policy and generalist social work practice.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the socio-economic and political values and processes that influence social policy outcomes and relate them to professional social work goals, values, and code of ethics.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of critical thinking and research as they relate to social and economic justice.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of social policy in helping or deterring people in maintaining or achieving optimal health and well-being.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of social welfare policy in the distribution of resources to diverse populations.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the political values and processes that influence policy outcomes.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS: (Required Textbook)**

Karger, H. J. & Stoesz, D. (2002). American social welfare policy: A pluralistic approach (4<sup>th</sup> ed). New York: Longman.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:**

The expected course outcomes will be realized through a variety of instructional strategies. These may include, but are not limited to: expository discussion, demonstration, oral reports, multi-media presentations, and guest speakers.(A visit to the state capitol is tentatively planned).

Week 1	Class Introductions/Syllabi Hand-Out/Chapter 1
Week 2	Chapter 2 Social Welfare Policy Research

Week 3	Chapter 3	Technology and Social Policy
Week 4	Chapter 4	Discrimination in American Society
Week 5	Chapter 5	Poverty in America
Week 6	Chapter 6 Chapter 7	The Voluntary Sector Today Privatization and Human Service Corporations
Week 7	Chapter 8	The Making of Governmental Policy
Week 8	Chapter 9	Tax Policy and Income Distribution <b>Mid-Term Examination</b>
Week 9	Chapter 10	Social Insurance Programs
Week 10	Chapter 11	Public Assistance Programs
Week 11	Chapter 12 Chapter 13	The American Health Care System Mental Health and Substance Abuse Policy
Week 12	Chapter 14	Criminal Justice
Week 13	Chapter 15	Child Welfare Policy
Week 14	Chapter 16 Chapter 17	Housing Policy The Politics of Food Policy and Rural Life
Week 15	<b>Oral Overview Presentation of Analysis &amp; Policy Paper Due</b>	
Week 16	<b>Final Exam</b>	

**STUDENT PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES: (Attendance/Punctuality)**

Professionalism refers to any oral presentations, class participation, and attendance. **One excused absence is allowed if the student's notifies the instructor in advance.** Unexcused absences will result in point deduction of the professionalism grade. In addition, any student who misses more than 25% of the classes will have their course grade lowered one complete letter grade. Makeup exams are given to students who have notified the instructor in advanced with an

approved excuse. Incomplete grades are given on rare occasions when the student is near completion of the course and is unable to complete the assignments before the end of the semester due to an approved reason. The student must contact the instructor before grades are submitted at the end of the semester to request and "I."

### **ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:**

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the due date of assignment. After the assignment due date, work will be accepted if the instructor is notified in advance, to exceed no later than one week. However, points will be deducted for late assignments at the rate of five points for each day late. Reading assignments are considered preparation for the lecture period; the student is responsible for all material assigned.

### **STUDENT EVALUATION:**

The student is evaluated by two exams, a term paper, and class participation.

Performance on examinations and subsequent cumulative course averages will be based upon standard definitive grade values as indicated below:

90-100 = A  
80-89.99 = B  
70-79.99 = C  
60-69.99 = D  
below 60 = F

Grades will be determined as follows:

Mid-term exam = 30%  
Final exam = 30%  
Term paper = 30%  
Professionalism = 10%

Mid-term exam - Chapters 1 through 8 in required textbook, plus classroom material

Final exam - Chapters 8 through 17 in required textbook, plus classroom material

\*Term Paper:

Individually or in pairs, students will select a piece of State social welfare legislation. All topics must be approved by the instructor. The paper is to be typewritten, double-spaced, and no more than 12 pages in length, excluding citations. Each paper will cover, at a minimum, the following:

- 1) Who/what is the major focus of the legislation?
- 2) What is new and different about this legislation?
- 3) What prompted the introduction of this legislation? (That is, what is the "problem")

being addressed and why was this an issue at the time the legislation was introduced? What data was utilized to demonstrate this problem needed to be addressed?)

- 4) Who are the major players in the legislation's history (both those who were for it and those who were against it) and what "positions" did they take? (Hint: this information frequently is available from Congressional hearings.) Did NASW take a stance on this issue? If so, what was that stance?
- 5) What has been the impact on social workers' client group(s)?

\* All term papers turned into the instructor are expected to be presented in a professional APA (American Psychological Association) style format; points will be deducted for flagrant grammatical errors.

### **ADA COMPLIANCE:**

If any member of the class feels that she/he has a disability and needs special accommodations of any nature whatsoever, the instructor will work with you and the University's Office of Student Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in this class. Please advise the instructor of such disability and the desired accommodation(s) at the first class attended.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER/DISASTER POLICY:**

The following are basic premises for the inclement weather policy at Northeastern State University:

- A. Classes are expected to be held if at all possible.
- B. It is the student's responsibility to receive the information when weather is questionable.
- C. Neither students nor faculty are expected to risk life or limb.
- D. Faculty members are obligated to hold classes if the University is not closed, unless the faculty member is unable to get to campus.

***Policy:*** During times of inclement weather, decisions concerning day classes will be made by 6:00 a.m. in order for the media to be notified and for students to receive the announcement before they leave home. Decisions concerning night classes will be made by 3:00 p.m.

The following media will be notified regarding closing of the campus:

#### **Radio Stations:**

KRMG 740 AM      Tulsa

#### **Television Stations:**

KJRH Channel 2      Tulsa

KAYI 107 FM	Tulsa	KOTV Channel 6	Tulsa
KTLQ 1350 AM	Tahlequah	KTUL Channel 8	Tulsa
KEOK 102 FM	Tahlequah	KFSM Channel 5	Ft. Smith
KBIX 1490 AM	Muskogee	Cable Channel 96	Tahlequah
KMMY 97 FM	Muskogee		
KVOO 1170 AM	Tulsa		

The automated attendant message on 918-456-5111 will be notified to include information concerning campus operations during inclement weather.