SOCIAL POLICY IN MODERN SOCIETIES

SYLLABUS

Fall 2016

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dr. Sarah Maxwell, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Education and Associate Professor, Public and Nonprofit Management. sarah.maxwell@utdallas.edu   Students are strongly encouraged to use email as the primary method of communication.

Students should feel free to contact me at any time by email. Response time to emails is typically 8-12 hours or less (usually less). If a student does not receive a response within 24 hours, the student is welcome to email again to ensure delivery. **Appointment times are arranged by email, as I am often attending meetings off campus.**

COURSE OVERVIEW

SOC/PA 4386 (3 semester hours) Examines the controversies and research concerning the development of welfare states and public social provision. Particular emphasis is placed on the U.S. public social system, in current, historical, and comparative perspective. Explanations of developments in social policies and an assessment of their applicability to the American welfare state are considered.

REQUIRED TEXTS

BLAU, J AND ABRAMOVITZ, M (2014). THE DYNAMICS OF SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY. NEW YORK: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS.

FADIMAN, A. (2012). THE SPIRIT CATCHES YOU AND YOU FALL DOWN: A HMONG CHILD, HER AMERICAN DOCTORS, AND THE COLLISION OF TWO CULTURES. NEW YORK: FARRAR, STRUAS AND GIROUX PUBLISHING.

GRADING POLICY

All quizzes will be open at the beginning of the semester. Students may not request that quizzes be re-opened after a deadline has passed. Deadlines are strictly enforced. Illness or other issues on the day of the quiz are not an excuse, as quizzes are open on the first day of class.

START ANY TIME AND WORK AHEAD!

Grades are based on the following scale: +=97-100, A=94-96, A-=90-93: B+=87-89, B=84-86, B-=80-83, C+77-79, C=74-76, C-=70-73, D+=67-69, D=64-66, D-=60-63, F=0-59. **Please note that there is no extra credit work available in this class** .Late assignments are marked down one letter grade every 24 hours (1/2 letter grade if the assignment is late on the due date).

Note to student: a 93.99 = an A- and so forth. Many opportunities for success are provided during the semester. If a student needs an A, please earn the 94 and not a 93.99.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: in this online class, it is impossible to fully prevent students from working together. Thus, this course embraces the team approach, as long as students are creating their own learning environments. Please review the checklist below to understand cheating do's and don'ts for this course.

ALLOWED EXAMPLES	NOT ALLOWED EXAMPLES
Comparing notes and asking each other questions such as: do you think what I wrote is complete? Do you think my answer captures the instructor's request? Have I met the rubric requirement?	Copying another student's notes, answers, or other information that is part of a grade.
Giving feedback on graded assignments.	Copying any part of another student's assignment; copying information off the Internet; not doing your own work.
Asking peers to help with paper ideas.	Using your peers' own paper ideas for your paper.

COURSE OBJECTIVES-STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of Social Policy, students will be able to demonstrate achievement of the following educational objectives:

A. **Knowledge**
 1. Understand the relationships among social problems, social welfare policies, social service programs, and competing value orientations and political perspectives.
 2. Understand how to analyze the nature, scope, and history of social needs and analyze major social welfare policies and services locally, nationally, and globally.
B. **Skills**
 1. Become a "Subject Matter Expert" on an issue of social policy and write a neutral policy brief that informs policy makers about a social problem of the student's choice.
 2. Articulate the role of policy practice. How are public policies implemented?
 3. Integrate theory of causes of social problems, and of the strengths approach, in selection of political and social action strategies for influencing policy development, implementation and changes.
 4. Demonstrate skills in defining, designing, and implementing strategies for competent practice with persons from diverse backgrounds.

ASSIGNMENTS, READING, & DUE DATES

**please pay close attention to weekly deadlines! This course requires significant effort at the front end, allowing for fewer assignments and quizzes near the end of the course.

MODULE #	READINGS & VIDEOS	ASSIGNMENTS/QUIZZES	POINTS

Module 1	Watch:
	• Required Welcome Video:
	  1) Meet your professor
	  2) Advice on doing well in the course
	  3) A review of the syllabus
	  4) A review of the study question rubrics
	Read:
	• Syllabus
	• Chapter 1: Introduction: social problems, social policy, social change
	• Chapter 2: Definition and function of social welfare policy: setting the stage for social change
		STUDY QUESTIONS DUE SUN, AUG 28TH 5:00 PM	10

Module 2	Read: • Chapter 3: The economy and social welfare • Chapter 4: The politics of social welfare policy Watch: • The Public Policy Making Process Video	OPEN NOTES QUIZ DUE BY SUN, SEPT 11 5 PM (ANYONE PARTICIPATING IN 9/11 CEREMONIES, MILITARY, MILITARY FAMILIES, DUE TUES, SEPT 13 5:00 PM)	10
Module 3	Read: • Chapter 5: Ideological perspectives and conflicts	STUDY QUESTION DUE SUN, SEPT 25TH, 5:00 PM	10
Module 4	Read: • Chapter 7: Social welfare history in the United States Watch: • Unforgotten: Twenty-Five Years After Willowbrook Video	OPEN NOTES QUIZ DUE SUN, OCT 9TH, 5:00 PM	10
Module 5	Read: • Chapter 8: Income support: Programs and policies • Chapter 9: Jobs and Job Training	OPEN NOTES QUIZ DUE SUN OCT 23RD, 5:00 PM	10
Module 6	Read: • Chapter 10: Housing • Chapter 11: Healthcare	OPEN NOTES QUIZ DUE SUN, NOV 6TH, 5:00 PM	10
Module 7	Watch: • Required -Video: How to write a policy brief and stakeholder analysis for this class; review	FINAL PROJECT: POLICY BRIEF DUE SUN, NOV 13TH 5:00 PM	25

	of rubrics Review (Required): • Two Student Sample Papers Posted on eLearning • Rubrics posted on eLearning		
Module 8	Read: • Fadiman, A. Spirit Catches You • Chapter 12: Food and Hunger	QUIZ ON FADIMAN BOOK AND CHAPTER 12 FROM TEXTBOOK SUN, DEC 4TH 5:00 PM	15
	TOTAL GRADE		100

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html#techreqs on the Getting Started with eLearning webpage http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html.

Course Access and Navigation

The course can be accessed using the UT Dallas NetID account at: https://elearning.utdallas.edu. Please see the course access and navigation http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html#courseaccessandnav section of the site for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the Student eLearning Tutorials http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/eLearningTutorialsStudents.html. UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The eLearning Support Center http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp services include a toll free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Communication

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the eLearning Tutorials webpage http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/eLearningTutorialsStudents.html for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

Student emails and discussion board messages will be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The Office of Student AccessAbility, and many others. Please see the eLearning Current Students page http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/cstudents.htm for details.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online eLearning Help Desk http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp. The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.