Public Affairs (LAF/PubAffr) 888, Spring 2013
Comparative and National Social Policy

SYLLABUS, SCHEDULE, AND REQUIRED READING LIST

INSTRUCTOR

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MEETING TIME and PLACE

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 10:55 a.m., 4308 Sewell Social Science

Please note that class will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. You are expected to be in your seat by that time, please comply. Class will end by 10:55 a.m. and there will be a short break in the middle.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 12:00 - 2:00 p.m., 3420 SSSB or by appointment via Dave (dchancel@ssc.wisc.edu) due to travel and management schedule.

In any case, check with me in class, and if you use email (usually fastest), copy Dave as he has my schedule. Or call 890-1317 and speak to Dave. Do one or the other of these before you come to make sure the calendar is clear and/or I am in town.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide an overview of comparative cross-national social policy, the effects of the Great Recession on poverty and inequality, and the American system of public policy toward human resources, i.e., social policy, with added emphasis on other nations’ approaches to social welfare policy. The other nations include the rich OECD nations as well as emerging middle income countries (MICs) in Asia and Latin America. We will segment social welfare policy into three major branches: health (less emphasis), education (a bit more emphasis), and welfare (income security policy). The lines among these categories are, however, often blurred. Similarly, “social policy” is delivered and financed by governments, faith-based organizations (FBO’s) nonprofit agencies (“NGOs”), employers, and even the family itself. Spending on “HEW” comprises more than 70 percent of total government spending in the United States and an even higher fraction in other rich nations. The amounts are lower but sometimes with greater effect in the MICs. Thus, the topic is fiscally important. There will be some emphasis on cross-national policy analysis and the course will be ‘foreign student friendly’ in that each student can choose her or his own topic for the sequential paper.
What is emphasized in this course and curriculum includes “problem” or needs analysis, policy analysis, program development; and implementation (to some degree), and program evaluation. Disciplines of economics, sociology, demography, history, political science, evaluation, psychology, law, management, and education all have important contributions to make to the realm of social policy, and to this class. The goal of the course is therefore to give the student an appreciation of the breadth and depth of “social policy” and the way that public policy analysts and administrators design, analyze, and evaluate it.

This course is composed of a series of short lectures and longer class discussions about the various elements of social policy, which can be addressed with some degree of analytic objectivity. Thus, poverty, inequality and income maintenance, welfare reform, health care policy, education policy, income distribution, and urban problems are all part of the types of social problems which we will address.

There will be two short assignments to be handed in; one group project—a presentation for each team of two or three persons in the class; and one longer sequential paper in three parts: problem analysis, possible solutions, and pulling it all together.

There will be a good chance to express yourself both in writing and speaking in this course. Following the comments of previous classes, the required reading material has been condensed to shorter articles and class discussion time has been expanded. There will be two reading lists online at “Learn@UW”: one encompassing what is required reading which is mainly short articles. The other is a longer research reading list, available only online, and covering a much wider swath of research on a given topic. The research reading list ought to help you develop a sequential paper topic or prepare for a class presentation. **Class lectures will not repeat the readings, rather they will briefly summarize and clarify them. Each outline will include a set of questions for student presentations, class discussion, or a class exercise.** On average, we hope to have about 1/2 of each class for lecture and the rest for discussion of social problems as well as potential policy solutions to these problems.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND GRADES**

Grades will be based on two brief reaction papers to class readings or handouts; a sequential (3-part) policy analysis paper, and group presentation/class participation. There is no final examination.

**Points** (of 100 possible)

30 Two short assignments @ 15 points each (3 page reaction papers), see descriptive handout for assignment for more; due as specified on the class schedule.

60 Sequential Paper: describe and critically analyze a specific social program, policy alternatives, and the pros and cons of each alternative. This paper will be due in 3 parts. Each section will be graded on 1) quality and thoroughness of analysis; 2) incorporation of research from academic and other sources; and 3) clarity and organization of presentation; timely completion of each part of the exercise. At each stage you will be able to revise the previous edition of the paper if you also hand in the graded original. See descriptive handout on the sequential paper for more. **The final draft of this paper is due on Monday, May 13th or earlier; no exceptions - no incompletes.**

10 Quality of group presentations and of individual classroom participation, assessed all semester and dependent also on showing up for class.

Final letter grades will conform to graduate/professional school standards, regarding your grasp of material and competence in analyzing policy issues. These range from A (excellent, superior), AB (very
good), B (average), BC (barely adequate), C (inadequate). The usual pattern of final grades for this class are about 1/2 A or AB, about 1/2 B, a few stray BC’s, and an occasional C. In grading “parlance”, I am a “hard” A, and a “hard” C. But yes, I will fail people with C’s if their work is bad and they don’t make a good effort.

**Masters in International Relations and International Students**

While most of the examples of policies in the class are drawn from U.S. experiences, the policy issues we address; e.g., child poverty, population aging, immigration, education and health care cost, quality, and access are multinational in scope. I will therefore add examples and we will read articles from the cross-national literature, and will encourage you to write your sequential policy analysis paper on a social policy topic of interest to you as it applies to your national situation or cross-national situation and interests. In other words, this course is “international student friendly and designed to be for MIR students as well as MPP students.

**Doctoral Students**

While the class is mainly aimed at professional students, doctoral students are welcome. They should meet separately with me at the beginning of the semester to discuss their course and research objectives. In some cases the sequential paper will become a research paper suitable for journal submission if the student is so inclined. As you will see and hear, many PhD student papers and a few masters’ papers were good enough to be published shortly after class ended.

**Academic Integrity**

This course strictly adheres to the University of Wisconsin Honor System. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism or cheating on papers or assignments will be reported to the appropriate school and university authorities. I expect students to abide by the academic rules and regulations established by the University. These require students to “exhibit honesty in all academic endeavors. Cheating in any form is not tolerated, nor is assisting another person to cheat. The submission of any work by a student is taken as a guarantee that the thoughts and expressions in it are the student’s own except when properly credited to another. Violations of this principle include giving or receiving aid where otherwise prohibited, fraud, plagiarism, or any other deceptive act in connection with academic work. Plagiarism is the representation of another’s words, ideas, programs, formulae, opinions, or other products of work as one’s own, either overtly or by failing to attribute them to their true source.

I take this extremely seriously. It is your responsibility as a student to understand what plagiarism is and how to correctly reference documents and attribute other peoples’ arguments that you are citing. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, or how to make references in papers, see [http://www.uwstout.edu/stusrv/dean/facstaff/dishonesty.shtml](http://www.uwstout.edu/stusrv/dean/facstaff/dishonesty.shtml).

**READING MATERIALS:**

*There is no assigned textbook for this class.*

1. Everything is online at Learn@UW., including PowerPoints and other notes
2. The required reading list follows. The longer reference reading list including research articles on given topics will be on Learn@UW where this list is also found.
LEARN@UW

All of the required “online” readings and a majority of the reference readings will be available on the Learn@UW class site. If you are having trouble accessing the course information on Learn@UW, please contact Dave Chancellor or Professor Smeeding.

On this page, you will find each class PowerPoint You will also find all of the required readings that you can directly click and download; also most reference readings can be found online. There is a large set of user-friendly and helpful websites where you can find up-to-date information on social policy related statistics and reports that might be useful. These sources often prove valuable for your sequential paper background research.

If there is a problem with a link, please notify Dave Chancellor (dchancel@ssc.wisc.edu), or myself as soon as you have difficulty. From time to time during the year, I will use Learn@UW to add to readings or to give new addresses for readings and you will be notified by email about these readings.

CLASS LISTSERVE

The listserve address pubaffr888-1-s13@lists.wisc.edu will be used to send out class notices and updates. You should already have one note from me about the first and second weeks’ reading. If you do not get a message from me before the second class please see or email David Chancellor and give him your preferred email address! I rely on the Internet for class messages, notes, comments on assignments, new readings of interest for the course, etc. Hence, everyone should have access to the Net and regularly read their e-mail to fully participate in the class.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture/Topic</th>
<th>Comments and Exercise (due date)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>Introduction and Overview</td>
<td>Show up, having read a bit</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/29</td>
<td>Role of Government in Social Policy: Approaches, Values, and Institutions</td>
<td>Get the “Big Picture” day on Values and Ideology</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>Doing Policy Analysis (Program Evaluation and Implementation) in Social Policy:</td>
<td>Sequential paper topic (one paragraph outline and barebones bibliography) due. Outline returned with comments on 2/12</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Tools for You to Use; Evidence and Analytic Methods and for Social Programs</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>Financing Income Security: The Poor, the Old, the Children, the Cost and the</td>
<td>The ‘stuff’ begins, dollars first, Short Assignment #1</td>
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<td>Deficit.</td>
<td>distributed</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/19</td>
<td>Social Policy Context: Family Change and Family Policy. //</td>
<td>Short Assignment #1 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Human Capital Investment: Schooling, Job Training, and so on. //</td>
<td>One piece of puzzle; and preferred policy vehicle for enhanced social mobility?</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 and 10</td>
<td>3/19 and 4/2</td>
<td>Health and Health Care Systems: Focus on Families and Children.</td>
<td>Short Assignment #2: distributed on 3/19, due on 4/2</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>4/9</td>
<td>National Health Care System Reformed: What is New and What is left to be Done? //</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5/7</td>
<td>Medicare, Long Term Care and Disability. //</td>
<td>Last Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 5/13</td>
<td>Final Draft of Sequential Paper due in 3420 SSSB 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Sequential paper part III: Final Draft due</td>
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// = group presentation possibilities. See sign-up sheet passed out during first class.

**COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READING LIST:**

All of the articles here are required. These can be obtained from the class page on Learn@UW. *The first 4 weeks of the required reading list will be distributed before the first class and are below. The rest will be emailed with the complete syllabus for weeks 5–15, once I know more about your cross-national interests.*
In addition to the required readings, there are many reference readings available as well. And so, all other papers or books listed on the website are ‘optional.’ Most are available on Learn@UW. Those that are not can be checked out from my office shelves for up to 48 hours (recorded by David Chancellor), although most would likely be available through the library as well. These readings may help you further understand a particular issue or better develop a sequential paper topic on a particular issue. If a reading you borrow from me is not accounted for, you will not receive a final grade in the course.

Those preparing class presentations will be given a particular set of material for those presentations. The readings under the heading “some general policy approaches/suggestions” are especially useful for policy solution presentations as are some readings on the reference list Please be sure to read the assigned material before class. One objective of the course is informed discussion of social issues. One becomes informed by reading the assigned articles, then listening to the lecture, and then participating in the discussion and exercises.

Week 1
Jan. 22nd: Introduction and Overview: Some short readings (Emailed readings for weeks 1 to 4 to all on January 18th to be Read Before Class). All are available on the class’s Learn@UW page, but with links here as well


And some success:


An update followed recently:


**For students to do:**

Go to website and figure out YOUR Social Class


**Week 2**

**January 29th: Role of Government in Social Policy: Approaches and Values**


—and in response—


**Week 3**


**Due**: Sequential paper topical outline—one paragraph on topic and why you want to explore it and a barebones bibliography—due via email to Professor Smeeding at 3pm (see “Sequential Paper” handout for more).


**The evidence thing:**


Tseng, Vivian. 2012. The Uses of Research in Policy and Practice. Sharing child and youth development knowledge. Volume 26, number 2 (see PDF)

**Evaluating programs and evidence:**


Just a little methodology:


And a bit on the press:


Week 4
February 12th: Financing Income Security: The Poor, the Old, the Children, and especially the Cost and the Deficit. (Short Assignment #1 distributed)

Basics and overview:


Who gets what?


**Deficit reduction: who will pay and how?**


**Fiscal Federalism and government size:**

Rivlin, A. M. 2012. Rethinking Federalism for More Effective Governance” *Publius*, June (attach PDF)


In the weeds (read if you want to get into budget or government benefits or government jobs-- details are below )


Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. 2012. “Long-Term Realistic Baseline,” June 12, (Word doc online)
Week 5
Feb. 19th: Social Policy Context: Family Change and Family Policy (Short Assignment #1 due at beginning of class)


Some General policy approaches /suggestions


**Weeks 6 and 7**
**February 26th and March 5th: Social Policy Context: Poverty, Inequality, Immobility, and Economic Polarization. (Sequential Paper Part I: “Problem” analysis due at the beginning of class on March 5th)**

**Poverty Issues (Week 6)**


Short video if you have time [http://www.npr.org/series/155932539/poverty-in-america](http://www.npr.org/series/155932539/poverty-in-america)

**Inequality, middle class, instability and mobility (Week 7)**


**Some general policy approaches/suggestions**


Week 8


*Some general policy approaches /suggestions*


Weeks 9 and 10
March 19th and April 2nd: “Health and the Health Care System: Focus on Families and Children” (Short Assignment #2 distributed on March 19th - Short Assignment #2 due on April 2nd; No Class March 27th – Spring Break)


or


Frontline Documentary. 2012. Poor Kids: Poverty through the Eyes of Children. (53 mins.)
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/poor-kids/ (watch if you have time)

Some general policy approaches /suggestions


Week 11
April 9th: National Health Care System Reformed?
(Short Assignment #2 due)


**Some general policy approaches /suggestions other than or in addition to the ACA**


**Week 12**


**Some general policy approaches /suggestions**


**Week 13**

April 23rd: Employment, Income Transfers, and Earnings – The ‘Low Income’ Poverty and Welfare Solution?

(Sequential Paper Part II: solution analysis due)


**Some policy approaches/suggestions**


**Week 14**

**April 30th:** Aging: Social Security and Risk Shifting of Security in Old Age


**Some Social Security policy approaches/suggestions**


Week 15
May 7th: Long Term Care, and Disability (and Medicare in the United States) (Last class!)


Policy options: Disability and Medicare


FINAL DEADLINE
Monday, May 13th: Sequential Paper Part III, Final Paper due 3:00 p.m., 3420 SSSB