



Sociology and Social Work
Social Welfare Policy Analysis
SWK 330
3 Units

Spring 2017

Meeting days: M_W_F	Kevin F. Modesto, MATS, MSW, Ph.D.
Meeting times: 8:30-9:25AM	Office: (619) 849-2368 Home: (619) 282-5660
Meeting location: Rohr #112	E-mail: kmodesto@pointloma.edu
Additional info:	Office location and hours: Rohr Hall #105 M, F 11:00 to 12:00; T-Th 10-10:30AM or by appointment
Final Exam: Monday, May 1, 2017, 7:30 to 10:00 AM	Additional info:

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Department Mission

As followers of Christ, our mission is to nurture servant scholars who critically evaluate social and cultural patterns, and constructively engage as agents of hope.

Social Work Program Mission

At its core, the purpose of the social work program is to prepare competent social work professionals who are motivated to gracefully serve others as an expression of their faith. In the context of the intersection of the goals of the University and those of professional social work practice, this mission is further articulated:

The mission of the baccalaureate social work program is to develop competent professionals who are committed to serving others through acquisition and integration of the essential knowledge, skills, and values that form the foundation of generalist practice in the social work profession; who are motivated to promote social justice; and who understand that a Wesleyan perspective, a desire for continuous personal development, and respectful engagement in the community that empowers others are integral components of the means for relating to God through service.[1]

COURSE DESCRIPTION – SWK 330

Rules and policies influence the social environment and affect the provision of social services. Social Welfare Policy is a study of policy development and analysis; the private and public programs that comprise the American Welfare System; and their interrelationship. Social welfare policy guides and directs opportunities and actions at every level of social work. Policies from the federal, state, and local government and individual agencies and,

in many cases, individuals shape how services are conceived and delivered. This class, you will be introduced to social policy analysis and learn how to use frameworks that assess the impact of policy on individuals, families, and communities. You will pay attention to the role values play in determining social policy.

This course includes a review of the history and philosophy of social welfare; exploration of the factors affecting social welfare policy; the process of policy formation; identification of the services and patterns of social work response to the needs of special populations; the relationship between policy and social work practice; and a framework for analyzing welfare policy.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, you should be able to do the following tasks. Statements in italics are from the Council of Social Work Education's EPAS; underlined sections are the IDEA standards which you will use to evaluate the course at the end of the semester.

1. EP 2.1.1 *Identify as a professional social worker and conduct yourself accordingly.* Describe the interrelationship between social welfare policy and the roles of professional social work practice. IDEA Evaluation - Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course
2. EP 2.1.2 *Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.* Tolerate ambiguity in resolving ethical conflicts when your public policy beliefs do not coincide with other systems (clients, co-workers, supervisors, organizations, etc). Cultivate an understanding of how values influence the development and application of social welfare policy. IDEA Evaluation - Learning to apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions.
3. EP 2.1.3 *Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.* Using sources such as peer-reviewed journal articles, you will write professional APA 6th edition assignments and give presentations to the class. IDEA Evaluation - Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view
4. EP 2.1.4 *Engage diversity and difference in practice.* You will: 1) recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power; 2) identify current and emerging policy issues related to special populations; 3) gain self-awareness to eliminate the influences of your personal biases and values in working with diverse groups as well as analyzing how they are affected by social welfare policy; and 4) apply cultural competency skills.
5. EP 2.1.5 *Advance human rights and social and economic justice.* You will identify strategies to promote social and economic justice and promote policy analysis concerned with social and economic justice.
6. EP 2.1.6 *Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.* You will use the major debates and literature in social work concerned with policy issues to inform practice. IDEA Evaluations 1) Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems.

2) Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing.

7. EP 2.1.7 *Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.* You will: understand how policies affect the person in the environment; and explain/demonstrate a concern for possible latent consequences of policy decisions upon micro, mezzo, and macro systems.
8. EP 2.1.8 *Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.* You will exhibit knowledge of major themes that have shaped public policy and identify historical, philosophical, and social contexts that influence social welfare policy and legislation.
9. EP 2.1.9 *Respond to contexts that shape practice.* You will describe and apply a basic framework for policy analysis; and discuss the concepts of: strategy, planning, structure, implementation, and evaluation.
10. EP 2.1.10 *Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.* You will explain the policy development process from a systems perspective, including awareness of the organizational, political, and planning elements.
11. *Practice competency for integration of faith and professionalism.* You will critically assess the relationship between Christian faith and public policy.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. Attendance and Respectful Class Participation (10%): (See attendance section below for how excessive absences affect your grade.) To earn full points for discussion participation, you must be present for the full discussion, come prepared to hand in the assignments at the beginning of class, and engage in class dialogue. Your regular attendance and participation in the discussion sessions and in classroom activities is critical to the success of the class. You should plan to attend class and have read the material and be prepared to discuss, debate, and develop thoughts each class session. *Attendance alone does not equal participation. Distracting behaviors like excessive side conversations, rudeness to the class members and/or professor, working on tasks unrelated to the current class discussion, or texting will not be tolerated due to their lack of respect.*
2. Canvas Responses (25%): Answer the weekly Canvas questions/assignments and respond to classmates. References must be posted in APA 6th edition format.
3. Mid-term Exam (15%): The exam will focus on the first half of the semester's readings, lectures, and information learned from activities and guest speakers 3/3.
4. Final Exam (20%): *The published time for the final examination is one of the considerations when enrolling for a course. You are expected to arrange your personal affairs to fit the examination schedule.* The exam will be comprehensive in nature. The exam will focus on the semester's readings, lectures, and information learned from activities and guest speakers 5/1.
5. Annotated Bibliography (5%): Policy is ever-changing; new and emerging information is found in scholarly journals and newly released articles. A goal of the course is to expose you to the major debates in social work and related disciplines. The best new and emerging information is found in

the major scholarly journals. You will select an article from a respected, scholarly journal relating to the policy analysis paper (this article needs to be included in the paper described in #6). **Due 2/10.**

6. **Policy Analysis Outline, Paper, and Presentation (15%):** A goal of the course is to encourage the application of a policy analysis framework. You will select a policy (agency, county, state, or federal) and write a policy brief using the recognized policy framework analysis. This paper will also assess progress toward your specific course objectives. Additionally, the references for this paper must include such items and may not all be from Internet sources. Consideration should be made to the recent literature in social work and related disciplines (within last 5 years) and its implications for practice. The paper must be in APA 6th edition format. **The outline for the paper is due on 3/22, and the paper is due on 4/12.**
7. **Off-Site Practical Application Required (10%):** This course includes practical application or exposure to current policy issues that require participation in off-site experiences during classroom hours. Reactions must be posted on Canvas and will be discussed in class.
 - Attend a PLNU Associated Student Body (ASB) meeting and take notes. Post on Canvas and present in class.
 - Attend a city council meeting in any of San Diego County's cities. Take notes and write a summary on Canvas. Be prepared to discuss in class. **Watching a video of the meeting does not count. You have to go in person.** You can find information for these meetings online; for example - San Diego City Council meeting - <http://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/pdf/legiscal.pdf>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Professor Modesto reserves the right to make adjustments to the course schedule, as needed.

DATE PRESENTED	CLASS CONTENT	ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE
Jan. 10	Review syllabus and sign class commitment	
Jan. 11 & 13	<i>Social Policy and the American Welfare State</i>	Read Chapter 1
Jan. 18 & 20	<i>Discrimination in American Society</i>	Read Chapter 4 I Have Dream Speech
Jan. 23 & 25	<i>Social Welfare Policy Research</i>	Read Chapter 2
Jan. 25 & 27	<i>Religion and Social Welfare Policy</i>	Read Chapter 3
Jan 30, Feb. 1, & 3	<i>Poverty in America</i>	Read Chapter 5
Feb. 6, 8, & 10	<i>The Voluntary Sector Today</i>	Read Chapter 6 Annotated Bib. Due 2/10
Feb. 13	<i>Privatization and Human Service Corporations</i>	Read Chapter 7
Feb. 15 & 17	<i>The Making of Governmental Policy</i>	Read Chapter 8
Feb. 20, 22, & 24	<i>Tax Policy and Income Distribution</i>	Read Chapter 9
Feb. 27	<i>Social Insurance Programs</i>	Read Chapter 10
Mar. 1	<i>Public Assistance Programs</i>	Chapter 11

Mar. 3	<i>MIDTERM</i>	Midterm Exam
Mar. 6-10	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>	NO CLASSES
Mar. 13, 15, & 17	<i>The American Health Care System</i>	Chapter 12
Mar. 20, 22, & 24	<i>Mental Health and Substance Abuse Policy</i>	Chapter 13 Paper Outline Due
Mar. 27 & 29	<i>Criminal Justice</i>	Chapter 14
Mar. 31	<i>Child Welfare Policy</i>	Chapter 15
#12- Apr. 3, 5, & 7	<i>Housing Policies</i>	Chapter 16
#13- Apr. 10, 12	<i>The Politics of Food Policy and Rural Life</i>	Chapter 17 Policy Paper Due
April 13-17	<i>Easter Break!</i>	<i>No Class</i>
Apr. 19 & 21	<i>The American Welfare State in International Perspective</i>	Chapter 17
Apr. 24, 26, & 28	<i>Christian Faith and Public Policy</i>	Readings Assigned
May 1	Final Exam from 7:30am-10:00am	

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

- Karger, H. J., & Stoesz, D. (2014). *American social welfare policy: A pluralist approach*. (Seventh ed.). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Additional reading, including: articles distributed in class, research materials, personal observation, Internet resources, and articles and books assigned by the instructor.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

The final grade will be determined on the quality and completion of the assignments. The value for each assignment follows:

<u>Assignment Values:</u>		<u>Grade Distribution:</u>	
• Canvas Responses	25	A=94-100	C=73-76
• Mid-Term Exam	15	A-=90-93	C-=70-72
• Annotated Bibliography	5	B+=87-89	D+=67-69
• Policy Analysis Paper	25	B=84-86	D=63-66
• Participation	10	B-=80-83	D-=60-62
• Final Exam	20	C+=76-79	F=0-59
• Total Points	100		

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas.

Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor at any point about their grades. Any student with a grade below a C is highly encouraged to speak with the instructor.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

7/28/2016

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

Responsibilities of the Class Members (Faculty included):

- **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory at all class sessions. Missing 3 or more classes will result in de-enrollment or possible failure in accordance with the university attendance policy. NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to maintain his/her class schedule. Should the need arise to drop this course (personal emergencies, poor performance, etc.), the student has the responsibility to follow through (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the university), not the instructor. Simply ceasing to attend this course or failing to follow through to arrange for a change of registration (drop/add) may easily result in a grade of F on the official transcript.
- **Class participation:** Each person is a vital contributor to the educational environment. Our ideas and input are essential to the learning experience. Please participate actively and respectfully.
- **Respect:** Respect for others is a basic element of professional social work and Christian character. All discourse will be conducted in a responsible and respectful manner.
- **Reading:** We are expected to read all assigned material to engage in class discussion and other class based activities.
- **Completion of all class assignments:** All class assignments are to be completed and handed in in a prompt professional manner. There are no exceptions for tardiness. Late assignments will be penalized by a grade reduction of one letter grade for each day the assignment is not handed in beyond the original due date.

Inclusive Language

Given the power of language, all public language used in this course, including written and spoken discourse, will be inclusive. This standard is outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and is the norm in university-level work.

Public Discourse

Much of the work we will do in this class is cooperative, by nature of the class discussions and general feedback given to written work and/projects; thus you should think of all your writing and speaking for and in class as public, not private, discourse. By continuing in this class, you acknowledge that others will view your work in the class.

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