

**YORK COLLEGE  
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

**Social Work Program**

**Social Work 203**

**Social Welfare Programs and Policy**

Instructor: Dr. Susan Letteney  
Email: [letteney@york.cuny.edu](mailto:letteney@york.cuny.edu)

Office: Room 3A06  
Phone: (718) 262-2614

**Bulletin Description**

Prereq: Social Work 101, Political Science 103, Sociology 101. Prereq or Coreq: English 125. Consideration of socio-economic conditions that have influenced the development of major contemporary social welfare institutions; emphasis on the interrelationships of social problems and policies, social welfare measures, and the values of contemporary society; introduction to social policy analysis

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

Social Work 203 follows Social Work 101, which introduced the student to the social welfare arena, the profession of social work, and the profession's values, knowledge, and social action activities; and precedes Social Work 293, the first practice course.

The purpose of the social policy sequence is to contribute to the preparation of generalist social workers who: 1) are knowledgeable about social welfare programs and policies; 2) can apply this knowledge in social work interventions; and 3) can participate effectively in efforts to improve both policies and programs.

Social Work 203 is the first in a two-course sequence. It integrates content from several domains (philosophy, history, sociology, economics, political science and social work) into a coherent paradigm of the US social welfare system. The course focuses on three primary themes: the evolution of US social welfare policies and programs; the development of social work as a profession; and selected current social welfare programs.

In light of the Social Work Program and York College missions, special attention is given to programs and policies that are particularly relevant to oppressed groups, diverse cultures, urban settings and international perspectives. Programs and policies studied are drawn largely from these domains. In considering social work's dual focus both on individual human suffering and on social change to prevent this suffering, the courses stress the impact of social problems on individuals, issues related to the application of knowledge about social programs and policies to social work practice, and the ethical considerations crucial to the development and implementation of programs and policies. Finally, the courses in the social policy sequence stress the importance of using research-based knowledge in the development and implementation of social programs.

## Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of the forces that shaped current US social welfare policies and programs
2. demonstrate knowledge of the forces that shaped the social work profession
3. demonstrate beginning knowledge of US social welfare policies
4. demonstrate beginning ability to analyze the relationship between social problems and social policies/programs
5. demonstrate knowledge of selected national social welfare programs, e.g., TANF, SSI, OASDI
6. demonstrate knowledge of one local social welfare program in an area of interest
7. recognize the global nature of many social welfare problems and the impact that human diversity has on how such problems are addressed
8. demonstrate knowledge of at least one social welfare program in one foreign country
9. demonstrate beginning professional communication skills (oral and written)
10. use print and electronic library resources to find information about domestic and foreign social welfare programs
11. use correct APA bibliographic style
12. be prepared to assume professional responsibility to advocate for policies and programs that are responsive to human needs, and to empower traditionally oppressed peoples to achieve mastery over their condition.

## Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Please refer to the York College Bulletin for policies on academic integrity. The student is expected to attend, and be on time for all class sessions; **more than one absence or lateness will result in a lowering of the grade.**

Final written assignments and designated preliminary assignments must be submitted on time. The penalty for lateness in submission of preliminary assignments will be refusal of instructor to provide feedback; the penalty for lateness in submission of final assignment will be the reduction of grade by 1/2 grade for each day late.

**There will be no make-ups given for quizzes or exams.**

## Required Reading

Coll, B.D. (1971). Perspectives in public welfare. Washington, DC: US Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Popple, P.R., and Leighninger, L. (2002). Social work, social welfare and American society. (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). MA: Allyn & Bacon .

Trattner, W.I. (1999). From poor law to welfare state (6th ed.) .New York: The Free Press.

## Supplemental Reading

Code of ethics (1999). Washington, DC: National Association of Social Workers.

Publication manual of the American Psychological Association. (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). (2001). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

\* **All readings are on reserve in the library**

## Criteria for evaluation

A comprehensive examination given near the end of the semester, which covers the entire semester's work, is administered sequence-wide. The final grade is determined by taking into account the student's grade on this exam, other exams and assignments the individual instructor deems necessary, as well as attendance and class participation.

15 points	3 Quizzes (5 points each)
10 points	Homework Assignments
20 points	Mid-Term Examination
25 points	Final Examination
10 points	Social Welfare Program (US) Assignment
10 points	Social Welfare Program (Foreign) Assignment
10 points	Assistance in moving class discussions forward; includes <u>knowledgeable</u> class participation, punctuality and attendance

## Instructional Methods

- Lectures by instructor
- Presentations by students
- Class exercises and discussions
- Reading assignments
- Writing assignments with instructor feedback
- Quizzes/Exams
- Videos
- Attendance at social work conference and/or political rally and/or other relevant activity
- Internet use for research on social policies







**Unit 6                      Social Welfare Policies and Programs                      (Continued)**

**D. Health Care                      (3 hours)**

Readings:      Pople & Leighninger, chapters 12 and 13

1. Medical health care system
  - a. Uninsured, under insured
  - b. Auspices of health care
  - c. Major government programs
    - 1) Medicare
    - 2) Medicaid
  - d. Health care for special groups
    - 1) Children
    - 2) Elderly
2. Mental health
  - a. History in US
  - b. Major programs and services
3. Social work and health care
4. Research in health care

**E. Gerontology                      (3 hours)**

Readings:      Pople & Leighninger, chapter 15

1. Definitions
2. Demographics of aging
3. Economics of aging
  - a. Sources of income for non-poor
  - b. Sources of income for poor
4. Housing
  - a. Independent housing
  - b. Group housing
5. Health care
6. Ageism
7. Social policy: Older Americans Act
8. Research in gerontology

**Unit 7      Social Welfare Programs Outside the US      (3 hours)**

1. Overview of international social welfare
2. Student presentations

**FINAL EXAMINATION**

## Bibliography

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