

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

<b>Course Number:</b>	SW382P	<b>Instructor's name:</b>	Yolanda C. Padilla, Ph.D., LMSW-AP Associate Professor
<b>Unique Number:</b>	58640	<b>Office Number:</b>	SSW 3.130K
<b>Semester:</b>	Spring 2000	<b>Office Phone:</b>	471-6266 ypadilla@mail.utexas.edu
<b>Meeting Time/Place:</b>	Tuesdays 9-12 a.m. SSW 2.132	<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 p.m. or by appointment

**SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL WELFARE  
POLICY**

**I. Course Description**

This course examines, from an historical perspective, the overall structure of the current social welfare system with a focus on its impacts on the experience of vulnerable populations. Throughout the analysis, it also considers the parallel historical development of the profession of social work, including the ways in which it responded to the demands of social problems across key periods of social welfare policy transformations. This is the first of a two-course policy sequence in the MSSW program. In the next course in the sequence (Policy II), you will learn about methods for current policy analysis and evaluation, and you will have the opportunity to analyze in depth a policy of interest to you (e.g., a specific bill passed by the most recent Texas legislature).

**II. Course Objectives**

1. Understanding of the dominant *historical themes that have shaped the social welfare policy debates(s)* which is essential for the development of a useful policy orientation toward contemporary issues;
2. Understanding of the *economic constraints and opportunities* in the development of social welfare programs;
3. Understanding of the interrelationships between the *social work profession* and the institutional setting within which it developed;
4. Familiarity with the changes in the nature of *social problems* as well as changes in *knowledge and understanding* of the factors causing these problems;
5. Knowledge and perspectives on the *basic structure*; laws, and parameters of current social welfare institutions
6. Knowledge of the issues relating to the *policy arenas* of income maintenance, health, mental health, and social services for *vulnerable populations*;

7. Knowledge of the ways social policies *differentially affect* majority groups, women, and ethnic minorities, and;
8. Knowledge of the *roles and responsibilities of social workers* in the policy process.

### III. Teaching Methods

The primary teaching approach in this course will be collaborative learning. Material in the course will be presented through case studies, discussions, videos, small group work, and lectures. Students will be responsible for materials presented through all these activities. Assigned readings are for the week in which they are listed and students should have done the readings and be prepared to discuss them in class. Not all readings will be reviewed by the instructor in class. Videos will be used as tools for addressing key concepts in the course. The videos are not available for individual student viewing, and thus can only be viewed when presented in class.

### IV. Required Course Readings

Three books and a selected set of readings are used in this class. We begin by examining the trends in social welfare across major historical eras (*America's Struggle Against Poverty, 1900-1994*). We then learn about the major social welfare policies and programs in the United States (*Social Welfare: Politics And Public Policy*), and in the process take a closer look at the pressing social problems facing the country today (*The Social Health of the Nation: How America is Really Doing*). A set of carefully selected readings are used throughout the semester to expand upon the topics of study.

#### Texts

DiNitto, Diana M. 2000. *Social Welfare: Politics and Public Policy*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Miringoff, Marc and Marque-Luisa Miringoff. 1999. *The Social Health of the Nation: How America is Really Doing*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Patterson, James T. 1995. *America's Struggle Against Poverty, 1900-1994*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

#### Selected Readings (A packet of readings will be made available to the students.)

Bettman, Otto. 1974. *The Good Old Days: They Were Terrible!* New York: Random House.

DeParle, Jason. 1999, November 28. "Early Sex Abuse Hinders Many Women on Welfare." *The New York Times (National Edition)*, pp. 1, 20.

Ehrenreich, Barbara. 1999. "Nickel and Dime: On (not) getting by in America." *Harpers Magazine*. 298(1784), 37-52.

Galster, George. 1998. "The Challenges for Policy Research in a Changing Environment." *The Future of the Public Sector* (no. 7). The Urban Institute.  
[[http://www.urban.org/PERIODCL/pubsect/pub\\_07.html](http://www.urban.org/PERIODCL/pubsect/pub_07.html)]

Green, Jesse. 1997. "Flirting with Suicide." 1997. In Michael Lowenthal (ed.) *Gay Men at the Millennium: Sex, Spirit, Community* (pp. 35-56). New York: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam. (originally published in *The New York Times Magazine*)

Hacker, Andrew. 1992. "Being Black in America (Chapter 3)." *Two Nations: Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal*. New York: Ballantine Books.

Isay, David, and Stacy Abramson. 2000, January 2. "No. 587: A death-row inmate tells his own life story." *The New York Times Magazine*, pp. 34-35.

Pitts, Leonard. 2000, January 14. "More Subtle Than a White Sheet. *Austin American-Statesman*, p. A-15.

Traub, James. 2000, January 16. "What No School Can Do." *The New York Times Magazine*, pp. 52-57, 68, 81, 90, 91.

Van Wormer, Katherine. 1997. "Historical foundations of Social Work (Chapter 4)." *Social Welfare: A World View*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall Publishers.

Winn, Ellen. 1999. "Understanding How Change Occurs: Implementation Research in the TANF Era." *The Forum: Research Forum on Children, Families, and the New Federalism*, 2(3).

**V. Course Requirements**

***Assignments and Grading Policy***

<b>1. Weekly Collaborative Learning Group (CLG) Assignments</b>	<b>40%</b>
Synopses of Assigned Readings	*
Participation in Seminar Discussion	*
* Grade based on average of total weekly CLG assignments.	
<b>2. Newspaper Review of Contemporary Issues in Social Welfare Policy</b>	<b>60%</b>
Proposed Plan for the Review	-
Newspaper Articles	20%
Paper	30%
Oral Presentation	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Description of Assignments** (Refer to the end of the syllabus for a detailed description of assignments.)

## VI. Course Schedule

Note: Assigned readings are due on the date listed. Authors in **bold** refer to readings from the assigned texts. All others are from the “Selected Readings” list. Videos/guest lectures subject to change in the event of unavoidable scheduling conflicts.

### Week 1 ♦ Jan 18

---

#### OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

### Week 2 ♦ Jan 25

---

SYNOPSIS DUE

*The Complexity of Social Problems: Implications For the Design of Social Welfare Policies*

Green, Jesse. 1997. “Flirting with Suicide.” 1997. In Michael Lowenthal (ed.) *Gay Men at the Millennium: Sex, Spirit, Community* (pp. 35-56). New York: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam. (originally published in *The New York Times Magazine*)

**DiNitto**, Preface; Chapter 1, Politics, Rationalism, and Social Welfare

### Week 3 ♦ Feb 1

---

SYNOPSIS DUE

*MAJOR HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS: The Progressive Era & Social Reform (1900s)*

Bettman, Otto. 1974. *The Good Old Days: They Were Terrible!* New York: Random House.

**Patterson**, Part I, The Preventive Impulse: Chapter 1, 1900-1930: Snapshots of the Poor; Chapter 2, The Gospel of Prevention: Progressive Style

**IN-CLASS VIDEO: The Promised Land (The Great Migration), Vol. 1, Take Me to Chicago**

### Week 4 ♦ Feb 8

---

SYNOPSIS DUE

*MAJOR HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS: The Depression & the New Deal (1930s)*

**Patterson**, Part II, Coping and Rehabilitation, 1930-1960: Chapter 3, The Poor in the Depression; Chapter 4, The Early Welfare State; Chapter 5, Withering Away

**IN-CLASS VIDEO: The Great Depression, Vol. 3, New Deal, New York**

**Week 5 ♦Feb 15**

**SYNOPSIS DUE**

---

*MAJOR HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS: The Great Society & the War on Poverty (1960s)*

**Patterson**, Part III, Doors to Opportunity, 1960-1965: Chapter 6, The Depression and The New Deal: 1930-1940; Chapter 7, A Culture of Poverty? Chapter 8, Girding for War on Poverty; Chapter 9, OEO: A Hand Up, Not a Handout

**IN-CLASS VIDEO: The War on Poverty, Vol 1., In this Affluent Society**

**Week 6 ♦Feb 22**

**SYNOPSIS DUE**

---

*Contemporary Welfare Reform (1990s)*

Ehrenreich, Barbara. 1999. "Nickel and Dimed: On (not) getting by in America." *Harpers Magazine*. 298(1784), 37-52.

**DiNitto**, Chapter 6, Ending Welfare as We Knew It: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

**IN-CLASS VIDEO: Ending Welfare as We Know It**

**Week 7 ♦Feb 29 \* NO CLASS MEETING TODAY \***

**SYNOPSIS DUE**

---

*Assessing the Social Health of the Nation*

**Miringoff & Miringoff**, Forward (p. v-vii); Introduction; Part I, Seeking the Social Side of the Portrait: Chapter 1, How Are We Doing; Chapter 2, Part of a Tradition; Part II, Framing a Social Health Perspective for the Nation: Chapter 3, There's Something Else Out There

**DiNitto**, Chapter 5, Helping the "Deserving Poor": Aged, Blind, and Disabled; Chapter 7, Fighting Hunger: Nutrition Policy and Programs in the United States

**SYNOPSIS DUE**

**Week 8 ♦Mar 7**

**PROPOSED PLAN FOR NEWSPAPER REVIEW DUE**

---

*Issues in Health Care*

**Miringoff & Miringoff**, Infant Mortality (p. 48-53); Life Expectancy, Aged 65 (p. 66-71); Health Care Coverage (p. 92-97); Teenage Births (p. 124-129)

**DiNitto**, Chapter 8, Improving Health Care: Treating the Nation's Ills

**GUEST LECTURE: Cecilia Schulte, M.D., Board of Directors, AIDS Services of Austin, "Update on HIV Epidemic in the U.S. and Health Care Policy Implications"**

**Week 9 ♦Mar 14**

---

**SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)**

**Week 10 ♦Mar 21**

**SYNOPSIS DUE**

---

*The Provision of Services as a Policy Approach*

Isay, David, and Stacy Abramson. January 2, 2000 "No. 587: A death-row inmate tells his own life story." *The New York Times Magazine*, p. 34-35.

DeParle, Jason. 1999, November 28. "Early Sex Abuse Hinders Many Women on Welfare." *The New York Times (National Edition)*, pp. 1, 20.

**Miringoff & Miringoff**, Child Abuse (p. 74-79); Youth Suicide (p. 86-91); Violent Crime (p. 110-115); Teenage Drug Use (p. 118-123)

**DiNitto**, Chapter 10, Providing Social Services: Help for Children, the Elderly, and People with Mental Illness

**GUEST LECTURE: Janet Boes, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor, University of Texas at Austin, "Provision of Loss and Grief Related Services to the Dying and Bereaved"**

**Week 11 ♦Mar 28 \* NOTE DIFFERENT TIME AND PLACE FOR CLASS TODAY \***

**SYNOPSIS DUE**

---

*Social Work's Response to Social Problems*

Van Wormer, Katherine. 1997. "Historical foundations of Social Work (Chapter 4)." *Social Welfare: A World View*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall Publishers.

**\* IN LIEU OF CLASS:**

Thursday, March 30, 7:30 p.m., Thompson Center. Lecture by distinguished lecturer, Dr. Barbara Solomon (topic: *Social Work's Response to Social Problems throughout the Decades*)

Friday, March 31, 10 - 11:30 a.m., Utopia Theater. Tentative plans at this point are to feature Dr. Solomon with a panel of respondents who will speak to the issues she raised on Thursday night. (topic: *The Past, the Present, and the Future: Social Work's Response to Social Problems*)

**Week 12 ♦April 4**

**SYNOPSIS DUE**

---

*Addressing Inequality: A Critical Aspect of Social Welfare Policy*

Pitts, Leonard. 2000, January 14. "More Subtle Than a White Sheet. *Austin American-Statesman*, p. A15.

Hacker, Andrew. 1992. "Being Black in America (Chapter 3)." *Two Nations: Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal*. New York: Ballantine Books.

**Miringoff & Miringoff**, High School Dropouts (p. 54-59); Poverty, Aged 65+ (p. 60-65); Child Poverty (p. 80-85); Wages (p. 98-103); Inequality (p. 104-109); Affordable Housing (p. 136-141); Unemployment (p. 142-147)

**DiNitto**, Chapter 11, Challenging Social Welfare: Racism and Sexism

**GUEST LECTURE: TBA (topic: Advocating for Just Policy)**

---

**Week 13 ♦April 11**

**SYNOPSIS DUE**

*Evaluating Social Welfare Policies and Programs*

Winn, Ellen. 1999. "Understanding How Change Occurs: Implementation Research in the TANF Era." *The Forum: Research Forum on Children, Families, and the New Federalism*, 2(3).

Galster, George. 1998. "The Challenges for Policy Research in a Changing Environment." *The Future of the Public Sector* (no. 7). The Urban Institute.  
[[http://www.urban.org/PERIODCL/pubsect/pub\\_07.html](http://www.urban.org/PERIODCL/pubsect/pub_07.html)]

Traub, James. 2000, January 16. "What No School Can Do." *The New York Times Magazine*, pp. 52-57, 68, 81, 90, 91.

**DiNitto**, Chapter 12, Implementing and Evaluating Social Welfare Policy: What Happens After a Law is Passed?

**IN-CLASS VIDEO: "Our Families, Our Future"**

---

**Week 14 ♦April 18**

**STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

---

**Week 15 ♦April 25**

**STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

---

**Week 16 ♦May 2**

**STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

**NEWSPAPER REVIEW (SET OF ARTICLES) AND PAPER DUE**

## **Bibliography**

**Required Readings** (*See Section IV for a complete list.*)

### **Supplemental Readings (Optional)**

Abramovitz, Mimi,  
Regulating the lives of women: social welfare policy from colonial times to the present,  
Boston, Mass: South End Press, 1988.

Danziger, Sheldon, & Gottschalk, Peter,  
America unequal,  
Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1995.

Day, P. J.  
A new history of social welfare,  
Englewood, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1989.

Gensler, Howard  
The American welfare system : origins, structure, and effects,  
Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 1996.

Katz, Michael B.,  
In the shadow of the poorhouse : a social history of welfare in America,  
New York: Basic Books, 1986.

Katz, Michael B.,  
The undeserving poor : from the war on poverty to the war on welfare  
New York : Pantheon Books, 1990.

Olasky, Marvin N.  
Renewing American compassion,  
New York: Free Press, 1996.

Simon, Barbara Levy,  
The empowerment tradition in American social work : a history,  
New York: Columbia University Press, 1994.

Skocpol, Theda,  
Protecting soldiers and Mothers,  
Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press, 1992.

Skocpol, Theda,  
Social policy in the United States : future possibilities in historical perspective,  
Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1995.

## Collaborative Learning Group Assignments

The class will be conducted as a seminar using the collaborative learning group (CLG) method. The CLG method fosters students' active participation in learning. The main objective behind the CLG method is to give students an opportunity to systematically analyze and apply concepts taught in the course through group discussion. In preparation for this task, students will be asked to prepare a synopsis of the readings assigned for each session. The dates in which the synopses are due are listed in the syllabus. The synopses should briefly summarize and provide a critical analysis of the readings for each week. The synopses of the readings, including your reactions to the issues covered, will serve as the basis for group discussion. They should be 2 - 3 pages in length (equivalent to double-spaced typewritten pages), but do not need to be type-written. Longer synopses are acceptable.

\* Please note that we have NO EXAMS and NO RESEARCH PAPER requiring outside readings in this class. Thus, this part of the course work is the core of your learning in this class. So please take the weekly readings, the preparation of your synopsis, and the class participation seriously.

- The synopsis should be written in the form of an essay (rather than in the form of a list or outline) and make explicit references within the essay to all the readings assigned for that week. To highlight your reference to the readings, underline each reference the first time you mention it. For example, "According to Trattner's chapter on the New Deal (Ch. 7),..." The synopses should reflect critical thinking: that is, you should analyze, synthesize, evaluate, compare/contrast, and so on. Always stay grounded in the readings.
- Synopses will not be accepted late, and there are no make-ups for synopses.
- Grades are assigned as follows: 50 points for class participation/attendance and maximum 50 points for the synopsis. The synopsis is graded as follows:
  - 50 Synopsis covers all assigned readings and provides a critical analysis
  - 30 Synopsis covers all assigned readings, but provides a superficial analysis
  - 20 Synopsis does not cover all assigned readings or is **very** sketchy

*In order to provide leeway for emergencies (faulty printers, car breakdowns, illness, etc.) students may drop their two lowest grades.*

### How to Approach the Writing of the Synopses of the Readings

First, note the overall theme of the readings for the week, which is listed above each weekly set of readings. In each of the weeks, the first couple of readings are from the "Selected Readings" or are chapters from **Miringoff & Miringoff**. These readings are intended to provide you with a case or other illustrative material that highlights the topic addressed in the assigned chapter(s) from the texts (**Patterson** or **DiNitto**). Ask yourself what each author is telling you about the theme of the week. Then draw three or so main points, **focusing on the complexity of the social problem at hand the implications for the design for social welfare policy**. Make sure to draw evidence from the readings. Your synopsis should *not* simply be a compilation of summaries of each of the separate readings (e.g., the first reading is about ..., the second readings is about..., and so on.) Rather, it should bring together the ideas from the readings as a whole.

## Newspaper Review of Contemporary Issues in Social Welfare Policy

This assignment provides you with an opportunity to examine a specific policy issue of interest to you. The purpose of the assignment is to begin to analyze the complexity of a specific social problem and the implications of this complexity for the design of social welfare policy. An understanding of the social problem at hand is a first and essential step in the study of policy and forms the foundation for the preparation of policy briefs, grant proposals, testimony for legislative bodies, research studies, and journal articles.

Specifically, you should follow a policy issue in the news and collect newspaper articles (news magazine articles are also acceptable) concerning that issue. As you select your topic, narrow it down such that you focus on a specific aspect of a social problem or population. Some examples of appropriate populations are: contemporary issues [in/facing/related to] gay and lesbian rights; domestic violence; families leaving welfare; mandatory drug sentencing and minorities; homeless families; teen suicide. The assignment is divided into the following parts, described below.

### PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE REVIEW (DUE THE FIRST PART OF THE SEMESTER)

Submit a copy of at least three articles that you have collected on the topic of your choice up to this point and one paragraph on the plan for the final paper. Specifically, indicate the direction that you think your paper will take and the major policy issues that are emerging in your newspaper review. What aspects of the problem make it complex in ways that perhaps policy is not addressing?

### FINAL PROJECT (DUE AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER)

#### Newspaper Articles (10-12 articles)

Articles should be collected throughout the semester (on the average of 1 article per week, if possible, although a few articles published in the past are also acceptable). Submit at least 10-12 articles. You should look for articles that provide some in-depth/substantive discussion of the problem (that does not mean the articles have to be long) and allude to relevant social welfare policies (directly or indirectly). Collect at least a small number of articles from major newspapers, such as *The New York Times* (newspapers are available at the UT libraries).

#### Paper (10-15 pages)

The paper should discuss the overall nature of the social problem and the main themes that run through the newspaper articles, including points of contention. You should answer the question: **What makes this social problem complex, and what are the implications of this complexity for social welfare policy; what aspects are not being addressed by current or proposed policies?** In addition, obtain information from at least 5 scholarly sources to supplement the information obtained from the articles; that is, journal articles or books reporting on studies of the social problem and the demographic characteristics of the population of interest. Include a bibliography of the 10-15 articles and the 5+ scholarly sources. The paper should reflect your ability to apply analytical techniques used to address social problems and social welfare policy demonstrated throughout this course (i.e., through the readings, videos, and class discussions).

#### Oral Presentation (10-15 minutes)

Prepare a creative presentation of the project based on your review of the newspaper articles. Suggestions include the use of PowerPoint, overheads, posters, slides, etc.

## Class Expectations

**1. Attend class regularly.**

Class attendance is required every class period for the entire class period.

**2. Turn assignments in on the due dates.**

All assignments submitted after the beginning of class are considered late.

- Late weekly CLG synopses will not be accepted.
- On days when CLG synopses (or other written assignments) are not required, the CLG grade will be based solely on class participation/attendance.
- Student presentations can only be given on the allotted dates.

Major written assignments will be penalized one letter grade for each calendar day late.

**3. Follow the rules of scholastic honesty.**

Assignments which show evidence that they have not been completed directly by the student will not be accepted and may result in automatic failure for the course. All written assignments (papers, weekly synopses, etc.) should be based on individual, not collaborative, work. However, collaborative discussion in and out of class is strongly encouraged. Scholastic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in recommendation for dismissal from the University according to University guidelines.

**4. Request and use feedback.**

I will work with you throughout the semester and provide you with feedback and suggestions for revisions on assignments. Please arrange to meet with me prior to the time the particular assignments are due.

**5. Offer feedback.**

Student feedback about the course is welcome, as the course will be viewed as a joint effort between students and the instructor. If you have difficulties with the course content or assignments, or if you are unclear about my expectations of you or your expectations of the course, talk to me as soon as possible during the semester.

**6. Participate in class discussions and other in-class activities.**

This is one way that students can learn from each other. Differences in values, opinions, and ideas with other students (and guest speakers) will be respected.

**7. Present written and oral presentations professionally.**

Grades will be lowered if assignments are not clearly presented. Written assignments should be proofread to avoid grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. paginate all your written assignments.

**8. Use APA Style for referencing.**

The *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* is the style manual to be used by the School of Social Work. A handout on APA style is available at the SSW Student Services Office. For the weekly synopses, you are not required to list a bibliography.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SW382P SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

Unique Number: 58640

Semester: Spring 2000

Instructor's name: Yolanda C. Padilla, Ph.D., LMSW-AP, Associate Professor

## SELECTED READINGS

Green, Jesse. 1997. "Flirting with Suicide." 1997. In Michael Lowenthal (ed.) *Gay Men at the Millennium: Sex, Spirit, Community* (pp. 35-56). New York: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam. (originally published in *The New York Times Magazine*)

Bettman, Otto. 1974. *The Good Old Days: They Were Terrible!* New York: Random House.

Ehrenreich, Barbara. 1999. "Nickel and Dimed: On (not) getting by in America." *Harpers Magazine*. 298(1784), 37-52.

Isay, David, and Stacy Abramson. January 2, 2000 "No. 587: A death-row inmate tells his own life story." *The New York Times Magazine*, p. 34-35.

DeParle, Jason. 1999, November 28. "Early Sex Abuse Hinders Many Women on Welfare." *The New York Times (National Edition)*, pp. 1, 20.

Van Wormer, Katherine. 1997. "Historical foundations of Social Work (Chapter 4)." *Social Welfare: A World View*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall Publishers.

Pitts, Leonard. 2000, January 14. "More Subtle Than a White Sheet." *Austin American-Statesman*, p. A15.

Hacker, Andrew. 1992. "Being Black in America (Chapter 3)." *Two Nations: Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal*. New York: Ballantine Books.

Winn, Ellen. 1999. "Understanding How Change Occurs: Implementation Research in the TANF Era." *The Forum: Research Forum on Children, Families, and the New Federalism*, 2(3).

Galster, George. 1998. "The Challenges for Policy Research in a Changing Environment." *The Future of the Public Sector* (no. 7). The Urban Institute.  
[[http://www.urban.org/PERIODCL/pubsect/pub\\_07.html](http://www.urban.org/PERIODCL/pubsect/pub_07.html)]

Traub, James. 2000, January 16. "What No School Can Do." *The New York Times Magazine*, pp. 52-57, 68, 81, 90, 91.