

METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE OF DENVER  
Office of Academic Affairs

**REGULAR COURSE SYLLABUS**

School of : Letters Arts and Sciences

Department: Social Work

CIP Code: 44.0701

Semester(s) Offered: Spring

Prefix & Course Number: SWK 3780

Crosslisted With\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Title: Social Welfare Policy

Check All That Apply: Required for Major: X Required for Minor: \_\_\_ Specified Elective: \_\_\_ Required

for Concentration: \_\_\_ Elective: \_\_\_ Service Course: \_\_\_

Credit Hours: 3 (3+0)

Contact Hours: Lecture 45 Lab 0 Internship 0 Practicum 0

Schedule Type(s): L and J Grading Mode(s): L

Repeat\* (Variable topics): \_\_\_\_\_

\*(Pertinent only if the course can be repeated; enter maximum number of hours that can be earned by taking this course.)

Restrictions (Variable Topics Course): NA

Prerequisite(s): SWK 3050 or permission of the instructor

Corequisite(s): None

Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): \_\_\_

Banner Enforced:

Prerequisite(s):

Corequisite(s): \_\_\_

Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): \_\_\_

**Catalog Course Description:**

Social welfare policies at the federal, state, and local levels form the context of direct practice. Social welfare legislation and programs are analyzed. Roles of advocate and lobbyist are examined. Past and present social policies are another focus of this course.

APPROVED:

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Department Chair/Institute Director

Date

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Dean

Date

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Associate VP, Academic Affairs

Date

\*If crosslisted, attach completed Course Crosslisting Agreement Form

Prefix and Course Number: SWK3780

**Required Reading and Other Materials will be equivalent to (Title, Author, Publisher, Copyright Date)**

American Social Welfare Policy. Karger, H. J. & Stoesz, D. New York, NY: Longman. (2002 or current edition).

**Specific (Measurable) Student Behavioral Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Restate the relationship between social welfare policy, the purposes of professional social work, and generalist social work practice.
2. Analyze a substantive aspect of social welfare policy, such as piece of legislation by applying one or more of the existing models of policy analysis.
3. Describe the evolution of society's past and present attempts to resolve selected social welfare policies, especially income maintenance policies.
4. Discuss the latent as well as the manifest goals, functions, and purposes of social welfare policies, especially income maintenance policies.
5. Apply social research skills in systematic policy analysis using a particular framework:
  - a) Students will identify problems, review the pertinent literature, collect data, use interviewing skills, analyze and present data and conclusions.
  - b) Students will identify gaps in the social problem/social policy knowledge base and appreciate the function of additional research to fill such gaps.
6. Describe social workers' roles in the formulation and change of social welfare policy.
7. Compare and contrast the significance of social welfare programs, services, benefits to clients within America's reluctant "Welfare State." As well as the voluntary and corporate sectors.
8. Restate major American and social work values related to the development and change of social welfare policy.
9. Describe the effects of stigmatization on ethnic minorities, the poor and working class, women, the elderly, the differently abled, and gays and lesbians.

**Detailed Outline of Course Content (Major Topics and Subtopics) or Outline of Field Experience/Internship (experience, responsibilities and supervision):**

- I. The Meaning of Social Welfare Policy
  - A. Identifying policies of concern to social work
  - B. Goals of social welfare, manifest and latent
  - C. Functions of social welfare and social welfare policy
- II. Significance of Social Policy for the Generalist Practice Social Worker and Clients
  - A. Purposes of the social work profession
  - B. Middlemann and Goldberg Wood's quadrant frame of reference
- III. Historical Component: Income Maintenance/ Poor Relief/ "Welfare Reform"; Milestones in England and the United States
  - A. Significant events/ movements/social changes, people, agencies, ideologies, legislation/court decisions which have influenced social welfare policy in this domain.

- B. Contemporary developments – the “Contract with America” and the effort to end entitlements
  - C. Efforts to dismantle the “Reluctant Welfare State.”
- IV. Social Problems, Social Welfare Issues and Clients’ Problems
- A. Definition
  - B. Sources of social problems (systemic and other)
  - C. Social problems and client system dysfunctions
  - D. “Blaming the victim” and its function
  - E. Values and ideological considerations
  - F. Issues of social and economic justice
- V. Analyzing Social Problems
- A. Purposes of social policy analysis
  - B. Criteria for selection of a model for privacy analysis
  - C. Descriptions of several models/frameworks
- VI. Formulation of Social Welfare Policy
- A. Federal, State, and Local Levels, i.e. Colorado
  - B. Court decisions, administration rules and regulations, e.g., Colorado Department of Human Services
  - C. Colorado legislative process
  - D. Political Factors
  - E. Economic and Corporate interests
  - F. Power and the powerless
- VII. Public Economic Policy in relation to Social Welfare Expenditures and Provision of Resources ( Benefits, Programs, and Opportunities)
- VIII. The Descriptive Component of Ginsberg’s Perspective on Social Welfare Policy
- A. Economic assistance and entitlements (Entitlements may not exist as we have known them after the 1995 congressional session)
  - B. Block grants – Potential impacts on social welfare programs and clients
- IX. The descriptive Component continued: Special groups, Services, Programs, and Policies – (especially low – income ethnic minorities)
- A. Children and Adolescents
  - B. Youthful offenders
  - C. Crime victim/domestic violence
  - D. Mentally ill
  - E. Persons with developmental disabilities
  - F. The elderly
  - G. Gays and lesbians
- X. Practicing Social Policy: Advocacy, Lobbying, Coalition Building

**Evaluation of Student Performance:**

Prefix and Course Number: SWK3780  
Policy Analysis Paper (8-10 pages)  
Mid-term Examination  
Final  
Participation in Discussions and Activities