PPPA 8197: US Social Policy

Term: Fall 2020
Section: 10
Class Room: Blackboard
Lectures: M 6:10-8PM
Instructor: Eiko Strader, PhD
Email: strader@gwu.edu
Office: Phillips Hall 342
Office Hours: By appointments

Course Description:
This course fulfills a core requirement for students pursuing a degree in the Social Policy field by familiarizing them with the development and implementation of social welfare policy in the United States. We begin with a brief introduction to welfare state theory and different welfare models, followed by a critical interrogation of the values and ideologies underlying policy formulation process in the U.S. We will then spend the rest of the semester examining the configuration of social policy.

Prerequisites:
This course has no prerequisites and does not assume any previous knowledge of the subject matter.

Required Texts:
- Other readings, videos and podcasts are available on Blackboard. If you are having problems with Blackboard, contact the Helpdesk at 202-994-5530.

Additional Requirements for Distance Learning:
- A desktop or laptop computer, but a smartphone or tablet may work in a pinch (though Blackboard Collaborate apps may be glitchy); check the system requirements here.
- An Internet Browser that is supported by Blackboard; see the list here.
- Internet access; Blackboard recommends 28.8kbps speed or above, but broadband connection is recommended. If you are unsure, check your connection speed here.
- A webcam for face-to-face interaction during virtual breakout sessions is recommended.
- A quiet learning space if possible.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:
1) Discuss the function of the state in providing welfare to its citizens in relation to the role of markets and civil society,
2) Describe the design and implementation of social welfare programs in the U.S.,
3) Apply a policy analysis framework and examine the social, political, and economic forces shaping social welfare programs in the U.S.,
4) Understand and evaluate the impact of social policy in the U.S.,
5) Engage in critical debates about contemporary issues concerning social welfare.
Grades and Requirements:
• Evaluation will be based upon a point system.
• Late assignments will result in a 10% per day penalty, and no late assignment will be accepted 3 days after the original deadline.
• Please check Blackboard for complete details of each assignment and assessment.

1) Class Participation: Your participation will be assessed based on overall quality of your contributions to the discussion board. All students are required to complete assigned readings and post one discussion question two days before each class session (by Saturday at midnight). Students are also required to read and respond to at least two discussion posts made by others one day before each class session (by Sunday at midnight).

2) Discussion Leader: You will organize and lead in-class discussion at least once during the semester. Please review the discussion questions posted on the online discussion board prior to your session and follow up on any aspect of the readings you believe is important for the topic being covered for the week. Discussion leaders should upload an annotated bibliography to the discussion board by Monday at noon on the day of your discussion session.

3) Research Prospectus: At the end of Session 5, you will submit a 500 to 1,000 words research prospectus containing: 1) a brief overview of existing scholarship, 2) your research question(s) and/or hypotheses, 3) a description of your proposed project, and 4) expected significance and contributions of your proposed research. Your bibliography will not count towards the 1,000 word limit. Please upload your prospectus to Blackboard by Friday at midnight.

4) Presentation of Your Research Proposal: During Sessions 13 and 14, you will provide a 15 minute presentation about your research proposal and solicit feedback comments from your colleagues. At the beginning of your presentation, you will be asked to describe the aims and scope of your target journal so that your colleagues can provide meaningful feedback and ideas for future revisions.

5) Research Proposal: Upon submission of your prospectus, you will identify a target journal and develop a 2,500 to 3,000 words research proposal. Your research proposal needs to be formatted according to the submission guidelines of your target journal, and should include the following components: 1) working title, 2) abstract, 3) introduction, 4) literature review, and 5) methodology. Your bibliography will not count towards the word limit, but if your target journal tends to publish shorter articles, you should aim for the word limit of 3,000 including footnotes and references. Please upload your final research proposal to Blackboard by the end of Session 14, Friday at midnight.

Total: 100 %
Course Schedule and Readings:

08/31 Session 1: The U.S. Welfare Regime
1) Greve, CH1: Introduction.
5) Campbell, CH1: Trying to Make It in America.
6) Campbell, CH2: Down the Rabbit Hole.

09/14 Session 2: The U.S. Welfare Regime
3) Karger and Stoesz, CH4: Discrimination in American Society.
4) Karger and Stoesz, CH5: Poverty in America.
5) Campbell, CH3: The Place of the Poor in the American Welfare State.

OPTIONAL:

09/21 Session 3: The Voluntary and For-Profit Sectors
1) Greve, Part II: State, Market and Civil Society.
2) Karger and Stoesz, CH6: The Voluntary Sector Today.
3) Karger and Stoesz, CH7: Privatization and Human Service Corporations.

OPTIONAL:
09/28 Session 4: The Politics of Social Welfare

2) Karger and Stoesz, CH8: The Making of Governmental Policy.

OPTIONAL:

10/05 Session 5: The Redistributive Aspect of Welfare States

1) Karger and Stoesz, CH9: Tax Policy and Income Distribution

OPTIONAL:
10/09  Research Proposal Abstract Due Friday at Midnight

10/12 Session 6: Social Insurance
1) Karger and Stoesz, CH10: Social Insurance Programs

OPTIONAL:

10/19 Session 7: Anti-Poverty Programs
1) Karger and Stoesz, CH11: Public Assistance Programs.
3) Campbell, CH4: How Means-Tested Programs Keep People Poor.
4) Campbell, CH5: The Fifty Different Worlds of Social Assistance.

OPTIONAL:
OPTIONAL (Continued):


10/26 Session 8: Health Care Policy
1) Karger and Stoesz, CH12: The American Health Care System
2) Karger and Stoesz, CH13: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Policy

OPTIONAL:
11/02 Session 9: Criminal Justice Policy
1) Karger and Stoesz, CH14: Criminal Justice.

OPTIONAL:

11/09 Session 10: Child Welfare Programs

OPTIONAL:
OPTIONAL (Continued):

11/16 Session 11: Housing Programs and Food Policy

3) Karger and Stoesz, *CH17: The Politics of Food Policy and Rural Life*.

OPTIONAL:
3) Campbell, CH6: Conclusion - The Future of American Means-Tested Programs.
4) Greve, CH11: New Ways of Steering the Welfare State
5) Greve, CH13: Is There a Future for the Welfare State?

OPTIONAL:

11/30 Session 13: Student Paper Presentations
12/07 Session 14: Student Paper Presentations
12/11 Final Paper Due Friday at Midnight
Course Logistics:
• **Announcements** will be posted regularly on Blackboard in the order I post them, meaning that the most recent announcement appears first. If you prefer to receive notifications via emails, you can change your notification settings.
• Emails will be responded promptly during the normal business hours (8am to 5pm, EST on weekdays), but I will be slower to respond during non-business hours.
• We will be using the Discussion Board to engage with each other and make sense of the course content each week.
• I will be holding virtual office hours by appointments this semester to accommodate those who are not in the same time zone. Please use Blackboard to schedule your virtual meetings.

Credit Hour Guidelines (Modified for Fall 2020):
• In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) **34 CFR 602.24(f)** and the requirements of Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3-credit seminar expects students to spend a total of 112.5 semester hours. The credit model is based on a 15-week semester, where you are expected to have 14 weeks of instruction and one week of examination/assessment period. This course is designed so that you are expected to spend a minimum total of 7.5 hours per week of combined direct instruction and independent learning for a total of 112.5 hours in a 15-week semester.

Writing Resources:
• Although the course guides you through the process of formulating and understanding difficult set of ideas, it does not teach you how to write better. If you need help with your writing, you should make an appointment with a writing consultant at the Writing Center (202-994-3765).

Academic Integrity:
• “All students – undergraduate, graduate, professional full time, part time, law, etc. – must be familiar with and abide by the provisions of the Code of Academic Integrity.”
• I expect that you meet the minimum standards for academic student conduct set forth by the Code of Academic Integrity and understand that your failure to uphold academic integrity in your coursework results in academic disciplinary sanctions.

Religious Holidays:
• In accordance with University policy, please notify me during the first week of the semester if you plan to be absent from class to observe a religious holiday. You will be allowed to make up missed assignments without penalty.

Disability Accommodations:
• Students who qualify for access to disability accommodations should contact the Disability Support Services (DSS) at 202-994-8250, so that I can provide effective and appropriate accommodations to meet the needs of students with disabilities.
• The accommodation procedure involves three steps: (1) complete a registration form, (2) document your disability, and (3) request letters to professors.
• For more information, visit their office in Rome Hall, Suite 102.

Mental and Psychological Wellness:
• If you or your peers are experiencing emotional distress, please contact the Mental Health Services at the Colonial Health Center at 202-994-5300 (available 24/7).
Safety and Security:
• In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place and call GWPD 202-994-6111 or 911.
• If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location. For active violence situation, see go.gwu.edu/shooterprep
• For latest information, check out safety.gwu.edu/stay-informed

TSPPPA Statement on Classroom Expectations:
• “Higher education works best when it becomes a vigorous and lively marketplace of ideas in which all points of view are heard. Free expression in the classroom is an integral part of this process. At the same time, higher education works best when all of us approach the enterprise with empathy and respect for others, irrespective of their ideology, political views, or identity. We value civility because that is the kind of community we want, and we care for it because civility permits intellectual exploration and growth.”

<<< DISCLAIMER: I reserve the right to revise this syllabus if the need arises. >>>