

SWK 102 A  
Human Services Policy and Politics

Tuesday and Thursday  
9:30AM

Jill Wolk, MSW, LCSW  
Instructor

Dr. Fred Nute, Department Chair

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**Required Text:**

Social Welfare, Politics and Public Policy, DiNitto, 6<sup>th</sup> ed

**Course Description:**

This course provides an examination of social welfare policy development. The examination will focus on historical factions, value assumptions, and social-political-economic context. Specific social issues in the field of human services will be explored and related to policy development. The process and skills for examination and evaluation of programs will be emphasized.

**Course Objectives:**

- Examine U.S. Social Welfare policy and the policy-making process.
- Examine historical perspectives of the U.S. social welfare up to current times.
- Evaluate the complexity of poverty and policy addressing it.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of various models defining poverty.
- Analyze social policy and programs addressing health and healthcare.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the social policy and programs designed to help children, the elderly and the disabled.
- Evaluate racial and gender inequality in U.S. social policy.
- Think critically about social policy's impact on US citizens

**Exams:**

There will be five examinations which are a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank and essay. Each exam is worth 50 points. *There is no late testing allowed.* The lowest exam score will be dropped.

**Research:**

Students will be responsible for researching, writing a two-page report and giving an informal oral report over a policy of personal interest. The source of the policy might be one's local school board, the workplace, Mineral Area College, or city government.

**Grading:**

Examinations are valued at 50 points each. The research project is valued at 50 points. Attendance and class participation is valued at 25 points. The total possible points for the semester are 275 points. The grading scale is as follows: 90-100 A, 70-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, 59 and below – F.

**Expectations:**

You are required to communicate by email with the instructor. If you have not used your mac g-mail account, start doing so now. Grades and study guides will be sent via email with no exceptions.

Attendance is taken daily and will be reflected on your final grade.

Please keep track of your exam scores throughout the semester.

**Extra Credit:**

Students may earn extra credit of up to 25 points for the semester. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the instructor and seek approval of extra credit projects. Potential projects include but are not limited to seeking out and sharing printed media examples of the text topics, seeking out and sharing audio media on text topics, or arranging for a guest speaker who is an expert on one of the topics covered in our text.

**Disabled Students:**

Faculty members are required by law to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. Students should inform faculty at the beginning of the semester about accommodation needs. Students may contact Lisa Leftridge, in the MAC Access Office, with questions or concerns. (Office AS 103, 518-2152)

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Students, who engage in dishonest acts, such as plagiarism or other forms of cheating, will be notified by the instructor that they will be receiving a F for the course. Students who wish to appeal the decision of the instructor on a matter of dishonesty may do so under the Procedural Policy for Disciplinary Action.

**Classroom Etiquette:**

Cell phone calls or text messaging in the classroom is totally unacceptable. Students engaging in either will be referred to the Dean for discipline. Classroom discussions are often sensitive in nature. Be prepared to hear opinions other than your own and to think critically about the topics. \*Please do not dominate classroom discussions.

**Honors:**

This course is offered for honors credit. See instructor for details.

**Tentative Class Schedule**

January 20 - introductions, review syllabus

January 22- Chapter 1

January 27 – Chapter 2

January 29- Chapter 3

February 3 – *Test 1* (honors meeting)

February 5 – Chapter 4

February 10 – Chapter 4

February 12 – Chapter 5

February 17 – Guest Speaker, disability issues

February 19 – Chapter 6

February 24 – Chapter 6

February 26 – *Test 2* (honors meeting)

March 3 – Chapter 7

March 5 – Chapter 7 (WIC extra credit food day)

March 9 – March 13 \*\*\*\*\*SPRINGBREAK\*\*\*\*\*

March 17 – Chapter 8

March 19 – Chapter 8

March 24 – Chapter 9

March 26 – Chapter 10

March 31 – class cancelled

April 2 - class cancelled

April 7 – *Test 3* (honors meeting)

April 9 – Chapter 10

April 14 – Chapter 11

April 16 – Chapter 11

April 21 – Chapter 12

April 24 – *Test 4* (final honors meeting)

April 28 – Presentation

April 30 – Presentations

**\*\*comprehensive final during finals week\*\***