Social Welfare Policy  
PSC 73906 / SOC 85700 [85902] / WSCP 81000  
Professor Janet Gornick  
Fall 2019  
Tuesdays 4:15pm–6:15pm

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Office Hours: By appointment. Call or email with questions at any time.

Note: Please turn off all cell phones during class! Thank you.

Course Description:

This course will examine social welfare policy in the United States, including historical and cross-national perspectives.

We will begin with an overview of the development of social welfare policy in the U.S. We will focus on crucial historical periods – including the Civil War years, the Progressive Era, the New Deal, the Great Society, and the “welfare reform” of the 1990s and early 2000s.

Second, we will assess “the big picture” of the American welfare state, through the lens of its underlying institutional and cultural frameworks, and via a brief look at outcomes.

Third, we will analyze a set of contemporary challenges in the U.S. that call for active policy responses, including inequality, poverty, health care, housing, incarceration, and care provision.

Finally, we will survey selected social policy lessons from other high-income countries, especially in Europe, where social provisions are typically both different and more extensive than they are in the U.S.

Course Requirements:

- weekly summary of readings (to be discussed) 15% of grade
- attendance, class participation, and supervision of one class session 15% of grade
- mid-term exam (October 29, in class) 30% of grade
- final exam 40% of grade
Course Overview:

I. Introduction

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 27</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
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II. U.S. Social Welfare Policy – Historical Development, Theoretical Frameworks, and Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>History - 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>History - 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Theoretical Frameworks and Outcomes - 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
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<td>Theoretical Frameworks and Outcomes - 2</td>
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III. U.S. Social Welfare Policy – Contemporary Challenges

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Inequality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
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<td>October 29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
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<td>Health</td>
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<td>November 12</td>
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<td>Housing</td>
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<td>November 19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Incarceration</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 26</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Care Provision</td>
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IV. Policy Lessons from Other High-Income Countries

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Lessons from Europe</td>
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V. Conclusions

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Wrap-up of the Course</td>
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Books:

These books are required reading. I recommend that you buy all of them. You should be able to purchase the whole set for about $150 – or much less, if you buy e- and/or used versions.

They have also been placed on reserve at the GC Library, and on order via CUNYfirst.

Many can be found in full-text via the GC Library.

● **For September 3, 10, 17, and 24**  
  *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Social Policy*  
  Daniel Beland, Christopher Howard, Kimberly J. Morgan (Eds.), 2014  
  Oxford University Press / available from Amazon, starting at $39.49

● **For October 15**  
  *The Great Divergence: America's Growing Inequality Crisis and What We Can Do about It*  
  Timothy Noah, 2013  
  Bloomsbury Press / available from Amazon, starting at $9.99

● **For October 22**  
  *$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*  
  Mariner Books / available from Amazon, starting at $6.66

● **For November 5**  
  *Priced Out: The Economic and Ethical Costs of American Health Care*  
  Uwe E. Reinhardt, 2019  

● **For November 12**  
  *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*  
  Matthew Desmond, 2017  
  Broadway Books / available from Amazon, starting at $12.99

● **For November 19**  
  *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America*  
  Elizabeth Hinton, 2016  
  Harvard University Press / available from Amazon, starting at $8.10

● **For November 26**  
  *For Love and Money: Care Provision in the United States*  
  Nancy Folbre (Ed.), 2012  
  Russell Sage Foundation Press / available from Amazon, starting at $17.83

● **For December 3**  
  *Lessons From Europe: What Americans Can Learn From European Public Policies*  
  R. Daniel Kelemen (Ed.), 2013  
  Sage - CQ Press / available from Amazon, starting at $4.45.
Required Reading:

II. U.S. Social Welfare Policy – Historical Development, Theoretical Frameworks, and Outcomes

September 3  CLASS 2  History - 1

Reading:  *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Social Policy*
Daniel Beland, Christopher Howard, Kimberly J. Morgan (Eds.), 2014
Oxford University Press

Chapter 1  The Fragmented American Welfare State
Chapter 2  Social Provision before the Twentieth Century
Chapter 3  The Progressive Era
Chapter 4  The Great Depression and World War II

September 10  CLASS 3  History - 2

Reading  *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Social Policy*

Chapter 5  From the Fair Deal to the Great Society
Chapter 6  The U.S. Welfare State Since 1970
Chapter 7  Cross-National Perspective on the American Welfare State

September 17  CLASS 4  Theoretical Frameworks and Outcomes - 1

Reading:  *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Social Policy*

Chapter 8  Cultural Influences on Social Policy Development
Chapter 9  Political Institutions and U.S. Social Policy
Chapter 10  Political Parties and Social Policy
Chapter 11  Interest Groups
Chapter 12  Constituencies and Public Opinion

September 24  CLASS 5  Theoretical Frameworks and Outcomes - 2

Reading:  *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Social Policy*

Chapter 13  Race and Ethnicity in U.S. Social Policy
Chapter 14  Gender
Chapter 32  Inequality
Chapter 33  Poverty
Chapter 34  Citizenship
### III. U.S. Social Welfare Policy – Contemporary Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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</thead>
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| October 15 | CLASS 6 | Inequality | *The Great Divergence: America’s Growing Inequality Crisis and What We Can Do about It*  
Timothy Noah, 2013  
Bloomsbury Press |
| October 22 | CLASS 7 | Poverty   | *$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*  
Mariner Books |
| November 5 | CLASS 9 | Health Care | *Priced Out: The Economic and Ethical Costs of American Health Care*  
Uwe E. Reinhardt, 2019  
Princeton University Press |
| November 12| CLASS 10| Housing   | *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*  
Matthew Desmond, 2017  
Broadway Books |
| November 19| CLASS 11| Incarceration | *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America*  
Elizabeth Hinton, 2016  
Harvard University Press |
| November 26| CLASS 12| Care Provision | *For Love and Money: Care Provision in the United States*  
Nancy Folbre (Ed.), 2012  
Russell Sage Foundation Press |

Introduction  
Chapter 6  The Care Policy Landscape  
Chapter 7  The Disparate Impacts of Care Policy  
Chapter 8  A Care Policy and Research Agenda
IV. Policy Lessons from Other High-Income Countries

December 3      CLASS 13      Lessons from Europe

Reading: Lessons From Europe: "What Americans Can Learn From European Public Policies" R. Daniel Kelemen (Ed.), 2013 Sage - CQ Press

Chapter 1  Introduction: Why Look to Europe for Lessons?
Chapter 2  Gender, Employment, and Parenthood
Chapter 4  Pensions: Who is Learning from Whom?
Chapter 5  Labor Market Policy: Toward a "Flexicurity" Model
Chapter 6  Immigration Policy: A Transatlantic Comparison
Chapter 10 Transatlantic Lesson Drawing