

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY, PP746
Winter 2009, Monday and Wednesday 8:30-10am
Room 1230, Weill Hall

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Office Hours: Monday 10-11
Or by appointment

Course Overview:

During the twentieth century, the U.S. both saw the development of a social welfare system to serve families and a subsequent dramatic overhaul of that system. The first part of the course considers the changes to the American welfare state over time. It analyzes the evolution from 1965 to 1996 of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program and other social welfare programs and policies that shaped the social safety net for non-elderly adults. We will examine the different and changing philosophies that have influenced social welfare policy in the U.S., with a strong focus on understanding the ways in which notions concerning race and gender have shaped policy. The section concludes with a discussion of the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996.

The second part of the course considers the legacy of the 1996 reform and the operation and effects of the new program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. In this section we will examine the implementation and administration of the program and its effects on current and former recipients. Since TANF caseloads are currently so small, we will examine other programs and policies (or the lack thereof) that can or could assist low-income families.

The final part of the course takes a comparative view and a look toward the future. We will examine social welfare programs and policies in other advanced industrial nations. Particular attention will be paid to analyzing a wide range of social policy reform options that might be implemented within the U.S. to reduce poverty.

The focus of the course will be on programs and policies for which non-elderly adults are the target population. To some degree, we will talk about the effect of such policies on children, since kids primarily live with their parents. While access to affordable and quality health care is certainly a major social welfare issue, an entire course could be devoted to this topic, so we will unfortunately not cover health care and insurance.

Course Format and Requirements

This course is a seminar with a goal of immediate engagement in thinking, talking, and writing about the issues covered. The format of the class is designed to facilitate that engagement.

Each week we cover a different topic. The Monday class will be a lecture format, designed to give students broad knowledge of the particular topic. Questions and discussion, though, are strongly encouraged.

On Wednesdays, one or more students will lead a class discussion about the readings and the implications of the readings for policy. **Those students who are not discussion leaders must email the leaders and the instructor one or more discussion questions. Questions are due by noon on Tuesdays.** Students are expected to have completed all of the week's readings by Wednesday's class at the latest and to be active participants in classroom discussion.

Students must complete three short (about 3-4 pages, double-spaced, with a reasonable font) reaction papers, one for each part of the class. In other words, for the first part, students must choose to react to the readings for the week of January 13/15, January 21, or January 26/28. An "A" reaction paper will analyze issues raised in the readings, drawing upon more than one of the readings. You are free to critique authors' arguments, elaborate on the policy implications of the readings, or use any other approach that demonstrates you are engaged with the material. Papers are due on Wednesdays at the beginning of class. For example, students choosing to write their part 1 paper on the readings for January 26/28 will turn in their paper on January 28. No late papers will be accepted.

The final course requirement is a social welfare policy proposal for President Obama's administration. You may focus on a particular social welfare program (e.g., child care, marriage promotion, etc.) or a set of policies that aim to achieve a certain goal (e.g., assisting the "disconnected"). Your proposal should draw upon existing research in the area and should consider other issues we discuss in class, including implementation challenges. Students will need to do outside reading/research for this paper.

The paper is due on the last day of class (April 20). It should be approximately 10-15 pages, not including references. More information will be provided later in the semester.

Grading

Participation	20%
Discussion leadership	20%
Reaction papers	30%
Final paper	30%

Readings

Two books are required:

American Dream (2004), Jason DeParle

Working after Welfare (2008), Kristin Seefeldt

The books have not been ordered so that you can obtain them from a favorite bookseller.

Working After Welfare might be most cheaply ordered directly from the publisher, the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

Other readings will be on the Ctools site, or a link to a website will be provided.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

January 7

No Class, Ford School Integrated Policy Exercise

Part 1. The Origins and Development of Social Welfare Programs in the U.S.

January 12 and 14 Historical perspectives

Katz, *The Undeserving Poor*, chapters 1, 3 (Ctools)
Quadagno, *The Color of Welfare*, chapter 5 (Ctools)
Patterson, *America's Struggle Against Poverty*, chapter 10 (Ctools)
Johnson et al, *Creating Gender*, chapter 4 (Ctools)

January 21 Dissatisfaction with AFDC

Mead, *The New Paternalism*, chapter 1 (Ctools)
Mead, *The New Politics of Poverty*, chapter 10 but just pages 210 – 224 (Ctools)
DeParle, *American Dream*, chapter 6
Howard, *The Welfare State Nobody Knows*, chapter 6 (Ctools)
Rector and Kirk, “Understanding Poverty in America” (Ctools)
Rector, “Why Congress must reform welfare”:
<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Welfare/BG1063.cfm>
(no class on the 19th for the observance of MLK day)

January 26 and 28 TANF and Ending “Dependency”

DeParle, *American Dream*, chapters 1, 6-9
(reading chapters 2-5 is highly recommended)
Orloff, “Explaining US welfare reform: power, gender, race, and the US policy legacy,” *Critical Social Policy*, 2002 (Ctools)
Burke, Congressional Research Service overview of welfare reform
http://www.policyalmanac.org/social_welfare/archive/crs_welfare.shtml
Wu et al, “How do Welfare Sanctions Work”:
<http://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/dps/pdfs/dp128204.pdf>
Bloom et al, “Welfare Time Limits,” chapters, 1,2, 4:
<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/51/full.pdf>

Part 2. The Legacy of TANF

February 2 and 4

What Has Happened to Recipients Since 1996?

DeParle, *American Dream*, chapters 10-13

P. Morris, L. Gennetian, and G. Duncan, "Effects of Welfare and Employment Policies on Young Children," MDRC Policy Brief, April 2005, available at:

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/407/full.pdf>

Seefeldt, *Working After Welfare*, chapters 2, 4

Cherlin and Frogner, "Welfare Reform in the mid-2000s: How African American and Hispanic Families in Three Cities are Faring"

<https://orchid.hosts.jhmi.edu/wfp/files/WP%2007-01%20How%20Families%20are%20Faring%20working%20paper.pdf>

Chase-Lansdale et al, "Mothers Transitions from Welfare to Work and the Well-Being of Pre-Schoolers and Adolescents," *Science*, 2003 (Ctools)

February 9 and 11

How has the administration of welfare policy changed?

Brodkin, "Bureaucracy Redux: Management Reformism and the Welfare State," *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 2006 (Ctools)

Gooden, "All Things Not Being Equal: Differences in Caseworker Support toward Black and White Welfare Clients," *Harvard Journal of African-American Public Policy*, 1998. available at:

<http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/HJAAP/hjaapp98.pdf> (note that you'll need to go to page 23 for the start of the article)

Mead, "Welfare Reform in Wisconsin: The Local Role," *Administration and Society*, 2001 (Ctools)

Brodkin, Fuqua, and Waxman, "Accessing the Safety Net: Administrative Barriers," 2005

<http://www.povertylaw.org/advocacy/welfare/hotline-report/research-brief.pdf>

DeParle, *American Dream*, chapters 13-15

Winston and Castaneda, "Assessing Federalism: ANF and the Recent Evolution of American Social Policy Federalism":

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411473_assessing_federalism.pdf

Department for Work and Pensions, "Contracting out welfare to work in the USA: Delivery Lessons," 2007:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep466.pdf>

February 16 and 18

Life After Welfare Reform

Journal of Public Policy and Management Point/Counterpoint, "Welfare Reform After 10 Years," Spring 2007

Short articles and responses by Mead and Parrott/Sherman (Ctools)

Seefeldt, *Work after Welfare*, chapters 5-6

DeParle, *American Dream*, chapters 17-18

Turner, Danziger, and Seefeldt, "Failing the Transition from Welfare to Work," *Social Science Quarterly*, 2006 (Ctools)

Fix and Passell, "The Scope and Impact of Welfare Reform's Immigrant Provisions":

Blank, Future of Children:

http://www.futureofchildren.org/usr_doc/7_09_Blank.pdf

P. Loprest and S. Zedlewski, "Making TANF work for the Hard to Serve," available at:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/ShortTakes_2.pdf

Mead, "A Mandatory Work Policy for Men":

http://www.futureofchildren.org/usr_doc/7_03_Mead.pdf

Bloom et al, "Four Strategies to Overcome Barriers to Employment," exec. summary, chapter 2,4

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/469/full.pdf>

Loprest and Martinson, "Supporting Work for Low-income People with Significant Challenges,"

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411726_supporting_work.pdf

(also read commentary):

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411727_supporting_work_bloom.pdf

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411728_supporting_work_winstead.pdf

March 23 and 25

Supporting Workers

Holzer, "Workforce Development as an Anti-poverty Strategy,"

<http://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/dps/pdfs/dp135308.pdf>

Bloom et al, "The Employment Retention and Advancement Project, Early Results," (skim appendices)

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/413/full.pdf>

Waters Boots et al, "Family Security,"

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411718_parent_employment.pdf

Cauthen, "Improving Work Supports"

<http://www.sharedprosperity.org/bp198/bp198.pdf>

Berlin, Rewarding the Work of Individuals:

http://www.futureofchildren.org/usr_doc/7_02_Berlin.pdf

Guthrie et al, "Can Food Stamps do More to Improve Food Choices?" 2007:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/eib29/eib29-1/eib29-1.pdf>

March 30 and April 1

Asset Building or Debt?

Barr, "Financial Services, Saving, and Borrowing Among Low and Moderate Income Households," in *Insufficient Funds* (forthcoming) (Ctools)

Bostic and Lee, "Homeownership: America's Dream?" in *Insufficient Funds* (forthcoming) (Ctools)

Blank, "Public Policies to Alter the Use of Alternative Financial Services Among Low Income Households," Brookings, 2008 (Ctools)

Olson, "Promoting Homeownership Among Low-income Households," The Urban Institute, 2007:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411523_promoting_homeownership.pdf

Seefeldt, to be distributed later

Sherradan, "IDAs and Asset Building Policy"

<http://gwbweb.wustl.edu/csd/Publications/2008/WP08-12.pdf>

April 6 and 8 Comparative Perspectives

- Smeeding, "Poor People in Rich Nations: The United States in Comparative Context," *Journal of Economic Policy*, 2006 (Ctools)
- Hills and Waldfogel, "A 'Third Way' in Welfare Reform? Evidence from the United Kingdom," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2004 (Ctools)
- Glazer, "On Americans and Inequality," *Daedalus*, Summer 2003 (Ctools)
- Jencks, "Does Inequality Matter?" *Daedalus*, Winter 2002 (Ctools)
- Orloff, "Gender and the Social Rights of Citizenship: The Comparative Analysis of Gender Relations and Welfare States." *American Sociological Review*, 1993 (Ctools)
- Howard, *The Welfare State Nobody Knows*, chapter 1 (Ctools)

April 13 and 15 Thinking About New Approaches

- Seefeldt, *Work After Welfare*, chapter 7
- Newman, "The Next Time Around," 2008:
http://www.brookings.edu/events/2008/~media/Files/events/2008/0929_poverty/newman_paper.pdf
- Parrott, "Reducing Poverty: Four Key Policy Areas the Need More Policy and Foundation Attention," 2008
http://www.brookings.edu/events/2008/~media/Files/events/2008/0929_poverty/parrott_paper.pdf
- Center for American Progress, "From Poverty to Prosperity," 2007
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/04/pdf/poverty_report.pdf
- Besharov, "Social Welfare Conservatism," 2008
http://www.aei.org/docLib/20080114_0622576OTIBesharov_g.pdf
- Danziger and Cancian, TBD

April 20 Wrap-Up and Final Papers due

Readings TBD