

# Study Guide

SASS 470. Social Policy and Service Delivery

## Course Description

This first semester generalist policy course examines the American social welfare system in a global context. It examines the philosophical, historical, and socio/economic foundations of social welfare and the evolution of social policy and the social work profession in the United States. It then focuses on the problems of poverty and discrimination and analyzes the adequacy and effectiveness of policies and resulting programs designed to address those problems. Consideration is given to the principles of economic and social justice along with other values of the social work profession in this analysis. The connections between social policy and social work practices are also emphasized.

The course then addresses social policy in an interdependent world. Attention is given to cross-national comparisons of social policies designed to prevent and alleviate poverty and social exclusion. Human rights issues and the programs of international organizations designed to promote and protect human rights are discussed. Finally, social worker's roles in the field of human rights, both at home and abroad, are considered.

## Course Objectives

1. Understand the functions and structure of social welfare within contemporary American society
2. Demonstrate knowledge of how the dynamic interaction of ideas, socio/economic trends, events, and individuals have influenced the historical development of social welfare policy and the social work profession
3. Analyze and critique the policies and programs designed to address problems of poverty and discrimination in American society
4. Apply an understanding of social theory, poverty research, and ethical reasoning to the analysis of a substantive piece of social policy
5. Identify and utilize linkages between social welfare policy and social work practice
6. Appreciate and understand the value of cross-national comparisons in the critique of social policies and programs
7. Appreciate and understand the global context of Human Rights issues and actions
8. Understand the forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and apply strategies of advocacy and social change that advance social and economic justice.

# Readings

Ehrenreich, B. (2001). *Nickel and dimed: On (not) getting by in America*. New York: Owl Books.

Shieler, David K. (2005). *The working poor*. New York: Vintage Books.

Karger, J. J., & Stoesz, D. (2005). *American social welfare policy: A pluralist approach (5<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon

Van Wormer, K. (2003). *Social welfare: A world view*. Chicago: Nelson Hall.

Van Wormer, K. (2006). *Introduction to social welfare and social work: The U.S. in global perspective*. Belmont, CA: Thompson/Brooks and Cole.

Hokenstad, M. C., & Midgley, J. (2004). *Lessons from Abroad: Adapting International Social Welfare Innovations*. Washington, DC: NASW Press.

Reichart, E. (2006). *Understanding human rights: An exercise book*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.