COLUMBIA COLLEGE

MASTER SYLLABUS
(Generic Outline)

Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences

Course Prefix and Number: SOCI 365

Course Title: American Social Policy

Number of: Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: The nature and development of American social welfare policy, including the history of current structures of social welfare services, the role of policy in service delivery, and analyses of current social policy issues including family policy, health care policy, drug policy, tax policy, and other topical issues. Crosslisted as HUMS 365. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing. Offered Spring.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Sophomore standing.

Text(s): Textbooks listed are not necessarily the textbooks used in the course. The textbook(s) chosen should include theory and technique appropriate for baccalaureate level practice.

Most current editions of the following:

Barusch, A. S. *Foundations of Social Policy - Social Justice in Human Perspective.* Brooks/Cole.

Berkowitz, E. D. and McQuaid, K. *Creating the Welfare State: The Political Economy of the Twentieth Century Reform.* UP of Kansas.

Gilbert, N. and Terrell, P. *Dimensions of Social Welfare Policy.* Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Lo, C. Y. and Schwartz, M. eds. *Social Policy and the Conservative Agenda.* Blackwell.

Trattner, W. *From Poor Law to Welfare State.* Free Press.

Weir, M. *The Social Divide: Political Parties and the Future of Activist Government.* Brookings Institute Press.

Textbooks listed are not necessarily the textbooks used in the course. The textbook(s) chosen should include theory and technique appropriate for baccalaureate level practice.

Supplemental text(s): Gordon, L. *Pitied But Not Entitled: Single Mothers and the History of Welfare 1890-1935.* Free Press.

Golden, R. *Disposable Children: America's Child Welfare System.* Wadsworth.

Karger, H. J., Midgley, J. and Brown, C. B. *Controversial Issues in Social Policy.* Allyn & Bacon.

Course Objectives:

- To explore the historical roots, and the social, political, and economic structures that currently form the foundation of social welfare programs and services in the United States.
- To understand the role of social welfare policy in service delivery, practice, and the attainment of optimal individual and social well-being.
- To understand the political process and various sources of information that are useful to understanding contemporary American social welfare policies.
- To explore the concepts of distributive justice, human and civil rights, and the global interconnectedness of oppression.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and describe major social welfare policies and programs.
- Describe the policy making process from the initial stages through implementation.
- Identify values that shape contemporary social welfare policy.
- Describe major historical trends in a changing American political climate.
- Identify how social programs are funded.
- Discuss how social policy has impacted and continues to impact various vulnerable populations.
- Discuss how social welfare policies have been used as a mechanism for oppression and discrimination.
- Discuss how social welfare policies have been used to advance social and economic justice.
- Describe strategies of advocacy and social change.
- Describe the process by which policies are formulated and implemented on the federal, state, and local levels.
- Describe how social policy following course specific guidelines and from a social justice perspective.
- Demonstrate skills in policy research.
- Compare American social policies to the social policies of other nations.
- Write a research paper using the American Psychological Association (APA) format for writing a paper.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

Note: This class will emphasize writing in the APA format and students are expected to improve their research and writing skills.

- Distributive justice
- Universal declaration of human rights
- The policy process
- Historical perspectives
- Funding social welfare programs – tax policy
- The Social Security Act
- Social insurance programs
- Public assistance programs
- Social services
- Family policy
- Poverty

- Nutrition/hunger
- Health care policy
- Mental health policy
- The drug war and drug policy
- Child welfare policy
- The elderly
- Women, minorities, and immigrant policies
- Civil rights policy
- Sexual orientation – gay rights
- Affirmative action
- Native Americans
- Policy analysis
- Global issues and comparisons
- Advocacy
- Implementation and evaluation

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 35

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Laura M. Parker
Name Signature

Date: April 13, 2006

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course's subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.