Raritan Valley Community College
Academic Course Outline

HMNS 207 Social Policy and Politics

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: HMNS 207—**Social Policy & Politics**

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2020

D. Effective Term: Fall 2020

E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work, & Education

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3 credits

G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3
Laboratory: 0
Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites: Introduction to Social Work & Social Welfare (HMNS 102), Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 101), or Introduction to Criminal Justice (CRMJ 101)

H. Laboratory Fees: N/A

I. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair: Brandyn Heppard, brandyn.heppard@raritanval.edu; Division Dean: Patrice Marks, Patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisites: Introduction to Social Work & Social Welfare (HMNS 102), Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 101) or Introduction to Criminal Justice (CRMJ 101)

This course examines the social welfare system in the U.S. from a macro systems perspective and its impact on pressing social problems and the programs designed to ameliorate them. Students will learn to identify how problem definition, philosophical political perspectives, and societal values affect the programs, benefits, and service delivery mechanisms chosen to operationalize policy decisions. Students will develop the skills and knowledge to analyze contemporary social policies utilizing different models of policy analysis and develop a scholarly argument based on evidence of

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effectiveness, efficiency, and the social justice imperative of the social work profession. Of particular emphasis for pre-social work students will be a foundation for playing an active role in macro level social work as advocates, educators and initiators of social change.

III. Statement of Course Need

A. This course examines macro system issues impacting social welfare policy and program development in the U.S.. For Human Services/Pre-Social Work majors, this course serves as the final course prior to graduation integrating the micro, mezzo, macro aspects of social welfare policy and the profession of social work. The final paper requires extensive, focused research, formal academic writing, and compliance with APA style guidelines consistent with the profession of social work. This course is one of the three "core courses" that provide the foundation for a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work (BSW).

B. This course does not require a laboratory component.

C. Transferability:
   1. This course does not transfer as a general education course.
   2. This course fulfills a core requirement in most social work programs, including the Human Services/Pre-Social Work major at RVCC.
   3. This course generally transfers as a social work elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective

B. This course is NOT a General Education course.

C. This course fulfills a requirement in the Human Service/Pre-Social Work Degree program.

D. To see course transferability: a)for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

A. Defining Social Policy and Macro System Social Work

B. Politics, Rationalism & the Policy Making Process

C. Social Justice
   1. Examination of current political issues such as policy initiatives, political campaigns and/or local news items within a social justice framework
   2. Competing political philosophies

D. The Historical Role of Government
   1. Elizabethan Poor Laws
   2. The New Deal
   3. The Great Society
   4. Civil Rights
   5. Welfare Reform

E. Poverty
  1. Definitions
  2. A livable wage
  3. Poverty Thresholds
  4. What the Data Tell Us
F. Theories of Poverty
  1. Examination of poverty programs past and present
  2. Analysis of local, state, and national policy initiatives
G. Models of Policy Analysis
  1. Social Justice Model
  2. Historical Analysis
  3. Comparative Analysis
  4. 5-E Approach
  5. Rational Model
H. Social Insurance Programs
  1. Social Security
  2. Medicare
  3. Unemployment
  4. Workman's Compensation
I. Public Assistance
  1. SSI
  2. Medicaid
  3. General Assistance
J. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
  1. Analysis of program components
  2. Review of the Research
  3. Proposed alternatives
K. Health Care Policy
  1. Universal Healthcare
  2. Home-based Healthcare
  3. Intergenerational Equity: An ethical dilemma
L. Human Rights, Social Welfare & Diversity
  3. Marriage Equity and other GLBT policy issues
  4. Immigration Laws and Social Welfare
  5. Women, Men and Equality
  6. No Child Left Behind and Education Reform
  7. Disability Rights, Social Services and Citizenship

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. Educational Goals
Students will be able to:
1. use technology and other information outlets to analyze and synthesize contemporary social policy issues (G.E. 4, IL);
2. communicate effectively, orally and in writing (G.E. 1);

3. examine the effects of institutional racism and discrimination on individuals and groups reflected in social welfare policies (G.E. 8).
4. ==identify the ethical issues and values reflected in social policy (G.E. ERA)==

B. <u>Learning Outcomes</u>

Students will be able to:

1. ==identify the societal values, political philosophies, and impact of social policies against a backdrop of the social work code of ethics and values==
2. ==critically evaluate social policy proposals and alternatives==
3. ==prepare a scholarly research paper integrating multiple sources of evidence to analyze a policy issues of relevance to social work==

C. <u>Assessment Instruments</u>

1. research paper
2. group presentation
3. short assignments
4. essays

VII. Grade Determinants

A. formal paper/research assignment
B. essays
C. oral presentations
D. exams

VIII. Texts and Materials

A. Suggested Text(s):

DiNitto, D. M. (most recent edition). *Social welfare: Politics and public policy*. Boston: Pearson Education.

Popple, P. & Leighneinger, L. (2008). *The policy-based profession: An introduction to social welfare policy analysis for social workers,* 4th ed. New York: Pearson Education, Inc.

Barusch, A. (2002) . *Foundations in social policy*. Belmonst, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Gaffney, K. (2016). *Dismantling the racism machine: A manual and tool box.* New York: Rutledge.

Alexander, M. (2010). *The New Jim Crow*. NY: The New Press.

Van Gelder, S. (Ed). (2011). *This changes everything.* San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

Harris, G., Tamas, B., & Lind, N. (2008). *Dynamics of social welfare policy: Right versus left*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

B. News articles drawn from *Huffington Post, Wall Street journal, Washington Post, Vox, The Atlantic, New Your Times*, and similar sources

C. Films, including but not limited to:
DocFactory (Producer), & Tremblay, J. (Director). (2012*). Shadows of liberty: Your news for sale* [DVD]. (Available from www.docfactory.org).
Burrow, S. & Szamet, D. (Producers), & Ging, B. (Director). (2007). Beyond borders: The debate over human migration [DVD]. (Available from Camborne Productions, 3763 E. Colorado #110, Pasadena, CA 91107).
Causey, F. & Goldmacher, D. (Producers & Directors). (2012). *The heist: Who stole the American dream*. (Available from Connecting the Dots Productions, LLC).

XI. Resources

A. Library research for oral presentation and research paper
B. Computer access for preparation of research paper and field interview summaries

Revised 4/15/2019