

SCWK 3770 - Social Policy

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 03, CRN 41620,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Breea Burke

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Lecturer, Part-time

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

- Master of Social Work, West Virginia University, 2010
- Bachelor of Specialized Studies, Ohio University, 2005
- Ohio Licensed Nursing Home Administrator
- Ohio Licensed Social Worker
- West Virginia Licensed Graduate Social Worker

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Course Description

3770. Social Policy. Review of the programs, structures and functions of social services including historical development and social, political and economic issues. Application of scientific method to analyze and develop social work policies designed to achieve social work goals and purpose. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	American Social Welfare Policy: A Pluralist Approach (9th ed)	Karger, H.; Stoesz, D	976-0-13-747224-6
Required	Becoming An Effective Policy Advocate: From Policy Practice to Social Justice	Jansson, B.	978-1-305-94335-3

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Tue	8/25		Syllabus & Course Review	
Tue	9/1	Read for 9/1 Class: Karger & Stoesz Chapters 1 & 3	Introduction to Social Policy Defining Social Welfare Policy: The Impact of Social Values, Political Ideology and Economic Concerns. Voluntary and for-profit social welfare	Due 9/1 before 6:00:38pm: Discussion Board 1 - Reply
Tue	9/8	Read for 9/8 Class: Jansson Chapters 1, 2, & 3	Policy Advocacy	Due 9/8 before 6:00:15pm: Discussion Board 2 - Reply



Tue	9/15	Read for 9/15 Class: Karger and Stoesz: Chapters 8 & 10	Policy Practice & Organizational Settings	Due 9/15 at 11:59pm: Advocacy Letter #1 Due 9/15 before 6:00:11pm: Discussion Board #3 - Reply
Tue	9/22	Read for 9/22 Class: Jansson, Chapters 4 & 6	Policy Practice & Organizational Settings Continued	Due 9/22 before 6:00:18pm: Discussion Board 4 - Reply
Tue	9/29	Read for 9/29 Class: Karger & Stoesz: Chapters 2 & 13	Overview of the Policy Making Process Critical Issues from Formulation to Implementation: A Rational Theory of Social Policy: Models for Analysis. Mental Health as an example of policy analysis	Due 9/29 at 6pm: Quiz #1
Tue	10/6	Read for 10/6 Class: Jansson, Chapters 7, 9 & 14	Overview of the Policy Making Process	Due 10/6 before 6:00:44pm: Discussion Board #5 - Reply
Tue	10/13	Read for 10/13 Class: Karger & Stoesz Chapters 4 & 5	Poverty Causes & Perspectives Major Social Policies and Their Impact on the Poor, from 1600-1996: A Review of the Elizabethan Poor Laws & the Social Security Act, the War on Poverty; Reaganomics; and the Clinton Administration. Stigma and discrimination in the United States.	Due 10/13 at 11:59pm: Current Events Paper
Tue	10/20	Read for 10/20 Class: Karger & Stoesz Chapter 18; Jansson Chapter 5	International and global perspectives. Crisis of the welfare state. Reinventing government. Reconceptualizing the welfare state.	Due 10/20 before 6:00:30pm: Discussion Board #6 - Reply
Tue	10/27	Read for 10/27 Class: Karger & Stoesz Chapter 10 (review) & 11; Jansson Chapters 6 (review) & 11	Social Welfare Policy & Poverty	Due 10/27 at 11:59pm: Legislative Policy Paper Part 1
Tue	11/3	Read for 11/3 Class: Karger and Stoesz, Chapter 12 / Jansson, Chapters 8, 10 & 12	American Health Care and Policy Advocacy: A Moral Imperative; Confronting the AIDS Issue: The Response of Social Welfare	
Tue	11/10	Catch up on any reading from previous class	American Health Care and Policy Advocacy (continued)	Due 11/10 at 7:15pm: Second Quiz
Tue	11/17	Read for 11/17 Class: Karger and Stoesz, Chapters 16 & 17/ Jansson, Chapters 13 & 14 (review)	Implementing Policy Homelessness in America; Housing Policy: History and Current Reform Efforts; Food Policy	Due 11/17 before 6:00:08pm: Discussion Board #7 - Reply Due 11/17 at 11:59pm: Legislative Policy Paper Part 2
Tue	11/24	Read for 11/24 Class: Karger & Stoesz Chapters 14 & 15	Criminal Justice & Child Welfare	Due 11/24 before 6:00:16pm: Discussion Board 8 - Reply
Tue	12/1	FINAL CLASS MEETING Review Course Material		Due 12/2 at 11:59pm: Legislative Policy Paper Part 3
Tue	12/8	Finals Week- No scheduled class meeting		

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.