

ADAMS STATE COLLEGE EXTENDED STUDIES - ALAMOSA, COLORADO
SOC 470: Social Welfare Policy
Correspondence Course

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COURSE CREDIT: 3 Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES: SOC 352: Human Behavior and the Social Environment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course covers information about and analysis of Social Welfare policy in the United States using a pluralistic approach. It is an upper division course and goes beyond introductory type of analysis of Welfare's eligibility, financing, administration, etc. Instead, it introduces the student to a basic framework for Social Welfare policy analysis, an overview of discrimination based on racism, sexism, alternative sexual lifestyles, ageism, and against people with disabilities. And, the course provides a review of some theoretical formulations about poverty and strategies to combat poverty. The focus of the course is a thorough explanation and analysis of the private sector and the public sectors for providing Social Welfare. The several areas examined are:

- The voluntary sector and for-profit sector of welfare services
- Privatization and Human Service Corporations
- The Making of Governmental Social Policy
- Government Tax Policy and Income Distribution
- Social Insurance Programs
- Public Assistance Programs
- The American Health Care System
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Criminal Justice
- Child Welfare Policy
- Housing Policies
- The Politics of Food Policy and Rural Life

In order to provide a perspective of the United States Social Welfare policy the course briefly examines our policies within an international perspective.

TEXT REQUIRED:

Karger, H.J. and Stoesz, D., *American Social Welfare Policy: A Pluralist Approach*, 4th Edition, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2002. ISBN: 0-8013-3311-3.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- The student will learn about the basic concepts, policies, and programs that have typified the U.S. Welfare State.
- The student will gain an understanding of the voluntary non-profit sector of Social Welfare services.
- The student will be taught about the for-profit corporate Social Welfare delivery system of services in the United States.
- The student will be exposed to a comprehensive analysis of the governmental Social Welfare service policies and delivery system.
- The student will learn to appreciate the dynamics of the new tax policies in the U.S. and how they influence Social Welfare policies.
- The student will be able to examine the influence of global capitalism on jobs and poverty in the U.S.
- The student will be able to demonstrate critical thinking skills to the topic of Social Welfare policy in the United States.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS:

This course has a total of 300 points. There are three 100-point assignments for this course. The first two assignments are combined objective and essay exams that cover material presented in the text. Each exam has ten definition-matching items, fifteen multiple-choice items and two written essays. Exam One is taken from Chapters 1 - 7. Exam Two is taken from Chapters 8 - 10. A third assignment involves writing a 6- to 8-page research paper in which the student uses the text and at least two professional sociological sources. These sources can be sociological texts, journals, or material indexed in Psychological Abstracts Reference Book found in all major libraries. (See Handout 1 for specific details.)

GRADING PROCEDURES:

Each of the three 100-point assignments are graded as follows:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
below 60	F