The Welfare State and Social Policy in America:
Political Science 3551

Ryan T. Moore*

4 February 2013 at 09:54

Course Information

L32 Political Science 3551
L58 Public Health 3551
L98 American Cultural Studies 3551
The Welfare State and Social Policy in America
Monday and Wednesday, 10.00-11.30am
McDonnell Hall, Room 362

Instructor Information

Ryan T. Moore, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Office: 241 Seigle Hall
Telephone: 314.935.3461
Fax: 801.922.7901
Homepage: http://rtm.wustl.edu
Email: rtm (at) wustl (dot) edu
Office Hours: Wednesday, 11:30am-1.30pm or by appointment

Taeyong Park
Office: 258 Seigle Hall
Email: t.park (at) wustl.edu
Office Hours: Monday, 3.30-5.30pm or by appointment

Course Description

How can we understand the recent debate about fundamental health care reform, and what will be its effects? Should social security be partially or wholly privatized? Was the 1996 welfare reform a success? Contemporary political questions frequently focus on the American welfare state and

*Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, 241 Seigle Hall, Campus Box 1063, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis MO 63130. tel: 314.935.3461; fax: 801.922.7901; rtm (at) wustl (dot) edu; http://rtm.wustl.edu.
the social policies that comprise it. The first part of this course describes the American welfare state broadly construed, places it in a comparative context, and elucidates major political science explanations for the size and scope of American social policy. We touch on several areas of social policy while constructing the generalized lenses through which particular political outcomes can be understood. The second part of the course then focuses on three major aspects of the American welfare state: health care, old age pensions, and policies related to work, poverty, and inequality.

Readings

Readings should be completed before the course meeting under which they are listed below. The course readings are a mixture of academic articles, book chapters, and perspectives from the popular press. Many readings are available on the course Ares page at [http://ares.wustl.edu/ares/](http://ares.wustl.edu/ares/). Note that in some cases, the required readings represent only a subset of the pages posted on Ares. Short news articles are available on the web, and are linked directly from this document.

Requirements and Evaluation

Students are required to do the weekly reading, attend class, complete all assignments and exams, and participate in course discussions about the material.

The student’s final course assessment includes seven components: a proposed paper question and annotated bibliography, reading questions, a midterm exam, a paper outline, a final paper, a final exam, and participation. Table 1 summarizes the assessments and their due dates. The two exams take place in class. Participation has three components: a) making at least two substantive in-class contributions, be they questions, responses, intellectual perspectives, or the like (2% each), b) participating in the two in-class workshops on your paper (2.5% each), and c) completing the course evaluation (1%). The final paper should consider a specific element of American social policy using the lenses of this course or another political science approach. The final paper is of no more than 3000 words. The bibliography and outline intend to structure and simplify the paper-writing process. Sample paper questions and strategies for success will be discussed in class.

Reading questions are an opportunity to circulate your questions about the readings before class. They will be due at 5:00pm on Sundays, but can be posted to the Google Group anytime before that. You will be randomly assigned to craft reading questions for two weeks, and each week’s questions will earn you 2.5% of the final grade.

No late work will be accepted. If you cannot submit an assignment on time, arrange to submit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Question &amp; Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>27 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Questions</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>(28 Jan - 22 Apr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>6 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Outline</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>17 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper due</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>6 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>6 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Course Assessment Summary
it early. We encourage you to use office hours to discuss any specific assignments, difficulties, or questions about the course.

Academic integrity is a core value of institutions of higher learning. It is your responsibility to avoid and report plagiarism, cheating, and dishonesty. If you haven’t done so recently, reread the University policy on academic integrity at http://www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html

Course Evaluation

The course evaluation will be available at http://evals.wustl.edu towards the end of the semester. Students who submit the evaluation will earn one percentage point toward the participation grade.

Calendar

I. Introduction

14 January

Introduction. Course policies and requirements.

16 January


Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


21 January

No class meeting.

23 January

Public and private. Visible and less visible. Choices over benefit levels, durations, and targeting.
Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


II. Influences and Structure

A) History, Colonialism (and especially Post-Reconstruction) to Pre-New Deal.

28 January

Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


B) Institutions

30 January

Policymaking. (Important note: We will meet in Eads 016, not McDonnell 263.)

Required reading.


4 February

Majoritarian and Antimajoritarian institutions. Interbranch relationships.

Required reading.

Supplementary reading.


C) Preferences, Interests, and Identities

6 February

Inequality, Interest/Preference Heterogeneity, and Implications.

Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


11 February

Public opinion. (Important note: We will meet in Eads 016, not McDonnell 263.)

Required reading.


Supplementary reading.

13 February

Gender. Race and immigration supplements.

Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


III. Policies

A) Pensions

18 February

Introduction. The 19th century and before.

Required reading.

Supplementary reading.


20 February

Social Security.

Question (rough draft and approach) due.

Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


25 February

Pension policy feedbacks.

Question and annotated bibliography workshop.

Required reading.


27 February

Pension policy feedbacks.

Question and annotated bibliography due.
Required reading.


4 March

Private pensions. Funding and public opinion.

Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


6 March

Midterm Exam.

11 March

No class meeting, Spring Break.

13 March

No class meeting, Spring Break.

B) Health Care

18 March

Introduction. Health care policy in the U.S. Medicare policy alternatives.

Required reading.

Supplementary reading.


20 March

Medicare policy alternatives. The Clinton-era episode.

Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


25 March

Health insurance markets. Middle-class health insurance.

Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


27 March

The Obama-era episode. Current law.

Required reading.

Supplementary reading.


1 April

State policies: sCHIP and Oregon Health Plan policy and politics. OHP and ACA causal effects.

Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


3 April

The Case of Vaccine Politics. Interest groups, constitutionality, citizenship.
Required reading.


John D. Lantos, Mary Anne Jackson, and Christopher J. Harrison. Why we should eliminate personal belief exemptions to vaccine mandates. Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law, 37(1):101–110, February 2012.

Supplementary reading.


C) Work, Poverty, and Inequality

8 April

Introduction.

Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


10 April

The fuzzy border between work and welfare.

Outline circulation begins.

Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


15 April

Ending welfare as we know it.
Outline workshop.

Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


17 April

Paper outline due.
State policies.

Required reading.


Supplementary reading.


**22 April**

Race and welfare.

**Required reading.**


**Supplementary reading.**


IV. Conclusions

**24 April**

Proposals.

**Required reading.**


**6 May**

Final exam, 10.30am-12.30pm, McDonnell Hall, Room 362.

Final paper due.