

Spring 2020

SOC 467: Sociology of Social Policy

1:30-3:30 Mondays, Westminster Room, CAPA Centre
148 Cromwell Road, S. Kensington, London

Instructor: Debra Street, PhD
29 Stratford Villas
Camden
London NW1 9SE

Office Hours: Monday 10-10:30; 3:30-4:00
Or by appointment
Phone: +1716 803-4842, +716 568-4380
Email: dastreet@buffalo.edu

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Provides a critical evaluation of how sociological theory and research inform the development, revision, and application of social policies. Offers a broad examination of policy-oriented legislative, economic and political issues within a sociological framework.

LONDON 2020 COURSE DESCRIPTION

London is the platform for our critical assessment of how sociological theory and social science research can help us understand the development, implementation, and outcomes associated with social policies in affluent countries. Studying in London provides the unique opportunity to take an “outsider” perspective, useful for learning about UK policies with enough distance for us to take a critical look back at US/Singapore social policies. We situate our exploration of policy in the context of affluent liberal welfare states and examine legislative, economic, and political issues that shape citizens’ daily experiences of social policy related to education, income support, transportation, housing, health, etc.

REQUIRED READING

Required text: *Short Guide to Social Policy* (2015), 2nd ed, Policy Press

Listed by date at the UBlerns website

Keep up with social policy news in high quality media

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning Objective	Assessment Method
Understand the development/historical influence of UK and European social policies in the US, Singapore, and elsewhere	Class participation, in-class assignments; fieldwork, quizzes
Learn about theoretical and empirical sociological research related to social policy in affluent countries	Class participation, fieldwork, quizzes, test
Distinguish purposes and outcomes of different national policy approaches to similar problems. Recognize the relationship of social policy structures to systems of inequalities	Class participation, in-class assignments; quizzes, tests
Identify similarities and differences among social policies in developed countries. Recognize the impact of globalization.	Class participation and fieldwork. Quizzes, test
Understand methods and techniques used to research the sociological and substantive importance of social policy in the 21 st century and effectively communicate them.	Fieldwork, test

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Complete all assigned readings *before* class and contribute to class discussions. Required readings are listed by date on UBLearn, from which students generate class discussion questions.
- Class participation may include quizzes to help students keep up with reading, group work, and/or film reactions. Attend all class and required program activities on time, which may also include fieldwork outside of class time. Lateness or absence earn point deductions.
- Do homework assignments related to course readings and/or activities. Homework must explicitly reference ideas, evidence, contrasts and/or comparisons specified in the assignment and linked to course readings. Use appropriate evidence and argument for each assignment.
- Complete two tests.

Class participation, in-class assignments: Perfect on-time attendance in class and for all required activities with readings completed before class; attentive listening to speakers; active participation in discussions of class concepts and course relevant material, in-class assignments and film reactions.	35%
Quizzes, fieldwork	40%
Final test: MC/TF, short answer and essay, open book/notes tests	25%

Grading standards

- **A range** grades (high distinction) are for *superior* quality work that indicates you have mastered the course material. Mastery is demonstrated by both understanding and *integration* of the concepts and related research literatures.
- **B range** grades (superior) demonstrate that you *know almost all* course material *very well*.
- **C range** grades (average) show you understand *many* course-related concepts and materials.
- **D range** grades (minimum passing grades) are earned by demonstrating only *limited understanding* of course material.
- **The grade F** reflects failure to demonstrate rudimentary understanding of the material.

Letter	% Equivalent	Interpretation	Letter	% Equivalent	Interpretation
A	93.0-100.0	High Distinction	C	73.0-76.9	Average
A-	90.0-92.9	High Distinction	C-	70.0-72.9	Average
B+	87.0-89.9	Superior	D+	67.0-69.9	Minimum Passing
B	83.0-86.9	Superior	D	63.0-66.9	Minimum Passing
B-	80.0-82.9	Superior	D-	60.0-62.9	Minimum Passing
C+	77.0-79.9	Average	F	Under 60	Fail

The small print:

Materials appearing in this syllabus, powerpoint slides and handouts, and items posted at UBLearn are all components of the contract for this course, detailing course policies, assessment criteria, assignments, and deadlines. Course materials are my intellectual product (except for the readings or other provided material, which are credited to their authors). As my intellectual product, other course materials belong to me and are not to be used for anything other than course purposes without my express written permission. You may not record my image or voice without my explicit permission: I may say yes, but you must ask first.

I reserve the right to change the syllabus and program activities with appropriate prior notice to the students. Appropriate prior notice is by public announcement of any change at the beginning of one class period before a change goes into effect and posting announcements on UBLearn and sending email to UB accounts with 24 hours' notice of any impending change.

COURSE CALENDAR
PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE, SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Topic	Date	Readings, notes
Sociological perspectives and social policy. The pillars of social policy	Week 1	Introductions. Syllabus, Short Guide CH 1, UBL 1
What is social policy? Social welfare? How are they related?	Week 2	UBL 2
History of British social policy: Beveridge and the Five Giants. Modern welfare states.	Week 3	UBL 3
Social Security	Week 4	Short Guide CH 2 UBL 4
Social Security	Week 5	Short Guide CH 3 UBL 5
Spring Break, Week 6, Feb 14-23		
Employment	Week 7	UBL 6
Employment/Education	Week 8	Short Guide CH 4 UBL 7
Education Health	Week 9	Short Guide CH 5 UBL 8
Health	Week 10	UBL 9
Housing	Week 11	Short Guide CH 6 UBL 10
Other Pillars/Other Policies	Week 12	Short Guide CH 7 UBL 11
21 st Century Social Policies	Week 13	Short Guide CH 8 UBL 12
	Week 14 Test	