SW290K Mental Health Policy
Fall Quarter, 2015

Public Affairs #1337
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 2-3:15PM
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Office hours: By appointment and very flexible

Course Description and Objectives
This course will examine the evolution of social policy and services in the mental health field in the United States. Class will explore how factors such as ethnicity, class, migration status, global/hemispheric geopolitics, and research approaches impact mental health as well as the services for the mentally ill. Course will also explore how individuals, professional organizations, media and political bodies have an effect on the policy arena, often times in an asymmetrical fashion.

Core Objectives for courses in the SW290 series:
1. Understand the policy-making process and its impact on services for the mentally ill.
2. Understand how public policy process can be impacted by the profession and others.
3. Understand how social work professional values and theoretical contributions guide the profession and may guide advocacy for public policy change in the field of mental health.
4. Understand the systemic nature of inequality affecting certain vulnerable populations
5. Understand how political climates have an effect on the wellbeing of certain populations (particularly the vulnerable), including in their mental health
6. Understand the role of media in shaping public policy discourse and its effect on community mental health
7. Understand the role of universal human rights in the policy realm

Course Structure
The class employs lectures, class discussions, individual presentations and guest speakers.
Course Methods

The course is designed to improve students' critical assessment skills while introducing them to recent research on selected mental health policy topics. We will examine a particular mental health policy topic each week in order to highlight specific situations pertaining to different mental health communities.

Social Work Practice Competencies: Successful completion of this course implies that the student has achieved competency in the following practice behaviors:

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<th>Competency</th>
<th>Practice Behaviors</th>
<th>Method of Assessment</th>
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| 2.1.5 Advance human rights and social and economic justice                 | • Assess and analyze the impact of social policies and demographic changes on the programs and services for vulnerable and diverse populations.  
• Evaluate the social, political, and economic environments that advance policies affecting human rights.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Assignment #2       |
| 2.1.8 Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being  | • Understand the relationship between social policy and social work practice.  
• Formulate, advocate, and/or evaluate policies related to social and economic justice.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Assignment #2       |
| and to deliver effective social work                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Assignment #3       |
| 2.1.9 Respond to contexts that shape                                      | • Identify and respond to relevant policy debates, legislation, or other aspects of policy making on the International, national, state, and local levels that share the service delivery system.  
• Understand how policies may differentially affect individuals based on race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and/or other differences.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Assignment #2       |
|                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Assignment #3       |
Assignments

Students are expected to be involved in the class in four major ways.

1. Be prepared to participate in the discussion of the “overview” material each week. Students should be prepared to share their comments and reactions to the required readings and the issues that they raise. Be prepared as well to participate in the discussion of the research articles that will be critiqued each week.

2. LEAD CLASS DISCUSSION:
   At the beginning of the quarter, students will sign up to lead the discussion on at least one of the assigned articles identified for that purpose. Students are expected to critique (NOT TO Just SUMMARIZE the article) and need to include the following points in the critique (Please note that even when the below subjects do not explicitly appear in your chosen article, you are responsible to integrate those subjects as part of your discussion/assessment/recommendations):
   - assess the impact of the policy/program/service on vulnerable and diverse populations
   - explain the relationship between social policy and social work practice in the context of the article
   - evaluate the impact on social and/or economic justice
   - assess and analyze the impact of social policies and demographic changes on programs and services for vulnerable and diverse populations
   - evaluate the social, political, and economic environments that advance policies affecting human rights

   Student should also prepare questions and/or concerns about the articles and lead the discussion. In preparation for the discussion, students should possess a thorough understanding of the article.

3. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:
   Each student will prepare two written critiques of two different articles. Students will have a choice of writing either a 750-1,000 word (2-3 page) written critique, or a 1,500-2,000 word regular paper for each assignment. The first (midterm) critique (regardless of the format chosen) is to be submitted by email to javieri@ucla.edu by the end of Week 5. As for the second (final) written critique, students will send it via e-mail by the end of week 10.
The following areas will need to be covered in the two written critiques (In fact, I advise you follow this format, including by using these below as headings or similar variations, for the two written assignments):

1) **Full Reference Of The Article You Are Critiquing:** Top of first page

2) **Significance and Research Question/Hypothesis/Thesis:** What are the author(s) investigating/discussing and why is the issue important to the field of mental health policy and the field of social work?

3) **Methods & Results:** How did the author(s) go about trying to answer their question(s)? Did they use qualitative, quantitative, interpretive or mixed methods? And what did they find? Any criticisms about study design/implementation should go here.

4) **Tables & Figures:** Select two tables or figures (if provided) used and describe, explain and integrate them in your discussion.

5) **Authors’ Conclusions:** What did the author(s) conclude with regards to their questions or methods employed? What do they recommend, programmatic and/or policy wise?

6) **Evaluation of the Social, Political, and Economic Environments that Advance Policies Affecting Human Rights (NOTE: When Appropriate, Integrate Human Rights Considerations With Social Work’s Values And Code of Ethics):** In this section of your paper, the universal human rights and social work perspectives can be used to frame how the social, political and economic environments particularly affect vulnerable populations.

7) **Impact of Social Policies and Demographic Changes on The Programs And Services For Vulnerable And Diverse Populations:** This section should address issues pertaining to demographic changes, vulnerable and diverse populations and how social policy affects the services they get. In addition, include commentary on aspects of policy making on the transnational, national, state, and/or local levels that share the service delivery system.

8) **Further inquiry- What, If Any, Further Questions or Topics Did The Author(s), And You, Propose To Further The Field of Study?** Make sure to make the proper attributions as to what comes from you, and what comes from the author/s. If there is consensus of opinion between you and the author/s, make that explicitly clear.
9) What Are The Policy Implications, From Your Standpoint, Derived From The Chosen Article? (NOTE: As In Section 6, When Appropriate, Integrate Human Rights Considerations With Social Work’s Values And Code of Ethics): This section is all about your views, even if they coincide with the authors’. If any overlap occurs, make sure to make the proper attributions as to what comes from you, and what comes from the author/s. In addition, include commentary on aspects of policy making on the transnational, national, state, and/or local levels that share the service delivery system.

10) List of References: (if you have more than just the article you are critiquing).

Grading
Students’ final grade will be based on:
- 10% on their preparation and contributions to class discussions of the overview material,
- 30% for the completeness, rigor and insightfulness of their presentation,
- 60% for their written essays.

With all these contributions, the student’s work will be evaluated in terms of the student’s mastery of the subject, the cogency of the analysis, and the quality of the oral presentation and writing.

The grade "I" (Incomplete) is assigned only when a student’s work is of passing quality but is incomplete for good cause. If the work is not completed by the end of the next quarter of residence, the "I" grade will automatically be replaced with the grade of "F" or "U" (Unsatisfactory) as appropriate [Standards and Procedures for Graduate Study at UCLA, p. 18].

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is a high priority for the UCLA Department of Social Welfare. Instructors are required to report suspected acts of plagiarism to, and for investigation by, the UCLA Office of the Dean of Students [UCLA Student Conduct Code]. Written assignments submitted for this class are to be submitted as Word documents attached to emails to the instructor. These written assignments may be scanned to detect for non-original content, including purchased papers and inserted text that is without proper citation. Any suspected plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students.
Readings

Links for most of the required readings can be accessed via the class syllabus’ links.

As a resource, students are recommended to have access to: Petr, C.G. (2009). *Multidimensional Evidence-Based Practice*. Rutledge NY:NY. This book provides a good reference point to the field of multidimensional evidence-based practice for social work (MEBP). MEBP represents an evolution of the Evidence-Based paradigm and a direct theoretical contribution of social work academics. It provides a model to integrate different sources of research to both better treat our clients and to affect the policy process impacting the populations we serve. MEBP provides mechanisms to integrate social work values and research from different arenas to affect public policy.

Further, students are also recommended to have access to: David Mechanic (2008), *Mental Health and Social Policy: Beyond Managed Care* (5th any earlier edition). Boston: Pearson.

Weekly Topics and Reading

**Week 0 (9/24/15) : Introduction and Course Overview**

- Preview of the course, week by week
- Introduction to some key course concepts

Mechanic, *Mental Health and Social Policy*, Preface and Chapter 1: Mental health and the mental health professions

**Week 1 (9/29/15 & 10/01/15): Universal Human Rights, Geopolitics, Social Citizenship, Transnationalism and Intersecting Identities**


Declaration Of Independence In Congress, July 4, 1776.  
*The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America*  
[http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html)
The Constitution of the United States  
http://www.usconstitution.net/const.pdf

NASW Code of Ethics  
http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp

Week 2 (10/06/15 & 10/08/15): Social Determinants of Health & Definitions of Health: Mental Health as Part of a Larger Context with a Focus on Vulnerable Groups  
Kaiser Family Foundation (June 2009). Putting Women’s Health Care Disparities On the Map: Examining Racial and Ethnic Disparities at the State Level  
http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/7886.pdf

World Health Organization (October 2011). Rio Declaration on the Social Determinants of Health  
http://www.who.int/sdhconference/declaration/Rio_political_declaration.pdf


Week 3 (10/13/15 & 10/15/15): Mental Health Policy Development in the US  
Mechanic, Mental Health and Social Policy  
Chapter 5: The development of mental health policy in the United States.


http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/19/5/228.full.pdf

http://healthaff.highwire.org/content/18/5/7.full.pdf+html


**Week 4 (10/20/15 & 10/22/15): Community Services and the Rise of Deinstitutionalization**

Mechanic, *Mental Health and Social Policy*
Chapter 9: Institutionalism and Deinstitutionalization.


Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Current Statistics on the Prevalence and Characteristics of People Experiencing Homelessness in the United States (Last Updated July 2011) 


http://rsw.sagepub.com/content/17/3/408.full.pdf


**Week 6 (11/03/15 & 11/05/15): Role of Media in Shaping Public Policy Discourse and Its Direct Impact on the Mental Health of Vulnerable & Majority Populations.** Guest Lecturer: Hermes Garban, M.D.-Ph.D., Associate Professor, UCLA School of Medicine, Molecular Immunology and Vaccine Development Research Group

http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/files/WP3BiologicalMarkers_000.pdf


**Week 7 (11/10/15 & 11/12/15) : Structural Barriers to Equitable Access to Mental Health Care and other Health Care: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and the Affordable Care Act.**


Week 8 (11/17/15 & 11/19/15) Criminalization of the Poor: MASS INCARCERATION and Mental Health


Week 9 (12/01/15 & 12/03/15) Immigration, Refugees, Violence, Poverty, Racism and Health


Session 10 (12/01/15 & 12/03/15) Roles and Responsibility of Mental Health Professionals in the Age of War and Forced Displacement