

**PUBLIC POLICY 8682  
SOCIOLOGY 6616  
STRATIFICATION AND SOCIAL POLICY**

**Fall 2006  
Thursday 6:00-8:45pm**

Dr. Stephanie Moller  
485D Fretwell  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-2:00 and by appointment  
Email: smoller@email.uncc.edu

**Course Goals**

This course examines the causes of poverty and inequality, and the structure and effectiveness of policies designed to ameliorate these conditions. We begin examining the definition and causes of stratification. We then examine the myriad of U.S. social welfare policies designed to prevent or ameliorate inequality. Finally, we situate U.S. policy effectiveness within the international setting.

**Texts**

Sheldon H. Danziger and Robert H. Haveman. 2001. *Understanding Poverty*. MA: Harvard.

Benjamin I. Page and James R. Simmons. 2000. *What Government Can Do: Dealing with Poverty and Inequality*. IL: The University of Chicago Press.

Paul Burstein. 1998. *Discrimination, Jobs, and Politics: The Struggle for Equal Employment Opportunity in the United States since the New Deal*. IL: The University of Chicago Press.

Robert E. Goodin, Bruce Headey, Ruud Muffels, Henk-Jan Dirven. 1999. *The Real Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Cambridge University Press.

Lane Kenworthy. 2004. *Egalitarian Capitalism*. Russell Sage Foundation.

**Grading**

Reading Summaries and Presentations	33 percent
Participation	33 percent
Final Project	34 percent

Your grade will consist of three parts.

- First, you will be assigned a chapter/article to summarize each week. Please summarize in 1 to 2 pages. Reading summaries will account for 33 percent of your grade. The format for these summaries is entirely up to you. They may be essay format or bullet format. Be sure to summarize the main point of each reading in a sentence or two and highlight other important information. Be prepared to present your summaries to the class. **The summaries should be emailed to me each Wednesday.**

- Participation in the discussion will account for 33 percent of your final grade.
- The final project is a 10-15 page literature review or research report. The topic is up to you as long as it is related to inequality. You may use this as an opportunity to conduct a literature review that will help you prepare for the comps, or you may use this as an opportunity to write the first draft of a research article. Note three due dates. 9/21 Project description due. 10/26 summaries of articles due. 11/30 final project due. All doctoral students must present their projects to the class.

## **Schedule**

### **8/24 Measures and Trends in Poverty**

#### **Readings:**

Gordon Fischer. 1992. "The Development and History of Poverty Thresholds"

*Social Security Bulletin*, 55 3-14. Available at:

<http://www.ssa.gov/history/fisherpoverty.html>

Arthur Jones and Daniel Weinberg. 2000. "The Changing Shape of the Nation's Income Distributions." <http://www.census.gov/prod/2000pubs/p60-204.pdf>

### **8/31 Extent and Causes of Inequality and Poverty**

#### **Readings:**

Danziger and Haveman, "Introduction," 1-26 in *Understanding Poverty*.

Burtless and Smeeding, "The Level, Trend and Composition of Poverty," 27-68 in *Understanding Poverty*.

Cancian and Reed, "Changes in Family Structure," 69-96 in *Understanding Poverty*.

Corcoran, "Mobility, Persistence, and the Consequences of Poverty," 127-161 in *Understanding Poverty*.

Freeman, "The Rising Tide Lifts," 97-126 in *Understanding Poverty*.

### **9/7 Inequality and Policy**

#### **Readings:**

Smeeding, Rainwater, and Burtless. "U.S. Poverty in a Cross-national Context" pp. 162-192 in *Understanding Poverty*.

Scholz and Levine. "The Evolution of Income Support Policy in the United States" pp. 193-228 in *Understanding Poverty*.

Pavetti. "Welfare Policy in Transition" pp. 229-277 in *Understanding Poverty*.

Mullahy and Wolfe. "Health Policies for the Non-elderly Poor" pp. 278-313 in *Understanding Poverty*.

Karoly. "Investing in the Future: Reducing Poverty Through Human Capital Investments" pp. 314-258 in *Understanding Poverty*.

9/14      **The U.S. Welfare State**

**Reading:**

Benjamin I. Page and James R. Simmons. 2000. *What Government Can Do: Dealing with Poverty and Inequality*. IL: The University of Chicago Press.

9/21      **Welfare Reform**

**Readings:**

Olivia A. Golden. 2005. "Assessing the New Federalism Eight Years Later" The Urban Institute. Available at:

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/311198\\_ANF\\_EightYearsLater.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/311198_ANF_EightYearsLater.pdf)

Sheila Zedlewski, Gina Adams, Lisa Dubay, and Genevieve Kenney. 2006. "Is There a System Supporting Low Income Working Families?" The Urban Institute. Available at:

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/311282\\_lowincome\\_families.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/311282_lowincome_families.pdf)

Signe-May McKernan and Caroline Ratcliffe. 2006. "The Effect of Specific Welfare Policies on Poverty." The Urban Institute. Available at:

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411334\\_welfare\\_policies.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411334_welfare_policies.pdf)

Gretchen Rowe and Linda Giannarelli "Getting On, Staying On, and Getting Off Welfare: The Complexity of State by State Policy Choices." The Urban Institute. Available at:

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/311349\\_A70.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/311349_A70.pdf)

**Final Project:** Project Description Due, including explanation of research conducted to date.

9/28      **Social Policy Development**

**Readings:**

Jill Quadagno. 1987. "Theories of the Welfare State." *Annual Review of Sociology* 13: 109-28.

Theda Skocpol and Edwin Amenta. 1986. "States and Social Policies." *Annual Review of Sociology* 12:131-57.

10/5      **A Case Study of Policy Development: Equal Employment Opportunity**

**Reading:**

Paul Burstein. 1998. *Discrimination, Jobs, and Politics: The Struggle for Equal Employment Opportunity in the United States since the New Deal*. IL: The University of Chicago Press.

10/12      **A Case Study of Policy Development: Equal Employment Opportunity**

**Reading:**

Paul Burstein. 1998. *Discrimination, Jobs, and Politics: The Struggle for Equal*

*Employment Opportunity in the United States since the New Deal.* IL: The University of Chicago Press.

10/19 **The United States in Cross-National Perspective**

**Reading:**

Robert E. Goodin, Bruce Headey, Ruud Muffels, Henk-Jan Dirven. 1999. *The Real Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Cambridge University Press, Parts I and II

10/26 **The United States in Cross-National Perspective**

**Reading:**

Robert E. Goodin, Bruce Headey, Ruud Muffels, Henk-Jan Dirven. 1999. *The Real Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Cambridge University Press. Part III

**Final Project:**

Summaries of 10 articles due; Abstracts of 10 additional articles due.

11/2 **Cross-National Research**

Janet Gornick, Marcia K. Meyers and Katherin E. Ross. 1997. "Supporting the Employment of Mothers: Policy Variation across Fourteen Welfare States." *Journal of European Social Policy* 7: 45-70.

Stephanie Moller, Bradley, David, Huber, Evelyne, Nielsen, François and Stephens, John D., 2003, Determinants of relative poverty in advanced capitalist democracies. *American Sociological Review*, 68, 22-51.

David Brady. 2003. "The Politics of Poverty: Left Political Institutions, the Welfare State, and Poverty." *Social Forces* 82:557-588.

Mariko Lin Chang. 2000. "The Evolution of Sex Segregation Regime." *American Journal of Sociology* 105: 1658-1701.

Thomas A. DiPrete and Patricia A. McManus. 2000. "Family Change, Employment Transitions, and the Welfare State: Household Income Dynamics in the United States and Germany" *American Sociological Review* 65:343-70.

11/9 **The Welfare State and The Economy**

**Readings:**

Chapters from the following books:

Francine D. Blau and Lawrence M. Kahn. 2002. *At Home and Abroad: U.S. Labor Market Performance in International Perspective*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Rebecca M. Blank (editor). 1994. *Social Protection Versus Economic Flexibility*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

11/16      **The Welfare State and The Economy**

**Reading:**

Lane Kenworthy. 2004. *Egalitarian Capitalism*. Russell Sage Foundation.

11/23      **Thanksgiving**

11/30      **The Welfare State and The Economy**

**Readings:**

Lane Kenworthy. 2004. *Egalitarian Capitalism*. Russell Sage Foundation.

Stephanie Moller, Arthur Alderson, and François Nielsen. 2005. "Income  
Inequality in the United States"

**Final Project Due**