

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

COURSE NUMBER: SOWO 607I (also DENT 607, FMME 435, HPAAA 607, MEDI 297, MEDI 435, NURS 607, HMSC 607, PPHR 607)

COURSE TITLE: AGING AND PUBLIC POLICY

SEMESTER: Spring 2010; Tuesday 6:00 to 8:50 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Dan Hudgins, MSW, ACSW
School of Social Work, UNC Chapel Hill
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OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesdays, 12:00-2:00 or by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an advanced policy curriculum. Students will analyze public policy issues resulting from the growth of the older adult population, including an in-depth analysis of emerging issues and controversies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of the course students will be able to demonstrate the following:

1. An understanding of policy-making processes at federal, state and community levels;
2. Application of a theoretical framework for analyzing public policy;
3. An understanding of the profile of the older populations at the national, state and community levels and an ability to identify the major social, economic, and health conditions facing the elderly;
4. An ability to review current policies and programs; assess assets and liabilities of current policies and note implications/issues for development of future policies;
5. Knowledge of aging and public policy issues as they pertain to diverse, special needs of marginalized populations;
6. An understanding of other national approaches to addressing public policy issues and aging.

EXPANDED DESCRIPTION:

The Aging and Public Policy course is designed to provide students in all disciplines, including graduate students and upper level undergraduates, with an understanding of the policy issues facing the nation, state and community levels of government brought about by the needs of the aged population. Students will learn how to critically examine public policy issues and the forces in play that effect policy development. The course's content is relevant to students who plan to work with older adults and need an understanding of the basic policy underpinnings of the major programs effecting older persons. The course is cross-listed in a variety of departments and schools, including dentistry (DENT 607), family medicine (FMME 297, 497), medicine (MEDI 297, 497), nursing (NURS 607), pharmacy (PHPR 607), physical therapy (HMSC 607), and social work (SOWO 601, formerly 266). The prerequisite for social work students is SOWO 101.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Moody, Harry R. (2010). Aging: Concepts and Controversies, 6th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

Supplemental weekly readings will be available at noted websites or provided to students by the instructor.

Several readings will be taken from: Wacker, Robbyn R., and Roberto, Karen A. (2008). Community resources for older adults: Programs and services in an era of change 3rd ed. Los Angeles, CA: SAGE Publications.

The following websites are good resources on policy Issues:

The Century Foundation <http://www.tcf.org>

The Kaiser Family Foundation <http://www.kff.org>

The Commonwealth Fund <http://www.cmwf.org>

The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare <http://www.ncpssm.org>

Families USA <http://www.familiesusa.org>

AARP <http://www.aarp.org>

North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/>

UNC Institute on Aging <http://www.aging.unc.edu>

Social Security Administration <http://www.ssa.gov>

The Urban Institute <http://www.urban.org>

Center for Medicare and Medicaid <http://www.medicare.gov>

NC General Assembly <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us>

Community Transportation Association of America <http://www.ctaa.org>

National Hospice and Palliative Care Assoc. <http://www.nhpco.org>

TEACHING METHODS

The course will be conducted as a modified seminar, with some lecture material from the instructor and selected guest speakers and the remainder of sessions devoted to discussion of course materials and topics, role play, and exercises. Students will participate with instructor in developing a supportive learning environment that fosters open communication and respectful listening to and reflection on the ideas, views and values of their classmates as they pertain to the readings and assignments.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attendance and Participation. Students are required to attend each class having read the required material in advance and participate fully in the class discussion. Students are expected to submit one well-considered discussion question, based on the reading to the instructor by noon on the Monday prior to each Tuesday night class. These questions are to be submitted by email to danhudgins@unc.edu .
2. Several classes have homework assignments or on-line exercises, which will be due on the following class.
3. Write a opinion/editorial piece that is a 500 word response to a current social issue, program or policy designed to be submitted to a newspaper or other publication. The submission can address a problem on the local, state, or national level relevant to aging. The submission should catch the attention of the reader using relevant data or a case example, provide background on the issue and propose a solution. Extra credit will be provided if the student has the op-ed piece published.
4. The final project is a written, sequential policy analysis, following the Gilbert/Terrell framework, of an issue of your choosing and approved by the instructor. The instructor will provide a list of possible issues. Papers will be approximately 10-15 pages long, double-spaced, typed in 12 point font, plus references. At the end of the semester, you will summarize your findings and policy analysis in a class presentation of no more than 15 minutes. Presentations will be scheduled in the final two class sessions. Students are required to attend the classes when others present.

GRADING DISTRIBUTION

The proportionate value of each requirement is shown below:

Class attendance 10%

Class participation 15%

Homework assignments 10%

Student led discussions 10%

Op-Ed Assignment 20%

Final Paper-Policy Analysis 25%

Paper presentation 10%

GRADING SYSTEM

Numeric scores will be combined in their proportionate value and converted for the assignment of a final grade, using the following scale.

Letter Grade Numeric Grade

H 94-100

P 80-93

L 70-79

F 69 and below

POLICY ON ATTENDANCE, INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

If you cannot attend a class due to illness or family emergency, please phone or email me **before** missing the class. Students who need to be absent for religious reasons, family emergencies, or illness should inform the instructor in advance.

In the event that you do have an excused absence, you are still responsible for the assigned readings and submitting any assignments due the day you missed. Late assignments will be accepted and/or incomplete grades assigned in special situations, with prior approval by the instructor. Without prior arrangements with the instructor, late assignments will be reduced by 2 points for each day they are late (including weekend days). Please talk to me in person if serious conflicts arise, preventing attendance or completion of assignments.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Please refer to the *APA Style Guide*, *The SSW Manual*, and the *SSW Writing Guide* for information on attribution of quotes, plagiarism and appropriate use of assistance in preparing assignments. All written assignments should contain a signed pledge from you stating, "I have not given or received unauthorized aid in preparing this written work."

In keeping with the UNC Honor Code, if reason exists to believe that academic dishonesty has occurred, a referral will be made to the Office of the Student Attorney General for investigation and further action as required.

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities which affect their participation in the course should obtain certification from the Office of Disability Services and notify the instructor on the first day of class if they require special accommodations.

OTHER POLICIES/GENERAL INFORMATION

I request electronic copies of all assignments in class on the day they are due. Unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor, papers will be marked late if they are not submitted on the due date.

OUTLINE

Jan. 12 Introduction to class

Policy Analysis: Developing a Policy Framework

Required Reading

Gilbert, Neil and Terrell, Paul (2005). "A Framework for Social Welfare Policy Analysis," in Dimensions of Social Welfare Policy, 6th Edition, Boston, Massachusetts: Pearson Education, Inc. pp.62-95. (In E-reserves and Undergraduate Reference Library).

Exercises:

Review syllabus

Group Norms

Class introductions/ reasons for interest in aging

In-class exercise: Applying Gilbert and Terrell

Introduction to Policy Analysis Paper

Jan. 19 History of Aging Policy

Guest Speaker, Gary Nelson, DSW, Professor, UNC-CH School of Social Work

Readings: Moody: Prologue, pgs. Xxi-xxix, Chap. 1, pgs. 1-26

Jan. 26 Planning State Policy/ Aging Friendly Communities/ State Aging Plan/Demographics of Aging

Guest Speaker: Dennis Streets MPH, MAT, Planning, Budget, & System Supports Section Chief, NC Division of Aging and Adult Services.

Readings: Become familiar with NC Division on Aging and Adult Services, available at:

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/>

Institute on Aging website. *Quick facts about aging in North Carolina*. Available at:

<http://www.aging.unc.edu/infocenter/data/quickfacts.html>

Feb 2 Local Planning and Services to Aging/Area Agencies on Aging

Guest speaker Joan Pellitier, Director, Triangle Area Agency on Aging

Readings:

Moody, pgs 391-424

Wacker, and Roberto. "Housing," Pgs 283-309. (handout)

"Facts about Age Discrimination." Available at:

<http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/age.html>

Orange County Master Aging Plan

<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/aging/MasterAgingPlan.asp>

Hutton, David, (2008) "Older People in Emergencies: Consideration for Action and Policy Development, World Health Organization

http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Hutton_report_small.pdf

Review:

<http://www.aarpinternational.org/>

Feb 9 “Should Age or Need be the Basis for Entitlement?”

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Oberlander, PhD, Ass’t Professor of Social Medicine, UNC School of Medicine

Medicare/ Social Security/ SSI/ pensions

Readings: Kaiser Family Foundation. Medicare: A timeline of key developments. Available at:

<http://www.kff.org/medicare/medicaretimeline.cfm>>

Kaiser Family Foundation. Dual eligibles: Medicaid’s role for low income Medicare beneficiaries.

[http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/4091-04%20Final\(v2\).pdf](http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/4091-04%20Final(v2).pdf)

Moody, pgs. 287-317, pgs. 319-334. Choose two readings of four from pgs. 334-356.

Optional foundation reading:

Wacker, and Roberto, Pgs 151-165 (handout)

Homework Assignment: 1) Social Security Game. Go to: <http://www.actuary.org/socsec/index.asp> click on Social Security Game and play it. Print out your answers.

2) Calculate your Social Security income: <http://www.ssa.gov/planners/calculators.htm>

Class-led discussion

Feb. 16 Healthcare Part 1 “Should We Ration Health Care for Older People?”

Guest Speaker: Dr. Laura Hanson, MD, UNC School of Medicine

Readings:

Moody, pgs 163-193.

Feb 23 Healthcare Part 2, Medicare Part D,

Guest Speaker – Gina Upchurch, RPh, MPH, Executive Director, Senior PharmAssist, Durham, NC.

Readings:

Moody, pgs. 129-161

“Advocates guide to solving problems under Part D.” Available at:

<http://nsclc.org/areas/medicare-part-d>

Homework Assignment: Case study: be a senior citizen and explore choosing a Medicare Prescription plan! Available at:

<http://www.medicare.gov/>

Mar 2 Affecting policy change. Tracking the Legislature

Guest Speaker: NC AARP Lobbyist Bill Wilson

Readings:

NC General Assembly, familiarize yourself with website:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us>

NC Study Commission on Aging-Report 2009

<http://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/committees/NCSCA/Reports%20to%20the%20Governor%20and%20the%20General%20Assembly/2009%20Study%20Commission%20on%20Aging%20Report%20.pdf>

Spring Break

Mar 16 In-Home Services, Medicaid, CAP-DA, Adult Day Care, Mental illness.

Family Caregiving, Case Management, ADA

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Guest Speaker Chris Urso, MSW. NC Div. on Aging and Adult Services.

Readings:

Wacker, and Roberto, pgs 311-329; 331-348; 349-363 (handout)

Wacker, and Roberto, "Mental health services." Pgs. 219-237. (handout)

A Guide to disability rights law." Available at:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/cguide.pdf>

"Many older Americans engage in care giving activities, Urban Institute, available at:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/311203_Perspectives3.pdf

"North Carolina's Caregivers, 2008". (handout)

Mar 23 Assisted Living, Rest Homes, CCRC's, Economic Discrimination

Guest speaker- Bill Lamb, CMSW, MPA, UNC Institute on Aging

Readings:

Moody, pgs. 195-228,

(Film: (to be shown in class) *And Thou Shalt Honor*. Producers, Harry Wiland and Dale Bell, (2002)

Produced by Wiland-Bell Productions for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

<http://www.pbs.org/thoushalthonor/>

Mar 30 SNF's, Elder Rights, Elder abuse and neglect, Independence vs. Beneficence, APS

Guest Speaker: Cindy DePorter, MSSW, Branch Manager of Quality Evaluative Systems, Dept. of Facility Services

(cindy.deporter@ncmail.net, 855-4557)

Readings:

Moody, Pgs 229-256

Review Website for National Center on Elder Abuse

http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main_Site/index.aspx

Apr 6 "Should People Have the Choice to End Their Lives?"

Advance Directives, Euthanasia, Hospice services

Readings:

Guest Speaker: Andrea Treimel, MSW, LCSW: Duke Home Care and Hospice

Moody, pgs 257-286

Palliative Care Policy Center, "Living well at the end of life: Adapting health care to serious chronic illness in old age." Available at:

<http://www.medicaring.org/whitepaper/>

NC Division of Aging and Adult Services: Advance Directives, at:

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/direct.htm>

Film: "If These Walls Could Talk II"

Exercise in completing advance directives.

Apr 13 Community Connections-A Duke Endowment Funded Initiative

Guest Speaker: Heather Altman, MPH: Project Manager, Carol Woods Retirement Community

Apr. 20 Class Presentations

Apr 27 Class Presentations

