

Syllabus
PPOL 285-11, Spring 2007

Policy Analysis and Public Assistance

Michael Wiseman

Policy Analysis and Public Assistance is a graduate seminar in public assistance policy. The course offers a comprehensive introduction to analytic and political issues surrounding the ongoing American debate on welfare for students interested in policy analysis and public management as a profession.

There is only one “text”:

DeParle, Jason. 2004. *American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids, and a Nation’s Drive to End Welfare*. New York: Viking.

Full references for the required readings may be found in the reference list. A Reading Guide will be distributed for each section to assist in navigation. This list also includes sources for materials discussed and/or distributed in class and details on suggested additional readings.

Each student will be responsible for (a) an issue, (b) a program, and (c) a state. These will be selected in consultation with the instructor. Issues and programs readings are listed below following the topics schedule. All class materials are posted on the GWU “Blackboard” website, with access limited to enrolled students.

Date	Topic/ Content/ Readings:
(1) 1/17	Introduction
<u>Topics:</u>	Introductions. The object of the course. The syllabus. Projects and responsibilities. Evaluation of student performance. A primer on public assistance. Means testing. Nomenclature. The panoply of means-tested programs. Using AFDC/TANF as the core concern, <i>American Dream</i> as the keynote reading. Other library recommendations. Allocation of states, programs, and issues for corollary study.
<u>Readings:</u>	Begin DeParle (2004): <i>American Dream</i> , pp. 1-100. <u>Recommended:</u> Jencks, Christopher (2005): “What Happened to Welfare?”
(2) 1/24	Poverty and Income Distribution
<u>Topics:</u>	The distribution of income and wealth in the United States. The meaning of poverty. The poverty standard and alternatives. Poverty assessment in Europe. Recent trends.

Date	Topic/ Content/ Readings:
<u>Read-ings:</u>	<p>DeNavas-Walt et al. (2006): <i>Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2005</i>. (Standard Census Bureau poverty report; read the review materials pp. 1-26.)</p> <p>U.S. Bureau of the Census: “How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty” (http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/povdef.html; follow links to article by Gordon Fisher).</p> <p>Glennerster, Howard (2002): “United States Poverty Studies and Poverty Measurement: The Past Twenty-Five Years”</p> <p>Dalaker, Joe (2005): <i>Alternative Poverty Estimates in the United States: 2003</i>.</p> <p>Förster, Michael (2005): “What are Equivalence Scales?”</p> <p>Förster, Michael, and Marco Mira d’Ercole (2005a): “Combating Poverty and Exclusion through Work.”</p> <p><u>The Irish Struggle with Poverty:</u></p> <p>Combat Poverty Agency (2004): <i>Measuring Poverty</i>.</p> <p>Maître, Bertrand, et al. (2006): “Reconfiguring the Measurement of Deprivation and Consistent Poverty in Ireland.” (Press release, summary, Prime Minister’s response, editorial from the <i>Irish Independent</i>)</p> <p><u>Recommended:</u></p> <p>Fisher, Gordon M. (2007): “An Overview of Recent Work on Standard Budgets in the United States and Other Anglophone Countries”</p> <p>Förster, Michael, and Marco Mira d’Ercole (2005b): <i>Income Distribution and Poverty in OECD Countries in the Second Half of the 1990s</i>.</p> <p>UNICEF (2007): “Child poverty in perspective: An Overview of Child Well-Being in Rich Countries.” <i>Innocenti Report Card 7</i></p>
➤ 1/30	<p>Special Session (Optional)</p> <p><u>Topic:</u> <u>Jonathan Athow</u>, Head of the Work Incentive and Poverty Analysis Team, UK Treasury, “Worklessness and Poverty in Cities: London.” Urban Studies/ PPol 285-11 Ph.D. Seminar, Marvin Center, 12:00-1:30 (lunch will be served).</p> <p><u>Read-ings:</u> <u>Recommended:</u> (These are all op-eds; we will get into detail on UK poverty policy later in the course.)</p> <p>Nelson, Emily, and Jeanne Whalen (2006): “Poverty: With U.S. Methods, Britain Posts Gains In Fighting Poverty”</p> <p>Bernstein, Jared, and Mark Greenberg (2006): “A Plan to End Child Poverty”</p> <p>Krugman, Paul (2006): “Helping the Poor, the British Way.”</p> <p>Athow, Jonathon. (2007): “Worklessness in Cities: London.”</p> <p>Athow, Jonathon. (2007): “Poverty and Worklessness in Britain; New Evidence on Policy Performance.”</p>

- | Date | Topic/ Content/ Readings: |
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| (3) 1/31 | <p>Welfare as We Knew It and Now Have it: Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families</p> <p><u>Topics:</u> AFDC history. The critics. Major reform efforts, 1960-1996. The nitty gritty of eligibility and benefit determination. State and program assignments</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Office of Human Services Policy (1998): <i>Aid to Families with Dependent Children: The Baseline</i>, chapter 1.
Rowe, Gretchen et al. (2006): <i>The Welfare Rules Databook: State Policies as of July 2004</i>. (See Reading Guide for approach to this reading.)
Wood, Robert G., and Justin Wheeler (2007): "TANF at 10: Welfare Reform in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania."
<u>Recommended:</u>
Katz, Michael (1996): <i>In the Shadow of the Poorhouse: A Social History of Welfare in the United States</i>.</p> |
| (4) 2/7 | <p>Welfare and Behavior</p> <p><u>Topics:</u> A closer look at theory and empirical evidence for assistance consequences for labor supply, family formation, and fertility</p> <p><u>Reading:</u> Moffitt, Robert (2004): "The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program"
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2006): <i>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Seventh Annual Report to Congress</i>.</p> |
| (5) 2/14 | <p>Those Other Programs: Food Stamps, the Earned Income Credit, and Medicaid</p> <p><u>Topics:</u> Student reports; see template.</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> [See separate readings list for student reports]</p> |
| (6) 2/21 | <p>Those Other Programs: Supplemental Security Income, Housing Vouchers, Childcare Subsidies, and beyond.</p> <p><u>Topics:</u> Student reports; see template.</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> [See separate readings list for student reports]</p> |
| (7) 2/28 | <p>The States of Welfare: Welfare and Federalism</p> <p><u>Topics:</u> The organization of the federal welfare state. Design and consequences of intergovernmental grants programs. Encouraging innovation through waivers. Federal waiver policy under Reagan, Bush (I), and Clinton. Wisconsin.</p> |

Date	Topic/ Content/ Readings:
<u>Read-ings:</u>	Wiseman, Michael (2002): "Welfare in the United States" Chapter 2 of <i>The Welfare We Want? The British Challenge for American Reform</i> . Gais, Thomas, and James Fossett (2005): "Federalism and the Executive Branch."
(8) 3/7	American Dream
<u>Topics:</u>	Wisconsin Works. Wisconsin as welfare policy leader. Milwaukee and the urban poverty challenge. The unique circumstances of Wisconsin's reform. The experience depicted in <i>The American Dream</i> .
<u>Read-ings:</u>	Wiseman (2002): "Wisconsin Works." Unpublished manuscript. DeParle (2004): <i>American Dream</i> , pp. 101-174. MDRC (2003): "Summary Report: New Hope for Families and Children: Five-Year Results of a Program to Reduce Poverty and Reform Welfare." Gassman-Pines and Yoshikawa (2006). "Five-Year Effects of an Anti-Poverty Program on Marriage among Never-Married Mothers." Bloom, Howard S. 2006. "The Core Analytics of Randomized Experiments for Social Research."
3/14	Spring Break—No class
(9) 3/21	The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
<u>Topics:</u>	What made TANF, and what TANF made.
<u>Read-ings:</u>	Blank (2002): "Evaluating Welfare Reform in the United States" Grogger (2004): "Welfare Transitions in the 1990s: The Economy, Welfare Policy, and the EITC" Haskins (2006): Chapter 15, "Ten Years Later: The Triumph of Work"
(10) 3/28	American Dream Revisited
<u>Topics:</u>	The consequences of Wisconsin's reforms: Mead's "masterful regime" versus DeParle's Milwaukee. Implications for welfare policy and social assistance management.
<u>Read-ings:</u>	Lawrence Mead, "Introduction," chapter 1, pp. 1-17 and "Paternalism," chapter 8, pp. 157-174, from Mead (2004). DeParle (2004): <i>American Dream</i> , pp. 175-322. Newshour report found at http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/welfare/jan-june05/welfare_2-14.html# Brookings DeParle Panel found at http://www.brookings.edu/comm/events/20040922.htm Discussion by Mickey Kaus, Jonah Edelman, and Ron Haskins on <i>Slate</i> online magazine www.slate.msn.com/id/2109558/entry/2109742 between November 15-17, 2004.

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| (11) 4/4 | TANF Reauthorization |
| <u>Topics:</u> | Major issues in TANF reauthorization. The reauthorization boondoggle. House and Senate reauthorization proposals. This is the way the debate ends: |
| <u>Readings:</u> | Ron Haskins and Rebecca M. Blank, "Welfare Reform: An Agenda for Reauthorization" in Haskins and Blank (2001), pp. 3-32.
DeParle (2004): American Dream, pp. 323-338.
Greenberg, Mark. 2005. TANF Reauthorization Testimony, Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness, Committee on Education and the Workforce, U.S. House of Representatives, March 15, 2005
Mead, Lawrence. 2005. TANF Reauthorization Testimony, Subcommittee on Education and the Workforce, U.S. House of Representatives, March 15, 2005.
Minoff, Elsa. 2006. <i>Participation in TANF Work Activities in 2004</i> .
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. 2006 <i>Summary of Major Provisions of Welfare Reauthorization Proposals</i> . (4 January)
Lower-Basch, Elizabeth. 2007. Congress Should Take Action to Restore Flexibility Lost in 2006 Welfare Reauthorization and HHS Regulations, CLASP, January 8. |
| (12) 4/11 | Welfare Elsewhere: New Labour and Reform in Britain |
| <u>Topics:</u> | Welfare and social security in the United Kingdom. New Labour's New Deals. Borrowing ideas from abroad. Accomplishments and lessons for the U.S. |

Date	Topic/ Content/ Readings:
<u>Read-ings:</u>	<p>Hills and Waldfogel (2004): "A 'Third Way' in Welfare Reform? Evidence from the United Kingdom"</p> <p>Groombridge, Jeremy (2005): "Our Ambition: The State of Reform in Britain" (PowerPoint presentation).</p> <p>Bernstein, Jared, and Mark Greenberg (2006): "A Plan to End Child Poverty"</p> <p>Department for Work and Pensions (2006): <i>A New Deal for Welfare: Empowering People to Work</i>. (Executive Summary)</p> <p>Freud, David (2007): <i>Reducing dependency, increasing opportunity: options for the future of welfare to work</i>. (Executive Summary)</p> <p>Harker, Lisa (2006): <i>Delivering on Child Poverty: what would it take? A Report for the Department for Work and Pensions</i>. (Executive Summary).</p> <p>Walker and Wiseman (2003): "Sharing Ideas on Welfare," Tables 1.1 ("Major Means-Tested UK Cash and In-Kind Benefit Programmes for Non-Elderly Persons"), 1.2 ("Benefit Packages and Work Obligations, US and UK"), and 1.3 ("New Deal 'Welfare to Work' Programmes in Britain"). (Distributed in class)</p> <p>HBAI (2007): "Households Below Average Income Statistics"</p>
(13) 4/18	<p>Policy Research</p> <p><u>Topics:</u> Student Reports</p> <p><u>Read-ings:</u> Readings for each report will be posted on Blackboard.</p>
(14) 4/25	<p>Managing Assistance Nationally and Locally</p> <p><u>Topics:</u> Local welfare offices as "Help Factories". Managing the welfare process. The experience in New York City, Leicester, England, and other locations.</p> <p><u>Read-ings:</u> Bloom, Hill, and Riccio (2003): "Linking Program Implementation and Effectiveness: Lessons from a Pooled Sample of Welfare-to-Work Experiments"</p> <p>Desai and Wiseman (2004): "Inside the Help Factory: Public Assistance Process, Outcome, and Opportunity in New York City"</p>
(15) 5/2	<p>Course Review, Conclusions, Pizza</p> <p><u>Reading:</u> Center for American Progress Task Force on Poverty (2007): <i>From Poverty to Prosperity: A National Strategy to Cut Poverty in Half</i>.</p>
5/9	<p>Final Examination</p>

Programs

This section provides places to start in program review. Suggestions for additions/ deletions will be welcomed.

Overview

Spar, Karen. 2006. *Cash and Noncash Benefits for Persons with Limited Income: Eligibility Rules, Recipient and Expenditure Data, FY2002-2004*. Report No. RL33340. Washington: Congressional Research Service.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Falk, Gene, Melinda Gish, and Carmen Solomon-Fear. 2006. "Welfare Reauthorization in the 109th Congress: An Overview 2006" Report RL33418. Washington: Congressional Research Service.

Supplemental Security Income (Disability)

Szymendera, Scott. 2006. *Supplemental Security Income (SSI): A Fact Sheet*. Report No. 94-486 EPW. Washington: Congressional Research Service.

Szymendera, Scott. 2006. Primer on Disability Benefits: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Report No. RL32279. Washington: Congressional Research Service.

Daub, Hal. 2006. *A Disability System for the 21st Century*. Washington: Social Security Advisory Board.

Supplemental Security Income (Elderly)

Szymendera, Scott. 2006. *Supplemental Security Income (SSI): A Fact Sheet*. Report No. 94-486 EPW. Washington: Congressional Research Service.

Food Stamp Program

Richardson, Joe. 2006. *Food Stamps and Nutrition Program in the 2002 Farm Bill*. Report No. RL33690. Washington: Congressional Research Service.

Earned Income Tax Credit

Eissa, Nada, and Hilary Williamson Hoynes. 2006. "Behavioral Responses to Taxes: Lessons from the EITC and Labor Supply" in James M. Poterba, editor, *Tax Policy and the Economy*, vol. 20. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, pp. 73-110.

Leiserson, Greg. 2006. *Income Taxes and Tax Rates for Sample Families, 2006*. Washington: Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center.

Scott, Christine. 2006. *The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): An Overview*. Report No. RL31768. Washington: Congressional Research Service.

Scott, Christine. 2006. *Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): Changes for 2006 and 2007*. Report No. RS24352. Washington: Congressional Research Service.

Public Housing

Morita, Tia and Marieka Klawitter. 2006. "Making Work Pay for Seattle Public Housing Residents: Jobs Plus and the Challenges of Serving a Diverse Population (A)." *The Electronic Hallway: Case Teaching Resources from the Evans School of Public Affairs*. Seattle: University of Washington.

Morita, Tia and Marieka Klawitter. 2006. "Making Work Pay for Seattle Public Housing Residents: Jobs Plus and the Challenges of Serving a Diverse Population (B)." *The Electronic Hallway: Case Teaching Resources from the Evans School of Public Affairs*. Seattle: University of Washington.

Morita, Tia and Marieka Klawitter. 2006. "Making Work Pay for Seattle Public Housing Residents: Jobs Plus and the Challenges of Serving a Diverse Population (C)." *The Electronic Hallway: Case Teaching Resources from the Evans School of Public Affairs*. Seattle: University of Washington.

Section 8

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. 2003. "Introduction to the Housing Voucher Program." Washington, DC: CBPP. (May 14).

McCarty, Maggie. 2006. *An Overview of the Section 8 Housing Programs*. Report No. RL32284. Washington: Congressional Research Service.

Riccio, James A. 2006. "Subsidized Housing and Employment; Building Evidence About What Works to Improve Self-Sufficiency," An MDRC Working Paper, Prepared for Revisiting Rental Housing: A National Policy Summit (November 14-15).

Medicaid

Herz, Elicia J. 2006. *Medicaid: A Primer*. Report No. RL33202. Washington: Congressional Research Service.

Herz, Elicia J. 2006. *Medicaid Managed Care: An Overview and Key Issues for Congress*. Report No. RL33711. Washington: Congressional Research Service.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Wallace, John. 2006. "A Vision for the Future of the Workforce Investment System." Paper prepared for the annual National Workforce Association conference. St. Petersburg, Florida. December 4.

References

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- Athow, Jonathon. 2007. "Worklessness in Cities: London." *Presentation prepared for GWIPP*. (January 30).
- Bernstein, Jared, and Mark Greenberg. 2006. "A Plan to End Child Poverty—Britain's Initiative Has Helped 700,000 Kids. Why Don't We Have a Goal, Too?" *Washington Post*, Monday, April 3, 2006; p. A19
- Blank, Rebecca, and Ron Haskins, editors. 2001. *The New World of Welfare*. Washington: Brookings.
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- Bloom, Howard S. 2006. "The Core Analytics of Randomized Experiments for Social Research," *MDRC Working Papers on Research Methodology*. (August), 1-32.
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- Brewer, Mike, Alissa Goodman, Jonathan Shaw, Luke Sibieta. 2006. *Poverty and Inequality in Britain: 2006*. Commentary No. 101. London: Institute for Fiscal Studies.
- Carasso, Adam, Rohaly, Jeffrey, and Stererle, C. Eugene. 2003. "Tax Reform for Families: An Earned Income Child Credit." Prepared for the Brookings Institution Welfare Reform and Beyond Series. Policy Brief #26. Washington: Brookings Institution.
- Center for American Progress. 2007. *From Poverty to Prosperity: A National Strategy to Cut Poverty in Half*. Washington: CAP.
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- Daub, Hal. 2006. *A Disability System for the 21st Century*. Washington: Social Security Advisory Board.
- DeNavas-Walt et al. 2006. *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2005*. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P60-231. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. URL: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/p60-231.pdf>
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- Edin, Kathryn, and Maria Kefalas. 2005. *Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood before Marriage*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
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- Förster, Michael. 2005. "What are Equivalence Scales?" Manuscript, 27 September.
- Förster, Michael, and Marco Mira d'Ecole. 2005a. "Combating Poverty and Exclusion through Work." OECD Policy Brief (March). Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. URL: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/62/35/34598300.pdf>
- Förster, Michael, and Marco Mira d'Ecole. 2005b. *Income Distribution and Poverty in OECD Countries in the Second Half of the 1990s*. OECD Social, Employment, and Migration Working Papers No. 22. Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

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- National Health Policy Forum. 2004. "Medicaid: The Basics." Session 2: Medicaid and SCHIP: Eligibility, Benefits, and Financing. *Understanding Medicare and Medicaid: Fundamentals and Issues for the New Congress: An Electronic Briefing Book*. Washington: The George Washington University. Found at http://nhpf.ags.com/M&M_E.brief.book/session2/session2.htm
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