Course Description:
How do social welfare policies in the United States shape class, race, and gender inequality? This course will revolve around this question. What role do these social categories play in the origin of social welfare policy in the U.S. during the early and mid 20th century? How did they shape reforms over the past 50 years? And what role do they continue to play today in our major social welfare policies in the United States. We will examine both broad social insurance policies like Social Security and Medicare, which comprise around half of all federal spending, the large majority of our social welfare spending, and have the largest impact on poverty and inequality, as well as targeted policies including, among others, Medicaid, SSI, the Earned Income Tax Credit, TANF (formerly AFDC), and SNAP (or foodstamps). The central goal of the class is for students to have a working knowledge of our major social welfare policies and the implications of these policies for poverty and inequality.

GRADING POLICIES
- 95-100 A
- 88-94 AB
- 84-87 B
- 78-83 BC
- 74-77 C
- 69-73 CD
- 64-68 D
- 59-63 DF
- <59 F

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Students are expected to be familiar with University of Wisconsin rules surrounding academic honesty.
http://www.wisc.edu/pubs/home/archives/gopher/special93/00000136.html

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS
This is a heavily discussion based seminar. I expect significant participation on the part of all students. All assignments should be 12 points times new roman with 1 inch margins. PLEASE SUBMIT ALL ASSIGNMENTS TO: pherd@lafollette.wisc.edu

1. Every week, to help facilitate our class discussions, email me (pherd@lafollette.wisc.edu) two discussion questions or just questions about the readings
more generally. These must be posted 24 hours prior to class. (10%)  
DUE: EVERY WEEK

2. Discussion Paper: Pick two weeks of your choosing to provide a detailed synthesis of the assigned readings. Focus on a particular theme that emerges based on the particular set of readings assigned. These should be 4 double-spaced pages. (40%)  
DUE: 2 WEEKS OF YOUR CHOOSING

3. OP-ED: You will write an 800-1000 word op-ed that could be published in either a state of national newspaper. Medicaid, and possible reforms to this program, is a hotly debated topic. As a policy analyst, you should be able to provide evidence-based insights that help form your opinion as to how Medicaid should be reformed. The specific topic of reform discussed regarding this program is of your choosing. You can be as specific as to discuss one particular reform option or as broad as a multiple reform options. (10%)  
DUE: February 7

4. Research Paper: This assignment is intended to increase your knowledge of social welfare policy outside of the United States. Take a particular policy area (long term care, pension policy, family policy, etc.) and compare U.S. policy to that policy area in another country or countries. This paper should be 15 double spaced pages. You will also do a presentation before the class.  
DUE: The paper is due May 6. The presentations will be on April 25 and May 2. We will schedule these during the semester. (40%)

SCHEDULE

Day 1 (January 17): Course Overview and Understanding How We Think about The Welfare State

Szalai, Jennifer. Just Desserts. (Deservingness)

Day 2-5 (January 24, January 31, February 7, February 14,) Medicaid and Medicare

Day 2. Medicaid
KFF Medicaid Fact Sheet  


Medicaid Managed Care Fact Sheet—KFF

Medicaid Shift Fuels Rush for Profitable Clients.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/09/nyregion/medicaid-shift-fuels-rush-for-profitable-clients.html?_r=0

**Day 3. Medicaid Long Term Care Policy /Medicaid Reform**

KFF LTC Fact Sheet


Block Granting:


b. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2690386/

**Day 4. Medicare**

Medicare at a Glance—Kaiser Family Foundation


**Day 5. Disability Policy and Medicare Reform**


http://kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/turning-medicare-into-a-premium-support-system-frequently-asked-questions/
Days 6-8 (February 21, February 28, March 7): Poverty Based Policies

Classic Poverty Based Policies in the US/Welfare Reform


Larry Mead, 2013 Testimony.

Current Welfare/TANF/Foodstamps(WIC)/EITC--- Does it promote work or is it simply penal?


Housing Policy
Evicted, Mathew Desmond

Day 9 (March 14). The Tax-based Social Welfare State


March 21 SPRING BREAK!!

Day 10-11 (March 28, April 4). Social Security

The Origins of Social Security
Allice Kessler Harris—designing old women and fools


Herd and Moynihan. Social Security Chapter from Russell Sage Book

**Day 11.**

**Social Security Current Day and Proposed Reforms**


**APRIL 11---Watch the Documentary 13th.**

**Day 12 (April 18).** Incarceration


**Day 13 (April 25).** Class Presentations

**Day 14 (May 2).** Class Presentations