

GPA 416 Contemporary Issues in Social Policy

Pre requisites: None

Learning objectives:

This course is designed to introduce students to contemporary issues and challenges in social policy and it will expose them to the working of the government, local and foreign NGOs, international aid agencies and private providers of social services. The course will act as a foundation course for students who intend to continue education in the fields of public management and public policy. Main focus is on a range of social problems and the use of sociological theory to understand the social-economic processes surrounding the construction of issues as social problems and attempts by policymakers to address them. This course also aims to help students to understand the causes of social problems and how societies attempt to solve them.

Learning outcomes:

After completing the course, students should be able to:

- Gained understanding of factors which influence the development of social policy and the provision of welfare
- Critically examine key social problems.
- Critically analyze how the design of specific policy initiatives has been influenced by the representation of the problem they are meant to solve,
- Improved understanding of the working of governments at federal, provincial and local levels, NGOs, international aid agencies and private providers of social services
- Enhanced appreciation of the complexity of policy and management challenges faced by these organizations in core areas of their operations.
- Increased ability to make informed policy choices in social sectors

Course Contents:

Introduction to Social Policy, Emergence of the Welfare State and Challenges ,
Key Institutions of Social Policy, Key Perspectives on Social Policy,

Concepts of Poverty , Social Exclusion , Deprivation and public action ,
Social Safety Nets, Class, Gender and Hunger

Text books:

1. Hall, A. and James Midgley (2004). 'Social Policy for Development: Local, National and Global Dimensions' in Social Policy for Development. London, Sage Publications.
2. Dwyer, P., & Shaw, S. (Eds.). (2013). An introduction to social policy. Sage Publications.
3. Chambers, D.E. (2000). Analyzing the social problem background of social policies and social programs. In Social Policy and Programs: A Method for the Practical Public Policy Analyst (pp. 7-30). New York: Macmillan