

# The Politics of Poverty

Political Science 4000 2

Office Hours

732 Stubbs Hall

Monday 9:30-11:30

578-2129

Wednesday 1:00-3:00

davishe@lsu.edu

important problems facing our country. The class will start by defining public policy and its

attention since the 1920s, you discuss an aspect of public policy.

You are expected to come to class prepared to participate in the discussion of the day.

from the Moodle website or found via a link on the Moodle website.

placed inside a zipped backpack during exams. Having to place electronic devices inside a zipped backpack will be considered cheating.

## Exams

There are three exams in the course. Each exam is worth 120 points and will consist of forty multiple choice questions (2 points each) and four short answer questions (10 points each). You

may take a makeup exam on Saturday, December 10 during our final exam time. Note: This is the same day your paper is due.

## Quizzes

There will be 10 no-takeaway assignments throughout the course. Each quiz or assignment is worth 15 points. I will count the best 8 of the 10 grades. Quizzes may consist of information

## QUIZZES/HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS. There are no exceptions to this rule. In addition a

## Paper

There is one two-part paper assignment for the course. The first part is a 20-point short-answer paper. The second part is a 20-point brought paper. The first part is a 20-point short-answer paper. The second part is a 20-point brought paper. The first part is a 20-point short-answer paper. The second part is a 20-point brought paper.

- your current beliefs:
1. Why are poor people poor?
  2. What is the responsibility of government when it comes to eliminating poverty?

Answers for each question should be one to two paragraphs long and written in complete sentences. The answer should be double-spaced.

Answer 12-point form. The paper should be 1-2 pages long. The only information needed is the

The second part of the paper is worth 100 points and is due on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 0:00am. You must answer the questions listed above again, but this time you must defend your answer based on the readings from this course plus readings you gather from outside the course. When reading are cited, you must provide the citation (APA style).

This paper must be 4-5 pages long, double spaced, with one inch margins, and use Times New Roman 12 point font. The paper must answer both questions in a single essay format. In other words, your discussion of each question should be integrated into a single essay.

in the page total. Do not put your name anywhere on the paper besides the title page. You must turn in a hard copy of this paper to my office by 10:00 am, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The paper should be placed in my office mailbox.

**Bonus**

Each of you starts out with 5 bonus points. These 5 points are yours to lose. You lose these points by emailing me and asking me questions that are answered on the syllabus or that can be answered using ISLL's website. (e.g., "What are the office hours?" etc.)

**Grading Scale**

Total Assignments		Exam	
540-600	A	108-120	A
480-539	B	96-120	B
420-479	C	84-120	C
360-419	D	72-120	D
0-359	F	0-71	F

**Readings Schedule and Topic Outline**

August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Introduction, what is public policy?
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	Policy Making Process Review
September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Iranian, Nelson and Apple, <i>Striving for Equity: Behavioral Economics and Social Assumptions for a New Paradigm</i>
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	"America"
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	"10 Important Questions about Child Poverty and Family Economic
September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Reminder: Thought paper is due

Alesina, Glaeser, and Sacerdote. 2001. "Why Doesn't the US Have a European-Style Welfare State?" Pages 1-12 only

September 6<sup>th</sup>\*

Why are Poor People Poor?

Doakley, Leonard. 1999. "Why are Poor People Poor?"

September 8<sup>th</sup>\*

Research Methods

Wheeler Charles. 2010. *Introduction to Public Policy*. Ch. 11

Note: Do not panic. It will be okay. You do not have to do the math!

September 13<sup>th</sup>\*

Research Methods Continued

September 15<sup>th</sup>

Exam One

*Section Two: Policy Solutions to the Problem of Poverty*

September 20<sup>th</sup>\*

The U.S. Tax Code: Who Really Pays Taxes

"Policy Basics: The Earned Income Tax Credit"

"Policy Basics: The Estate Tax"

"Policy Basics: The Child Tax Credit"

"Policy Basics: The Child Tax Credit"

September 22<sup>nd</sup>\*

Social Security and the Elderly

"Policy Basics: Tax Treatment of Social Security"

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September 27<sup>th</sup>

Health Care

October 4<sup>th</sup>

AFDC and Why America Hated It

October 6<sup>th</sup>\*

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

"Policy Basics: Introduction to TANF"

"Government Index of Dependence" pp 14-17 of pdf

October 11<sup>th</sup>\*

Evaluating TANF: Sanctions

Rector, Robert and Sarah Vausef. 1999. "The Determinants of Caseload Decline."

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Vol. 38:1-10

Arch Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine Vol. 156:678-684.

October 18<sup>th</sup>\*

Evaluating TANF: Financial Independence

Powers, Michele et al. 2010. "Training to Make Ends Meet: Dubious

Financial Success Among Employed Former Welfare to Work Program

October 20<sup>nd</sup>\*

Exam Two

Section Three: How do race and poverty intersect in America?

October 25<sup>th</sup>\*

Race and Welfare

Gilens, Martin. 1996. "Race and Poverty in America: Public  
Misperceptions and the News." *American Journal of Sociology*  
60:515-527.

October 27<sup>th</sup>\*

Race and Welfare: Distributing Discipline

Schram et al. 2009. "Deciding to Discipline: Race, Choice, and  
Punishment at the Frontlines of Welfare Reform." *American Journal of Sociology*

November 1<sup>st</sup>

Race and Welfare: Vocational Education

David DeWitt

November 3<sup>rd</sup>\*

Immigration and Social Services  
TBA

November 9<sup>th</sup>\*

Poverty and Crime

Capital Services Development

November 10<sup>th</sup>

Education, Race, and Poverty

Waiting for Superman

November 25<sup>th</sup>\*

Education: Race and Poverty

Waiting for Superman

November 17<sup>th</sup>\*

"Turn Around Schools That Work" by Richard Kahlenberg

November 22<sup>nd</sup>\*

Williams, Jeral Paper

November 29<sup>th</sup>

Catch Up/Paper Discussion

December 1<sup>st</sup>

Exam Three

December 10<sup>th</sup>

Paper is due at 10:00am Makeup Exam