SOCI 3445: Social Policy in Contemporary Britain

SPRING 2023

Course Tutor: Dr Angela Morris (acmorr@fdlu.edu)

The aim of this course is to explore the development of Britain’s welfare state and examine current debates and controversies surrounding social policy in Britain.

Course Outline

- An introduction to social policy – what is ‘social policy’?
- Social Policy in Britain from the Poor Law to Beveridge
- Poverty in Britain – defining and tackling poverty
- Social Security – the benefits system
- Employment policy – how to tackle unemployment and worklessness
- Families – how do governments responding to changes in family life?
- Social care – care for our elderly, vulnerable children and adults
- Education policy between 1944 and 1979
- Education policy between 1979 and today
- Pre-National Health Service health in Britain and establishment of the NHS
- The NHS in Britain today
- Housing policy and homelessness
- Conclusions: The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Britain’s social policy

The course requires each student to complete two essays which (along with class discussion, the presentation of tutorials and participation in tutorial discussions) constitute 50 per cent of the overall mark. The remaining 50 per cent will be assessed based on a three-hour examination. Teaching will be based on lectures and tutorials.
Reading List

Students are advised to consult a variety of sources. The list below is not exhaustive and should only be used as a guide.

An Introduction to Social Policy
Alcock, P., Social Policy in Britain, Chp 1, 8 and 12 360 ALC
Alcock, P., The Student’s Companion to Social Policy, Part 1 360 ALC
Baldock, J., Social Policy, Chp 1 360 BAL
Blakemore, K., Social Policy: An Introduction, Chp 1 and 2 360 BLA
Drucker, H., Developments in British Politics 2, Chp 8 320.42 DRU
Dunleavy, P., Developments in British Politics 5, Chp 15 320.42 DUN
Ellison, N & Pierson, Developments in British Social Policy, Introduction & Part 1 360 ELL
Gladstone, D., British Social Welfare, Chp 1 360 GLA
Glennester, H., British Social Policy since 1945, Chp 1 360 GLE
Hill, M., Understanding Social Policy, Chp 1 360 HIL
Hudson, J., The Short Guide to Social Policy, Chp 1 360 HUD
Jones, B., Political Issues in Britain Today (3rd ed.), Chp 10 320.42 JON
Jones, B., Politics UK, Chp 26 320.42 JON
Jones, M., From Beveridge to Blair, Chp 1 360 SUL
Sullivan, M., The Development of the welfare State, Chp 1 362.9 JON

E-books:
Alcock, P., The Student’s Companion to Social Policy, Part 1
Lund, B., Understanding State Welfare: Social Justice or Social Exclusion?

Social Policy from the Poor Law to Beveridge
Baldock, J., Social Policy, Chp 2 360 BAL
Barker, P., Founders of the Welfare State. Esp. Chps 1,2,6,10,11,13 and 15. 362.9 BAR
Birch, R.C., The Shaping of the Welfare State 362.9 BIR
Blakemore, K., Social Policy: An Introduction, Chp 3 360 BLA
Bruce, M., The Coming of the Welfare State 362.9 BRU
Cole, T., Wealth, Poverty and Welfare, Chp 6 362.5 COL
Dunleavy, P., Developments in British Politics 3, Chp 19 320.42 DUN
Dunleavy, P., Developments in British Politics 4, Chp 11 320.42 DUN
Englander, D., Poverty and Poor Law Reform in 19th Century Britain 362.5 ENG
Fraser, D., Evolution of the British Welfare System Chp 1-7 and 10 362.9 FRA
Fraser, D., The New Poor Law in the 19th Century 362.5 FRA
Glennester, H., British Social Policy since 1945, Chp 2 360 GLE
Hay, J.R., Development of the British Welfare State 362.9 HAY
Henriques, U.R., Before the Welfare State, Chps 2 & 3 362.9 HEN
Hill, M., Understanding Social Policy, Chp 2 360 HIL
Johnson, P., 20th Century Britain, Chp 5, 12 & 20 942 JOH
May, T., The Victorian Workhouse 942.08 MAY
Sullivan, M., The Development of the British Welfare State, Chps 2 and 3 362.9 SUL
Thane, P., Foundations of the Welfare State 362.9 THA

E-books:
Page, R., Revisiting the Welfare State
Poverty in Britain

Abercrombie, N., Contemporary British Society, Chp 6


Baldock, J., Social Policy, Chp 4


Cannadine, D., Class in Britain (especially chapter 4)


Clarke, J., ‘Culture of Poverty revisited,’ Sociology Review, April 2000

Cole, T., Wealth, Poverty and Welfare, Chp 5

Danzier, S & Haveman, R., Understanding Poverty

Ellison, N. & Pierson, C., Developments in British Social Policy, Chp 15

Englander, D., Poverty and Poor Law Reform in Nineteenth Century Britain

Fraser, D., Evolution of the British Welfare State, Chp 6


Garrod, J., ‘Social Mobility’, Sociology Review, April 2011

Gladstone., British Social Welfare, Chp 1

Glennester., H., British Social Policy since 1945 (see index)

Halsey, A., Poor Britain

Hantrais., L., Social Policy in the European Union, Chp 8


Institute for Fiscal Studies, ‘Poverty and Inequality in the UK in 2011’ Available at www.jrf.org.uk


Kirby, M., ‘New Approaches to Social Inequality,’ Sociology Review, February 1999

Lewis, G., Rethinking Social Policy, Chp 10


Mack and Lansley., Poor Britain

Marshall, G., ‘What is happening to the working class?’ Social Studies Review, January 1987

Murray, C., The Emerging British Underclass

Rose, M.R., The Relief of Poverty


Shidrick, T. and MacDonald, R. ‘Talking about poverty’ in Sociology Review, February 2015


Townsend, P., Poverty in the United Kingdom
Vincent, D., *Poor Citizens* 362.5 VIN
Williams, J., ‘Family Life and Poverty,’ in *Sociology Review*, September 2000
Williams, J., ‘Inequality and social mobility,’ *Sociology Review*, February 2011
Williams, J., ‘Measuring Poverty in Britain,’ in *Sociology Review*, February 2001

[www.poverty.org.uk](http://www.poverty.org.uk) – The Poverty Site (Information about poverty in the UK)
[www.cpag.org.uk](http://www.cpag.org.uk) – Child Poverty Action Group
[www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk) – The Joseph Rowntree Foundation

**Social Security – The Benefits System**
Alcock, P., *Social Policy in Britain*, Chp 2 360 ALC
Alcock, P., *The Student’s Companion to Social Policy*, Part IV sections 7 & 8 360 ALC
Bartholomew, J., *The Welfare State We’re In*, Chp 2 362.9 BAR
Cole, T., *Wealth, Poverty and Welfare*, Chp 6 362.5 COL
Ellison, N. and Pierson, C., *Developments in Social Policy*. Chp 7 360 ELI
Ellison, N. and Pierson, C., *Developments in Social Policy*. Chp 2, Chp 7 360 ELI
Glennester, H., *British Social Policy since 1945* (See index) 360 GLE
Hill, M., *Understanding Social Policy*, Chp 5 360 HIL
Jones, M., *From Beveridge to Blair*, Chp 2 362.9 JON
Savage, S., *Public Policy in Britain*, Chp 13 360 SAV

[www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk) – Department for Work and Pensions (deals with social security)

**e-books:**
Alcock, P., *The Student’s Companion to Social Policy*, Part IV sections 7 & 8

**Employment Policy**
Alcock, P., *Social Policy in Britain*, Chp 7 360 ALC
Scott, G., ‘The Family Poverty Debate,’ Sociology Review, April 1999
Thane, P., ‘Happy Families: Rethinking the history of the family’, Sociology Review, November 2012
Toynbee, P., & Lawlor, S., ‘Debate on Divorce,’ Sociology Review, September 1999
Williams, J., Marriage and Partnerships,’ Sociology Review, November 2007
Williams, J., ‘Single Person Households, Sociology Review, September 2012
www.cpag.org.uk – Child Poverty Action Group
www.equalityhumanrights.com – Equality and Human Rights Commission
www.familyandparenting.org – Family and Parenting Institute
www.gingerbread.org.uk – Gingerbread – a charity helping one-parent families

e-books:
Alcock, P., The Student’s Companion to Social Policy, Part II, section 17 & Part IV, section 5

Social Care
Alcock, P., Social Policy in Britain, Chps 6 and 10 360 ALC
Alcock, P., The Student’s Companion to Social Policy, Part III, section 3 & Part IV, sections 1-4 & 12 360 ALC
Ballock, J., Social Policy, Chps 7, 13 & 14 360 BAL
Bartholomew, J., The Welfare State We’re In, Chp 7 362.9 BAR
Bochel, H., Social Policy: Issues and Developments, Chp 6 360 BOC
Ellison, N. & Pierson, C., Developments in British Social Policy, Chp 10 360 ELL
Ellison, N. & Pierson, C., Developments in British Social Policy 2, Chp 12 360 ELL
Gladstone, D., British Social Welfare, Chp 8 360 GLA
Glennester, H., British Social Policy since 1945 (see index) 360 GLE
Glennester, H., Paying for Welfare towards 2000, Chp 11 360 GLE
Hill, M., Understanding Social Policy, Chp 8 360 HIL
Jones, M., From Beveridge to Blair, Chp 6 362.9 JON
Johnson, N., Reconstructing the Welfare State, Chp 7 360 JOH
Lewis, G., Rethinking Social Policy, Chp 3 & 7 360 LEW
Lowe, R., The Welfare State in Britain since 1945, Chps 10, 13.2 and 15.2 362.9 LOW
Page, R. and Silburn, R., British Social Welfare in the Twentieth Century 362.9 PAG
Savage, S., Public Policy in Britain, Chp 12 360 SAV
Savage, S. and Alkerson, R., Public Policy under Blair, Chp 11 360 SAV
Sullivan, M., The Development of the British Welfare State, Chp 8 362.9 SUL
Young, A., The Politics of the Welfare State, p.p. 31-33 360 YOU

e-books:
Alcock, P., The Student’s Companion to Social Policy, as above

Education
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<td>‘Education,’ Sociology Review, November 2002</td>
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<td>‘Comprehensive Education Revisited,’ Sociology Review, November 1999</td>
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<td>Mahoney, Governing Schools</td>
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</table>
For issues relating to education, gender, ethnicity and social class

Abercrombie, N., Contemporary British Society (see index) 301 ABE
Ball, S., ‘Education: the Search for Inequality’ in Social Studies Review, November 1988
Banks, O., The Sociology of Education, Chp 3 & 4 370.193 BAN

Boliver, V. and Swift, A., ‘Schools and Social Mobility’ Sociology Review, November 2012
Burgess, R.G., Sociology, Education and Schools, Chps 3 and 4
Clarke, J., ‘Ethnicity and Education Revisited,’ Sociology Review, November 1997
Haralambos, M., Sociology: Themes and Perspectives (See index) 301 HAR
Lewis, G., Rethinking Social Policy, Chp 6
Pilcher, J., Women in Contemporary Britain, Chp 2 305.4 PIL
Reid, I., ‘Education and Inequality,’ Sociology Review, November 1996
Sociology Review, ‘Education, Inequality and Identity,’ Sociology Review, September 1999
Tomlinson, S., Education in a Post-Welfare Society, esp Chps 7 & 8 379.41 TOM
Tomlinson, S., Race and Education
Williams, J., ‘Social Mobility and Elites’, Sociology Review, February 2015
Wragg, T., ‘Education Policy and Class inequality,’ Sociology Review, April 2005

E-books:
Alcock, P., The Student’s Companion to Social Policy, Part IV, section 10
**The National Health Service**

i.) For History and Development see:

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<td>360 GLA</td>
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<td>British Social Policy since 1945 (see index)</td>
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<td>Challenge to the NHS</td>
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<td>From Cradle to Grave, Chp 1</td>
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ii.) For Contemporary Issues see:

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<td>Culley and Dyson</td>
<td>‘Race, Inequality and Health,’ in Sociology Review, September 1993</td>
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<td>HMSO</td>
<td>The New NHS (In NHS Reports &amp; Articles Box)</td>
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Essay Questions
The first essay is to be handed in no later than 5pm on the Thursday of week seven.
Essays should be approximately 1,500-2,000 words. All essays should be properly referenced with a bibliography.

1. Critically assess different theoretical explanations for why we have a welfare state in Britain.

2. Explain why Sir William Beveridge’s 1942 report on Social Insurance and Allied Services argued that tackling ‘Want’ would not be enough to solve the problem of poverty in Britain. What were the report’s guiding principles and what assumptions did Beveridge make when he wrote his report? What were Beveridge’s specific recommendations for tackling ‘Want’?

3. What is ‘poverty’ and is it really a problem in Britain today? Why do some people continue to be in poverty?

4. Explain why Britain’s system of social security utilizes insurance-based, means-tested and universal benefits. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each?
5. Examine the economic, behavioural and institutional causes of unemployment and consider how these explanations have shaped employment policy.

6. ‘Recent government have remained defenders of the traditional family and have favoured strong government actions and incentives to sustain this institution. Discuss.

7. Explain why, despite the creation of a welfare state in the 1940s, personal social care services were relatively neglected in the immediate post-war period. Why did social care services expand in the decades that followed and continued to expand, despite Mrs Thatcher’s desire to limit the role of social workers?

The second essay to be handed in no later than 5pm on the Thursday of week twelve.

8. “The main objective of education policy between 1944 and 1979 was to provide equal opportunity for all.” Discuss.

9. Explain why the post-1988 school system may be said to rest on market principles.

10. Examine health care in Britain before the foundation of the National Health Service in 1948 and explain why a nationalised health care system was seen as beneficial. Why did Aneurin Bevan encounter opposition to the creation of the National Health Service and how did he overcome this opposition?

11. To what extent is the division between the NHS and the private sector blurred and indistinct?

12. Why did post-war governments invest heavily in the provision of public housing and why, in the 1980s, did Margaret Thatcher’s governments encourage the sale of this stock?

Notes on the preparation and presentation of essays

a) Space should be left in the left-hand margin for notes and comments.

b) You must place your name, and the full title of the question you are attempting at the top of the first page. Pages should also be numbered.

c) Essays should be approximately 1,500-2,000 words in length.

d) Quotations, references to other work and factual assertions should be properly referenced. Any referencing style (e.g. Harvard) is acceptable.

e) A bibliography, quoting books, websites, e-books, articles etc. used should be included at the end of the essay.

f) Work must be handed in by the due date. Work handed in late will be failed.

g) Plagiarising, either from published printed work, the internet or from the work of colleagues is not acceptable and any essays found to contain plagiarism will be failed.

Tips on written work

Keep it relevant! Be careful not to stray from what the question is asking you.
Answer the question logically. Set out the points you wish to make step-by-step, and support each assertion with relevant evidence. Unsupported arguments (however relevant to an essay) cannot be graded as highly as those which are defended by relevant evidence. On the other hand, essays should not constitute a collection of factual statements.

Every argument or assertion you make must be backed by evidence. Every piece of evidence you include must relate to your arguments.

Be cautious to avoid sloppy grammar, poor spelling and long sentences as they detract from even the finest of essays. It is always wise to re-read essays a few times after you have completed them to weed out such mistakes.

Please Note: Any student with documented medical, psychological or learning disabilities, who feels that they may need in-class academic adjustments, reasonable modifications, and/or auxiliary aids and services while taking this course, should first contact the Disability Support Services (DSS) on their home campus to discuss specific needs. FDU Florham Campus students should contact the Director of Disability Support Services at 973-443-8079. FDU Metropolitan Campus students should contact the Associate Provost at 201-692-2477. Once the academic adjustments, modifications, or auxiliary aids and services are approved by DSS, the College Dean and the Faculty concerned will be notified.

Dr Angela Morris
January 2023