1. Course Description:

This course surveys the history of social welfare and the social work profession, a broad array of U.S. social welfare services, and the evolution of social work values and ethics. Emphasis is placed on major fields of social work service such as: income maintenance, health care, mental health, child welfare, corrections, and services to the elderly. Analytic frameworks with regard to social welfare policies and services will be presented. These frameworks identify strengths and weaknesses in the current social welfare system with respect to multiculturalism and diversity; social justice and social change; behavioral and social science theory/research; and social work relevant promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation programs and services.

2. Course Content:

There are four main content areas for the course.

1. The philosophic and practical basis for social welfare provisions, including consideration of the respective roles and relationships of:
   - the individual
   - the family
   - the community, groups, educational settings, churches, workplaces, and the nonprofit sector
   - the government at various geographic levels.

2. The history of the social work profession:
   - from the altruistic philanthropist to the development of professional practice
   - the emergence of distinct methods of practice in their historical context
   - the influence of religious values, ethics, and social and political climates on the profession’s development
   - the emergence of specific policies and programs within their historical, social and political contexts.
3. A critical analysis of current social welfare policies, procedures, and programs, nationally and cross-nationally with attention to:
   - the strengths and weaknesses of various policies, programs and procedures
   - evolving population needs
   - the ways in which current policies and programs address promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation issues, and social justice/social change perspectives.
4. Descriptions and analyses using recent social science theory/research knowledge of major areas of social welfare provision and patterns of their delivery, including, but not limited to:
   - services for families, children, adolescents, adults, and the aging (including income maintenance, foster care, protective services, and school social work)
   - mental and physical health services including those targeted toward promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation
   - community service programs
   - correctional services and criminal justice.

3. Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the historical basis for the current U.S. social welfare system, including the history and role of the social work profession.
2. Describe and critically analyze current social welfare policies, procedures, and programs including the role of behavioral and social science research and theory in their evolution.
3. Discuss the strengths and limitations of the current social welfare system in terms of the functions of the provision of basic needs, protection of the vulnerable, prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation, protection of society, and provision of social control. This discussion will incorporate state, national, and cross-national analyses.
4. Describe and critically analyze major fields of social welfare service provision from a multicultural perspective, including but not limited to income security, health and mental health services, child welfare, social work practice in school settings, services to the elderly, and corrections.
5. Discuss and critically analyze current debates, trends, and ethical issues in each specific field of service presented in the course including the implications for social work practice and promoting social justice and social change.

4. Relationship of the Course to Four Curricular Themes:

1. **Multiculturalism and Diversity.** Specific fields of service are critically analyzed from multicultural, historical, and/or cross-national perspectives.
2. **Social Justice and Social Change.** The course critically analyzes current trends and ethical issues and their implications for promoting social justice and social change.
3. *Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation.* The course gives attention to the ways in which current policies and programs address promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

4. *Behavioral and Social Science Research.* Analytic frameworks drawn from behavioral and social science literature and research are presented for each field of service.

5. Relationship of the Course to Social Work Ethics and Values:

The historical overview in this course includes an analysis of the value base of the profession. Ethical responsibilities of social workers within fields of service will be reviewed. Differences among codes of ethics for several social work professional organizations will also be explored.

6. Course Requirements:

**Attendance**

You are required to attend and to be prepared to take part in each class session. Attendance is important to keep up with course work. Please notify me (email or phone) as soon as possible if you must miss a class. It is your responsibility to get materials, handouts, or class notes from one of your classmates if you are not in class. Please be cognizant of the disruptive nature of coming to class late. I will leave handouts by the door of the classroom each week.

**Class preparation requirements**

In addition to weekly attendance, each student is required to write up a question/reaction on the assigned readings for 8 of the class sessions. These are due over email or at my office by 10:00A.M. Monday on the day of class. They will be useful for coming to class prepared to discuss the readings and for my framing some of my comments each week around your ideas.

**Written assignments**

You must complete 3 written assignments. The details of each assignment will be posted on the class email list serve and handed out in class.

1. **Advocacy position statements,** **Due: October 20, 2003.**

In 6 pages, this short assignment is designed to have you present arguments on both sides of a position statement. You can choose one of six controversial positions to defend and oppose. You must support both sides with research and/or policy documentation, NOT OPINION, and the reader should not be able to tell which side you personally favor.

2. **Problem and Policy Paper: Comparing Eras or Domains,** **Due: November 24, 2003.**

The goal of this research paper, of 10-12 pages, is to identify a social condition defined as a problem in two different points in time OR in two different policy domains; discuss the policies