



Course Title and Number: Social Welfare Issues in the United Kingdom (UK)

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Course Objectives:

To introduce students to social welfare issues in the UK by examining critical approaches to welfare; the history of welfare in the UK; social exclusion; education, and health; the social services; citizenship and how the global affects the local within the community. The course encourages critical discussion about the differences between US and British society. The course aims to facilitate student orientation in the context of British society and workplace, and to offer an important socio-historical framework relevant to the other courses they will take.

Course learning outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Be familiar with the main values and assumptions of critical theories of welfare, citizenship and the community.
2. Think critically about social and welfare policy implementation and the socio-economic context in which such policies operate.
3. Compare different attitudes and practices welfare, citizenship and the social services in the UK.
4. Act appropriately in the context of seminar discussions with sensitivity to the differing viewpoints of other students.

Required Text:

Pete Alcock *Social Policy in Britain* (Palgrave. Macmillan 2003)

Further reading will include:

Due to the evolving situations, the topics, co-curricular activities and the readings used for this course are subject to change. An updated outline and schedule is given to students at the start of each course.

J Clarke (et al)	New Managerialism New Welfare (Open University, London, 2000)
L. Hantrais	Social Policy in the European Union (Macmillan 1995)
Will Hutton	The World We're In (Little,Brown.London.2002)
S Kane & M Kirby	Wealth, Poverty and Welfare (Macmillan, London 2001)
S Moore	Social Welfare Alive (Stanley Thornes, London 1998)
J. Oakland	British Civilization (Routledge.London 2001)
P Trowler	Investigating Health Welfare and Poverty (Collins, London 1996)

Websites:

www.europa.eu.int

<http://.dss.gov.uk>

<http://.dss.gov.uk/50years/index.htm>

www.sosig.ac.uk

<http://www.jrf.org.uk>

www.2.rgu.ac.uk/publicpolicy

Topics covered will include:

- Introduction to Socio-Cultural aspects of the UK
Outline of key topic areas and themes. Social Policy and Welfare Video (Englishness)
Alcock Chapter 1
- History of Welfare and Ideologies of Welfare
Alcock Chapter 12
Glennerster Chapters 1 and 2
<http://.dss.gov.uk/50years/index.htm>
N. Abercrombie and A. Warde et al *Contemporary British Society* (Polity Press. 2003)
H. Glennerster *British Social Policy since 1945* (Blackwell. 2003)
- Social Class and Welfare
The State vs. The Market
Alcock Chapters 8 and 9
- Education and Society
Alcock Chapter 3
www.sosig.ac.uk
<http://teacherxpress.com/cat.php?gid=17>
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/index.htm>
- The National Health Service (NHS)
Alcock Chapter 4
- Media representation and welfare
Abercrombie Chapter 12
- Social Security

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Alcock Chapter 2

<http://.dss.gov.uk>

- The Voluntary Sector and Informal Welfare
Alcock Chapters 10 and 11
- 'Think globally, Act locally'. Citizenship and Community
Alcock Chapter 14
www.europa.eu.int

Instructional Methods:

Lectures provide accessible interpretations of the main elements of the syllabus and visual resources are sometimes introduced to reinforce learning through different approaches; seminars encourage student involvement in debates about subject matter, fostering a critical attitude. The assessment strategy follows from this. The seminar component is a minor element in the assessment but encourages involvement in debates; essays are designed to ensure students are able to analyse the subject matter effectively using academic literature and accepted methods of citing sources and presenting bibliographies; the written examination is designed to test their understanding in circumstances in which they are unable to rely on secondary sources.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all lectures and course visits. Students who miss more than two sessions, without reasonable grounds, may be penalised on their final grade.

Assessment Plan:

Students are required to keep abreast of contemporary British social welfare issues by reading any of the daily broadsheet newspapers (Guardian, Independent, Financial Times, Times or Daily Telegraph) and watching Channel 4's evening news (7.00pm daily) or BBC2's 'Newsnight' (10.30pm daily). Students will be asked to present the findings of the research for their essay to the whole group in a 10 - 15 minute presentation in the second part of the course.

Grade Scale:

Attendance, participation and presentations (30%)

Mid term examination – Short answer (20%)

2000 word essay (20%)

Final Examination– Essay questions (30%)

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Student Presentations:

These presentations will be a verbal summary of the research undertaken for the essay. Presentations should last a maximum of ten minutes. Power Point may be used but only for visual representation of images (e.g. photos etc). If Power Point is to be used, this must be booked in advance by the student at reception. On day of presentation students must have set up equipment before class commences.

2000 Word Essay:

Students will be required to undertake research on a selected topic to be agreed in advance with the course teachers. The topic will relate to subject areas covered in the course. Each essay must be an original piece of work and be presented according to standard academic practices. Guidance will be given in class. The essay is to be handed in by Thursday October 12th (prior to the commencement of the final exam).