Course Description
In this course on social policy and the Latinx community in the US, students will develop a broad understanding of how social policy at the local, state and federal levels affect Latinxs’ access to and interactions with social services. After developing a critical understanding of the diversity of the Latinx community and of the socio-political and –historical context for the development of social policies impacting this group, students will explore social policy and related social services around immigration, health, education, and labor that deeply affect the lived experiences of Latinxs. Students will then investigate Latinxs’ participation in the development of social policies as well as the ways in which Latinx grassroots movements and organizations influence national debates on public policy and social services for the Latinx community. Students will also learn about this group’s economic contributions to funding at local, state and national levels to the U.S. social welfare system, as well as new and current initiatives promoting social policies geared towards social and economic justice for Latinxs.

Through course readings, lectures and discussions students will develop tools for critical thinking and analysis about how social services and the daily lived experiences of Latinxs are mediated by policy and its implementation at local, state and federal levels. Students will also develop skills in case study analysis through interactions and interviews with invited guests – local Latinx community members and social leaders – who will share their own perspectives, knowledge and firsthand experience around issues related to social policy. Over the course of the semester, students will formulate plans for social policy advocating for social justice and human rights within the Latinx community.

Course Objectives
1. Identify and analyze social policy at the local, state, and federal levels in US that impacts Latinxs’ access to social services and affects their daily lives
2. Understand how social welfare and services for Latinxs in the US are mediated by policies across local, state and federal levels
3. Identify economic contributions Latinxs have made towards the social welfare system in the US, and in turn, understand how this system benefits (or not) the Latinx community
4. Understand how social welfare programs benefit (or not) the Latinx community
5. Develop a critical understanding of the socio-political and –historical context for the development of social policies that have impacted Latinx community in the US
6. Investigate Latinx, grass-roots social movements advocating for social policy reform that would positively benefit Latinxs in the US
7. Apply critical thinking to formulate policies that promote social and economic justice for Latinxs in the US

Course expectations and requirements

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION
Students are expected to attend all classes, be prepared to discuss assigned readings, and participate fully in all class activities. Part of your weekly participation will involve written responses to readings on
the Canvas Discussion Board (see below). Instructors must be advised in advance of anticipated absences and within 24 hours of unexpected absences. More than 2 unexcused absences will affect your participation grade and jeopardize your ability to pass the course.

STUDENT CONDUCT
Students are expected to be familiar with and comply with the University of Pennsylvania's Code of Academic Integrity, which presents standards regarding plagiarism, multiple submissions and other actions. All students must read and be responsible for the information in this Code. There is a special section of this website that addresses issues for international students.

www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity

IMPROVE YOUR WRITING
Writing is an essential professional skill for policy analysis and social work practice. Even the best writers have room for improvement. In some cases, instructors may suggest that students seek help with their writing; in other cases, students might decide on their own that professional help is in order. Penn’s Marks Family Writing Center has a variety of services for those who would like help with their writing (http://writing.upenn.edu/critical/writing_center).

Course papers and essays must adhere to APA (American Psychological Association) style guidelines. Make sure to review it thoroughly prior to submitting your papers. OWL Purdue APA site is the best resource on the web for APA formatting. All https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

GENERAL POLICIES ON ASSIGNMENTS
All work completed by students, whether in class assignments or formal assignments, must be the student’s own work. Faculty will check papers from electronic sites to assure that students have not taken work off the internet or directly from text books. As indicated above, students must adhere to the University of Pennsylvania's Code of Academic Integrity. Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are to be submitted to the professor via Canvas by the dates indicated on the syllabus.

GRADING
The grade for this course is calculated as follows:

- Participation & Attendance 25% Semester Long
- Essay on Social Capital in the Latinx Community 15% Due 2/11
- Social Policy Analysis 15% Due 3/11
- Essay on Challenges in Working with Latinx Immigrants 15% Due 4/15
- Policy Proposal & Presentation 30% Due 5/2

COURSE GRADES
A+ = 97-100 B+ = 87-89 C+ = 77-79 D+ = 66-69 F = 59 and below
A = 94-96 B = 84-86 C = 74-76 D = 63-65
A- = 90-93 B- = 80-83 C- = 70-73 D- = 60-62

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Class Attendance & Participation – 25%
Instructors must be advised in advance of anticipated absences and within 24 hours of unexpected absences. More than 2 unexcused absences will affect your participation grade and jeopardize your
ability to pass the course. To engage fully with the readings, students must submit a weekly reflection to the respective Canvas Discussion thread for that week. This reflection must include at least one short passage from one or more of that week’s readings, including author(s) and page number(s), and a question or comment pertaining to that/those passage(s). The question should push your fellow classmates’ thinking on that reading or on that week’s class topic. Reflections should be posted by 11:59PM the day before class, beginning Session 2 (first response due on Canvas by 11:59pm on 2/4).

Essay on Social Capital in the Latinx Community – DUE 2/11 by 11:59pm
Write a 1,000 word (approx. 4 page) essay.
   a. Consider the socio-political and historical context for the development of social policies that have impacted Latinxs and discuss 1-2 significant challenges they face in accessing social services.
   b. Keeping in mind the diversity of Latinx immigrants, identify and discuss 1-2 forms of social capital in the Latinx community that might be drawn upon by Latinxs, social workers and/or policymakers to meet these challenges.

Using Bartach’s eightfold path model, write a 1,000 word (approx. 4 page) policy analysis paper.
   a. Consider one of the primary challenges that the Latinx immigrant community faces in relation to health, education and labor in terms of services, access, communication, and/or protection
   b. Choose 1 social policy addressing this challenge and use the eightfold path model to analyze it

Essay on Challenges in Working with Latinx Immigrants – DUE 4/15 by 11:59pm
Write a 1,000 word (approx. 4 page) essay.
   a. Consider the Latinx community’s participation in social policy development through immigration reform, the DREAMer movement and Immigrant-Friendly City initiatives.
   b. Analyze both the successes and lack of support for these initiatives.
   c. Discuss the resulting challenges social workers face in working with undocumented immigrants or Latinx individuals of mixed-status families.

Policy Proposal and Presentation – DUE 5/2/19 by 11:59pm
Write a 1,500 word (approx. 7 pages) policy proposal and prepare a 7-10 minute oral presentation on this proposal.
   a. Choose one policy issue relevant to the Latinx community and discuss how it has been addressed in social policy at the local, state or federal level.
   b. Formulate a policy proposal addressing this issue. Explain how it addresses issues around social and economic justice. Consider how to promote this policy so as to garner sufficient support for approval at the local, state, or federal level.
   c. Consider the impact this policy would have on the role of social workers’ who work with the Latinx community

COURSE THEMES AND TOPICS
(Subject to change as needed)

THEME 1       OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL POLICY AND LATINXS IN THE US

Session 1, 1/22/19      Introduction: Social Policies and Latinxs

Session 2, 1/29/19 Socio-political and Socio-economic Contexts for Social Policy for Latinxs


Session 3, 2/5/19 Latinxs in the US: Diversity, Affiliations, Intersections


Session 4, 2/12/19 Analyzing Social Policy for Latinxs


THEME 2 SOCIAL POLICY AND LATINXS AT LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Session 5, 2/19/19 Health
All read:


Choose 2 additional articles:


Session 6, 2/26/19 Education


SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS ON MARCH 5

Session 7, 3/12/19 Labor


**Session 8, 3/19/19  Immigration and Human Rights**


**THEME 3  PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT FOR LATINXS**

**Session 9, 3/26/19  Socio-political and -historical Contexts for Participation in Policy Development**


Session 10, 4/2/19   The DREAMER Movement, Immigration Reform and Immigrant-Friendly Cities

Immigration Reform:

DREAMER Movement:


Immigrant-Friendly Cities:

Teaching Tolerance. (February 1, 2017). What’s a sanctuary city anyway? https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/whats-a-sanctuary-city-anyway


Session 11, 4/9/19   Participation in Social Policy Development: Agendas for Social Transformation


Session 12, 4/16/19   Community Growth, Revitalization, & Social Change through Social Policy


Schools for Chiapas. Organizational history. http://www.schoolsforchiapas.org/who-we-are/organizational-history/

**Session 13, 4/23/19**  
**Community Panel on Social Policy** (Local Latinx leaders/speakers TBD)  
**READINGS TBD**

**Session 14, 4/30/19**  
**Social Policy Presentations & End of Semester Celebration**  
**Advocating for Policies that Promote Social Justice for the Latinx Community**