COURSE TITLE: Poverty and Welfare

COURSE NUMBER: SOC 309

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines poverty and current welfare assistance programs in the U.S. against a background of conflicting values, attitudes, and experience accumulated over hundreds of years. It includes discussion of how today’s economic factors affect the incidence of poverty. Current federally supported programs, the political and social context that produced them, and policy choices for the future are also studied.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 101 or SOC 101

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

GOAL A:
Describe the incidence of poverty and the development and structure of the welfare system in the United States.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

A-1 Describe the evolution of social welfare from colonial times to the present.
A-2 Define poverty as defined by the Federal Government and how it is measured.
A-3 Explain the demographics of poverty in the U.S.
A-4 Apply the theoretical frameworks used to understand poverty and welfare use.
A-5 Cite examples of the influence of social structure and social policy on poverty.

GOAL B:
Discuss the gender effects of poverty.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

B-1 Define “feminization of poverty”.
B-2 Explain the cultural and socioeconomic forces that place women at greater risk of poverty.
B-3 Describe welfare recipients’ practices surrounding collection of child support.

**GOAL C:**
Describe the impact of the macroeconomic environment on the incidence of poverty and policy responses.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

C-1 Identify the impact of depression and recession on absolute poverty, relative poverty and social welfare policy.
C-2 Evaluate the cause and effect of economic recession on the creation of the “new poor”.

**GOAL D:**
Describe the context and the major issues of social welfare policy.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

D-1 Analyze the forces that impact the perpetuation of poverty in the United States.
D-3 Recognize “stigma symbols” and their impact on the welfare recipient.
D-4 Discuss the strategies welfare recipients employ to supplement their income.

**GOAL E:**
Organize and articulate thoughts clearly and write logically.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

E-1 Use appropriate APA format for scholarly writings.
E-2 Write clearly, concisely, and appropriately using correct English grammar, punctuation, usage, mechanics, sentence structure, and vocabulary.
E-3 Communicate information orally in a logical and grammatically correct manner.