

Short Form Unit Details

Unit Title	Approaches to Social Policy
Level	1
Reference No. (showing level)	PSO-1-110
Credit Value	15 CAT points
Student Study Hours	Contact hours: 40 Student managed learning hours: 110
Pre-requisite learning	None
Co-requisites	None
Excluded combinations	None
Unit co-ordinator	Ruth Van Dyke
Faculty/Department	Arts and Human Sciences / Social and Policy Studies
Short Description	This unit provides an introduction to social policy in the context of social welfare.
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop students' understanding of key social policy concepts, values, principles and theories. To familiarise students with different strategies to fund and deliver welfare. To develop students' understanding of who benefits from social welfare. To familiarise students with key ideologies and critiques of social welfare and the context in which they develop and are applied. To improve students' study skills and written communication skills.
Learning Outcomes	<p>Knowledge and Understanding: By the end of this unit the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand the different values and principles underpinning social policy identify who benefits from social policy describe different strategies to fund and deliver welfare and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different strategies. <p>Intellectual Skills: By the end of this unit the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage in informed discussion on a range of issues relating to social policy and welfare summarise and compare different welfare perspectives and describe the critiques of welfare ideology discuss the impact of different ideologies on social welfare provision. <p>Practical Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop research skills through critical reading, data collection and the production of written work Be able to communicate their understanding in both oral and written form The ability to prepare and deliver oral presentations. <p>Transferable Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills in reading and comprehending academic texts; Skills in taking notes from texts; Ability to define terms; Written communication skills;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT skills; • Ability to use a range of library and learning resources; • Critical and analytical skills.
Employability	<p>This unit prepares students for employability by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drawing on material and resources from the social policy and welfare field and encouraging students to engage with this material • introducing students to the impact of social policy on welfare • enabling students to relate to and interact effectively with individuals and groups
Teaching and learning pattern	Interactive lectures, seminar discussion and activities, reading, note-taking, critically engaging with a text, developing an argument in relation to questions.
Indicative content	The politics of social policy. Values and principles of social welfare. Forms of service delivery (State, voluntary, private and informal). Paying for Welfare. Who benefits from social welfare? Ideologies and theoretical critiques of welfare: needs of capitalism and post war consensus; Neo-liberalism/New Right; Third Way/New Labour; feminist critiques; anti-racist critiques.
Assessment	Essay of up to 1200 words (worth 50% of the unit mark).
<i>Elements & weightings</i>	Exam – two hour examination (worth 50% of the unit mark)
Indicative Sources (Reading lists)	<p>Alcock P, Erskine A and May M (eds.) (2003) <i>The Student's Companion to Social Policy</i>, Oxford: Blackwells</p> <p>Alcock P (2003) <i>Social Policy: themes and issues</i>, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillian</p> <p>Baldock J, Manning N, Miller S, and Vickerstaff S (eds.) (2003) <i>Social Policy</i> (2nd edition), Oxford, Oxford Univ. Press</p> <p>Blakemore K (2003) <i>Social Policy: an introduction</i>. Buckingham: Open Univ Press</p> <p>George V and Wilding P (1994) <i>Welfare and Ideology</i>, New York: Harvester Wheatsheaf</p> <p>Lavalette M and Pratt A (eds.) (2007) <i>Social Policy: theories, concepts and issues</i>, Thousand Oaks Calif: Sage</p> <p>Pierson C and Castles F (eds.) (2000) <i>The Welfare State Reader</i>, Cambridge: Polity Press</p> <p>Williams F (1989) <i>Social Policy: A Critical Introduction</i>, Cambridge: Polity Press</p>