Social Policy: SW-3000 Lecture Notes

Scott Coble, B.S., MSW Candidate, Graduate Teaching Assistant

Supervising Professor: Dr. Cathy McElderry

Introduction

Part 1: Chapters 1 and 2

Part 2: Chapters 3-5

Part 3: Chapters 6-11

Part 4: Chapters 12-14

Popple, P. R., & Leighninger, L. (2019). *The policy-based professional: An introduction to social welfare policy analysis for social workers* (7th ed.). Pearson.

Introduction

The following slides will outline specific topics and concepts discussed during class. Refrain from relying solely on this information in preparation for assignments.

PART ONE

Chapters 1 - 2

Social Policy vs. Social Welfare Policy

Social Policy – imprecise term no real definition in academic literature

- Principles, guidelines, or procedures that serve the purpose of maximizing uniformity in decision-making (p. 22)

- Statements of what "ought to happen"

- The pattern of action that resolves conflicting claims or provides incentives for cooperation

- A purposive course of action followed by people dealing with a problem

Social Welfare Policy (subcategory of Social Policy) – p. 30

- Anything the government chooses to do, or not to do, that affects the quality of life of its people.

- Concerned with principles and guidelines for purpose of dealing with the problem of dependency in society

- Concerned with how policies come into being and the effects of those policies

- Concerned with how policy affects social work practice (p. 25)

Examples of Social Welfare Programs (Policies)

Food stamps or Medicaid

Senior Citizen centers

Adult and Child Protective Services

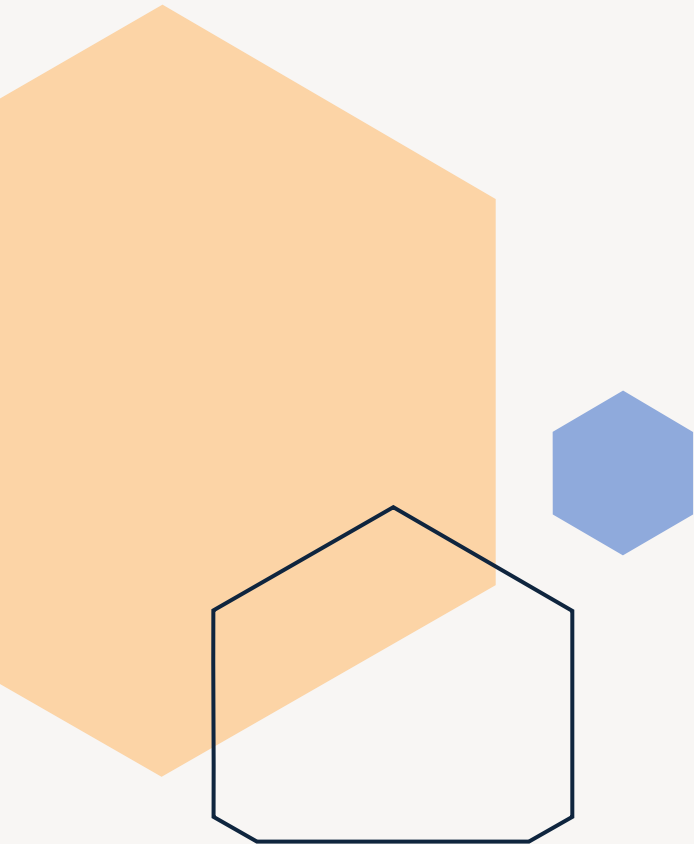Housing Assistance

Social Work

Micro Practice

- When individuals such as social workers translate macro- and mezzo-level policy into actual services for clients (aka one-on-one or group) – (p. 28)

Mezzo Practice

- Administrative policy that organizations generate to direct and regularize their operations (p. 28)

Macro Practice

- Broad laws, regulations, guidelines that provide the basic framework for the provision of services and benefits (p. 27)

Chapters 1-2

Policy-based Profession

SYSTEMS: (p. 17)

- Professional system

- Policy system

- Client system

STRENGTHS: (p.14)

- Acceptance of systemic influences on human behavior

- Acceptance of social work practice within an organizational context

- Acceptance of difficult functions as part of social work practice

Policy Practice determines the theoretical focus of services, major goals of service, and characteristics of clients.

CSWE "Engage in Policy Practice" – p. 25

- Knowledge about policy formulation, analysis, implementation, and evaluation

- Accessing how social welfare and economic policies impact the delivery of and access to social services

- Identification of social policy at local, state, and federal level that impacts well-being service delivery

- Applying critical thinking to analyze, formulate, and advocate for policies
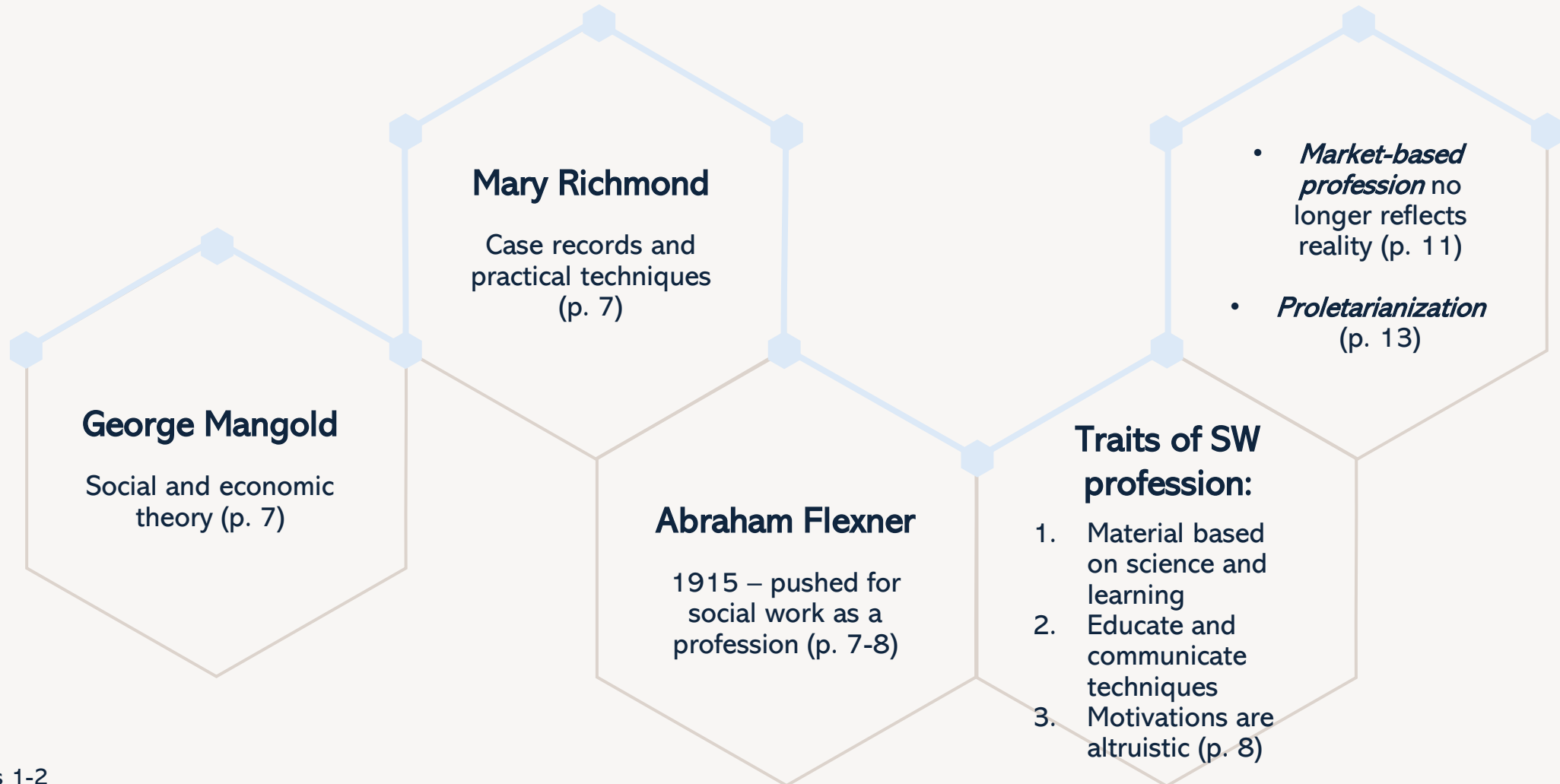
Four Basic Policy Practice Skills:

1. Political skills

2. Analytic skills

3. Value-clarifying skills

4. Interactional skills

Policy Practice Roles (p. 5)

Nonprofit Consultant

Advocate

Administrator

Program Evaluator

Research / Analyst

Social Work – Pursuit of Professional Status

Mary Richmond

Case records and practical techniques (p. 7)

George Mangold

Social and economic theory (p. 7)

Abraham Flexner

1915 – pushed for social work as a profession (p. 7-8)

- *Market-based profession* no longer reflects reality (p. 11)

- *Proletarianization* (p. 13)

Traits of SW profession:

1. Material based on science and learning
2. Educate and communicate techniques
3. Motivations are altruistic (p. 8)

Summary – Part One

"…our major goal is to help develop skills of policy analysis that will enable practitioners to understand and, when possible, affect the policy context of their practice" (p. 30)

PART TWO

Chapters 3 - 5

Social Welfare Policy Analysis

Note: the term "policy analysis" can be used in vague and inconsistent way.

Essential skills of analysis and critical judgment:

- **Development of hypothesis or guiding questions**

- **Discovery of patterns or the creation of principles to explain these relationships**

- **Control of rival hypotheses in an experimental context**

The approach to social welfare in the U.S. is best described as a mixed public, voluntary, and for-profit system.

Policy analysis is limited due to the limited analytical capacities of human beings, conflicts between intergroup values and ethics, and resource limitations for conducting research.

Most social welfare policies are based upon some version of the rational choice perspective of human behavior and upon strongly held values.

The First Step in Policy Analysis is to specify the BOUNDARIES of the policy before proceeding!
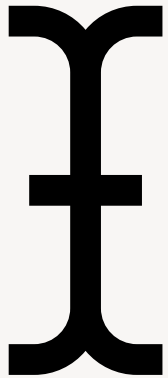
Because policies have vague and overlapping boundaries, it is important to carefully specify them and constantly be aware of the need to maintain FOCUS!

A policy is often a response to address more than one social problem!

Due to agencies rarely writing down their histories, doing a historical analysis is not the most effective method to evaluate the agency policies. Instead, practitioner policy analysis is the most appropriate and useful for social workers within their agencies.

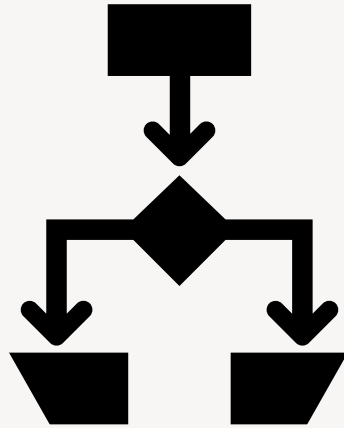Legislation passed relating to racism, sexism, or other prejudices is best explained by a conflict of VALUES.
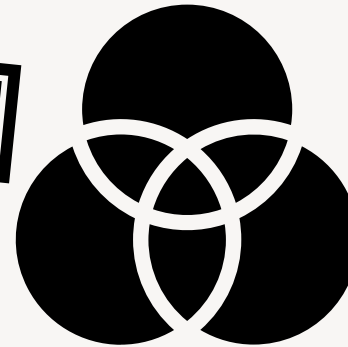
Four Types of Descriptive Policy Analysis

Content

Description of policy in terms, goals, and means

Choice

Systematic process of looking at options available

Comparative

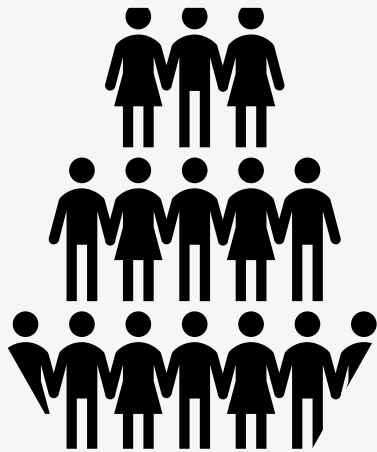Systematically comparing policies across settings

Historical
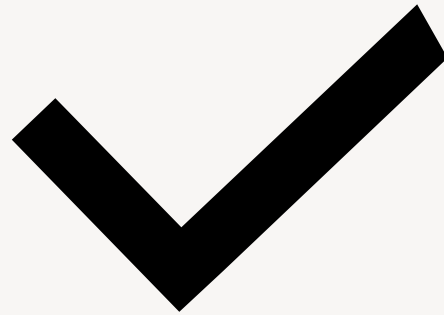
Brief review of preceding events

Types of Social Benefits Provided

These are financed through taxation, voluntary contributions, and fees.

Universal Allocation

The creation of a right to the benefit

Selective Allocation

Efficient, need-based, and without right to benefit

Greatest degree of self-determination

Cash benefits

Public welfare benefits and SSI are examples of…

Categorical public assistance programs

The opportunity cost of a policy consists of all the outcomes or benefits that must be sacrificed if that particular policy is adopted rather than an alternative policy.

Historical Analysis

Why is it helpful?	The best historical policy analysis relies on...	The first and most important tasks in historical analysis...	Important questions to ask in historical analysis...	As historical evidence is gathered...
It gives some sense of how and why particular programs and approaches developed	Gathering of real facts, not primary or secondary sources	The formulation of the hypotheses or guiding questions	1. Is the source authentic 2. What was condition of witness @ event 3. What was intent of document	It must be evaluated and interpreted

A name to remember: Dorothea Dix advocated for PRIMARY CARE for the treatment of those diagnosed as "mentally ill." – Example of Historical Analysis

Social/Economic Analysis

Sequence of steps…

1. Boundaries
2. Problem
3. Facts
4. Theories
5. Values
6. Goals
7. Hypotheses
8. Economics

Goals

- Policy goal(s) is the desired state of affairs that is hoped to be achieved by enacting the policy.
- Stated goals: manifest; Unstated goals: latent

Chapter 5

PART THREE

Chapters 6 - 11

Chapter 6: Poverty

"Welfare"	Onion Metaphor	War on Poverty	Welfare Dependent	AFDC
conceptually refers to a wide range of programs including worker's compensation, social security, and supplement security income	the middle layer of people consists of people who receive assistance for 2 – 8 years and are on and off again users of the public welfare system	The 1960's - empower individuals and neighborhoods wtih social service strategies, human capital strategies, supplemental security income	Despite false concepts within society, children who are raised in heavily welfare-dependent families will not become welfare-dependent adults	In 1996, this program was replaced with the current program, TANF

Chapter 7: Aging

Before …	Excluded	Also…	1965	46%
the 1935 Social Security Act was passed, pensions were only available to veterans, federal service employees, and employees of SOME local and state governments	the 1935 Social Security Act excluded all workers who were domestic servants and laborers which was nearly 50% of the African-American population	the 1935 Social Security Act did not include benefits for disabled individuals	Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the new legislation that established Medicare and Medicaid programs.	Of the national budget consists of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, ACA and other health programs

Chapter 8: Mental Health and SUD

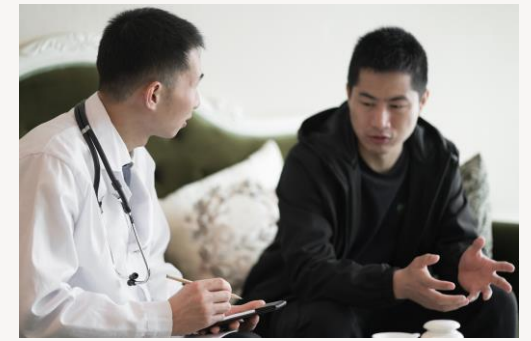| Criminality	Disparities	Dual Diagnoses	Comprehensive …	Substance Abuse
The U.S. has a longstanding history of using the criminal justice system to combat drug abuse.	While African Americans constitute only 12% of the population, they account for 38.7% of all prisoners in the U.S.	Or Comorbidity refers to someone with SUD and another mental health	Drug Abuse and Prevention Act of 1970 classified drugs according to potential for abuse, drug effects, and medical usefulness.	Is complex and is difficult to define, much less develop policies to remedy the situation

Chapter 9: Health

Top 2 major problems with US healthcare	Universal Coverage	Most important healthcare policy	ACA includes…	Health Determinants
1. The number of uninsured 2. Extreme expense of healthcare costs	Universal Coverage can involve a single-payer system that many developed countries have adopted.	Since 1965, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has been the most extensive piece of healthcare policy in the US.	Expansion of Medicaid to include everyone with income of 133% of the poverty guideline	1. Social/Economic factors 2. Health behaviors 3. Clinical Care 4. Physical environment 5. Genes and Biology

Chapter 10: Child Welfare

Family Preservation	Shift in Public Opinion	Before…	Surge of child abuse cases…	Poverty
The approach aimed at reducing the number of children removed from their families and placed in foster care.	Toward the rights of children: 1. Families providing greater protection 2. Change in role of children in the economy	The Social Security Act of 1935, child welfare was handled through private interventions.	In the 1950's was due to the advances in the medical profession that allowed doctors to better identify traumatic injuries and probable causes	The primary source of America's child welfare problem

Chapter 11: Immigration

New agenda…	Immigration Policy	Naturalization Act of 1790	Johnson-Reed Immigrant Act of 1924	Fear
1. Secure borders 2. Protect against crime and terrorism 3. Reverse a loss of both skilled and unskilled jobs	is divided into three "doors" Front Door Side Door Back Door (Zolberg, 2006)	The law that first established a statement as to what is required to be a citizen of the U.S.	Established national origin quotas based on the white population recorded in the 1920 census.	The history of immigration laws has been based upon the arrivals who were culturally different and feared they would engulf and submerge their cultural identity.