Teaching Philosophy: I believe that my most challenging task as your professor is to select and design those activities, assignments, and opportunities that will help you learn as much as you can while challenging you AND supporting you in the process. As you will soon experience for yourself, this class will be an exciting blend of hard work, critical thinking, personal application, and engaging discussions. I personally guarantee you that I will put as much of my energy and creativity into this class as I can toward making this a worthwhile learning experience. I love what I do, and you will witness this every day in class. You should know, too, that I have high expectations for all students. I expect you to work hard in this class; you may feel overwhelmed with reading sometimes, with writing other times, and with the projects at times. I guarantee if you work hard, seek help, come to class, and follow the guidelines you can do well in this class. I do need your help if we are going to make this class an honest, energizing, comfortable, and active learning environment. With your contributions, we will learn a great deal from the class and one another, all while having a pretty good time.

Information about the Course

Course Description
This course covers major areas of social policy pertaining to families. Key legislation affecting families is highlighted. Emphasis is placed on providing opportunities for students to think critically and engage in discussions about trends and controversies in family policy.

Course Goal
Goal: The overall goal of this course is to help students develop the conceptual, analytic, and practical skills for understanding and influencing family policy. The primary aim of this course is to answer the question, “How can family policy be used to strengthen all families?” To answer this question, it will be important to understand contemporary families, what family policy is, and various ways to influence policy decisions.
Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. **Define family policy**, based on accepted scholarly definitions and new thinking in the field.
2. **Engage in critical thinking** in discussions and presentations, analyzing key family policies in light of changing families and assumptions about families.
3. **Engage in objective discussions with peers about policy issues.**
4. **Describe how policy is made and apply this knowledge to policy examples.**
5. **Identify ways to engage in family policy**, based on examples of research, advocacy, and community participation.

**A note on critical thinking:** In activities, discussion, and participation, you will have opportunities to practice critical-thinking skills. These are essential when it comes to understanding and working with policy. This means to be aware of your own views, assumptions, and values; to contribute to a safe environment for all to cultivate awareness; to challenge your thinking through group discussions and in- and out-of-class activities; and to analyze policies for their assumptions and biases. (Critical thinking does not mean to criticize other people. In fact, we will be encouraging dialogue and discussion rather than debate.)

Structure of the Course

The course has three units organized around these topics.

**Three units address the following guiding questions:**

1. **What is family policy?** The purposes of family policy. Changing families and what this means for family policies. The structure of government and policy processes. Tensions over world-views about family. Practicing civil discourse.
2. **What are current family and child policies?** Key developments in child and family policies.
3. **How could you be involved in family policy?** Examples from extraordinary and ordinary people. Professional roles in family policy.

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*Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE)*

This is a CFLE course. The National Council on Family Relations (ncfr.org) has approved the content of this course for the University of Florida’s Certified Family Life Educator Program in the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences. This course meets the professional requirements for the CFLE content area of family policy and law. This course is required for the UF Family Life Educator Certificate and the national certificate as a professional Certified Family Life Educator. See the instructor or your advisor if you are interested in becoming a CFLE.
Course Communication

1. When emailing, please use the Canvas website (preferred). I will do my best to respond within 24 hours on weekdays or 48 hours on weekends. If you have not received a reply within that timeframe, please email again or see the instructor.
2. Check the Canvas announcements page and your email every day for notices about class.
3. Come see me during office hours!

The instructor is available to assist students with this class during office hours, by email, or meeting by appointment. Please note: If you cannot meet during office hours, please schedule an appointment at another time by emailing me on Canvas with the dates and times that you are available. If you have questions or problems with the course or something else, please see me as soon as you can. Do not wait until the end of the semester, especially if you need help. Late in the semester might be too late to resolve problems.

Required Course Materials

Required Text and readings:
- Read the Miami Herald, the New York Times, or Washington Post. NPR News, PBS Nightly News or similar respected news outlets will be required for some assignments.
- Other readings are listed on the course calendar and available through electronic course reserves, in the Marston library, or through the Internet.

Recommended Readings
- Subscribe to a Florida government news feed for the relevant Senate and House committees and follow committee activities.
- Subscribe to The Children’s Campaign Current http://iamforkids.org/. You may also want to subscribe to Safie Review for more Florida legislative and political news. http://www.sayfiereview.com/

Make sure you have read the assigned material BEFORE coming to class. IN ADDITION, I may assign other material when news or research about something relevant comes up.

Videos and Speakers
Several videos are an integral part of the course material covered in class. Usually there will be a viewing guide to help you identify main concepts and analyze key parts of the video. If you have an excused absence, you can view missed videos that are not available online in my office or the library. Speakers who are experts on particular topics will be invited to present to the class. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT they may or may not use PowerPoint slides and that their presentations are still part of the course material. Students will be responsible for taking notes and reading additional articles they provide as preparation for tests.
## Course Schedule (tent.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Family policy and changing families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Competing world views and family ideologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Government structure, how an idea becomes law, learning from history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Listening café</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Social Policy and Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Social Policy and Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Social Policy and Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Social Policy and Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Spring break no class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Social Policy and Poverty; Health Care Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Social Policy and Poverty; Health Care Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Social Policy and Poverty; Health Care Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Social Policy and Poverty; Health Care Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Social Policy and Poverty; Health Care Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Social Policy and Poverty; Health Care Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Social Policy and Poverty; Health Care Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finals Week</td>
<td>Social Policy and Poverty; Health Care Policy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and calendar as needed (e.g., to correct unseen errors, adjust to speaker schedules, add important material, or ensure that topics are covered).

## Required Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2 @100)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes (5@20)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student-led roundtable discussions of news article on family policy or family issue (2@50)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Getting involved: Policy-maker interview and community activity papers; in-class presentation (25 each) 50
In-class work 25
Family Impact Analysis 25
TOTAL 500

Exams (2 @ 100 points)
There will be two in-class exams. Format includes multiple choice, definitions, true/false, short answer, and essays. Students are expected to be on time for exams and ready to begin. (This requirement meets all the course objectives.)

- **What happens if you miss an exam?** See policy on make-up exams under Course Policies below.
- **When is the final?** During finals week you will have 5 days to take the final exam online. It will not be comprehensive, but rather cover the second half of class.
- **Will there be a study guide for exams?** The instructor will provide a wiki study guide with an outline of what will be covered on the exam. Students will have the opportunity to contribute details to the wiki study guide.

**EXAM POLICIES**
- Do not wear a hat or cap—this applies to men and women.
- Bring a #2 pencil; essays will be written in pencil.
- Bring your UF ID.
- Be on time (or a little early) and ready to begin.
- Sit every other seat as much as possible.
- SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONE.
- Leave all coffee/tea and sports drinks and snacks at home. You may have a water bottle.
- Put all bags, cell phones, and any other materials under your desk and not visible.
- Use the restroom prior to the test because you will not be dismissed during the test.
- Sign the back of the bubble sheet when you take the test.
- Do your own work without assistance from others, and affirm that you have followed this honesty policy on the test with your signature.
- Come prepared to write!
Quizzes (5@20 points = 100 points)
Every two weeks we will have a quiz on all readings since the last quiz. We will have six quizzes total, and the lowest quiz score will be dropped. Other quizzes will not be made up unless students meet UF approved verification of excused absences. See make-up policy below.

Student-Led Roundtable Discussions (2@ 50 points = 100 points).
On specific days, the class will meet in small groups (“roundtables”). EVERY STUDENT will be responsible for leading TWO small group discussions of two noteworthy news articles published since January 1, 2019. EVERY STUDENT will lead discussions about their chosen articles, summarizing and analyzing the issue and raising critical-thinking questions for the groups to discuss.

Use the format presented on Canvas under the assignment. Submit this paper to Canvas on time, come to class on time, lead the discussion in your small groups (possibly more than once), and turn in your paper in class. You must be present for the discussion days to get credit for these assignments (attendance will be taken). Students who are not present and do not have an excused absence will not receive credit for this assignment. Students who are late might not be able to participate or will have points deducted. At the end of the discussions, you will be asked to complete peer reviews of discussion leaders and this will be part of both students’ grades.

Getting involved (50 points)
This category includes:
1. Policy maker interview, written summary, and an in-class presentation (25)
2. Attendance at a community or campus educational, cultural, or political event, a written summary and reflection, and an in-class presentation (25).

In-class work (25 points)
Class attendance is expected. Excused absences are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx. Written, professional documentation (only for reasons approved by the University) is required before your absence or immediately upon return to class. Be sure to review this policy for illness policy, religious holidays, the 12-hour rule, and other policies.

- Be present and ready to work. Put aside distractions, come prepared, and do your best to contribute in a positive way to the class.
- Be active participants in learning—participate in discussions, complete assignments outside of the classroom to better understand policy, and ask questions of speakers.

There will be activities in class and homework from time to time. These will include videos and viewing guides, focused activities and worksheets, and responses to speakers. Positive participation can raise borderline grades. This includes: being prepared for class and responding to questions, showing curiosity by asking questions about the course material, speaking in large and small group discussions, bringing in news articles/reports related to policies.
Family Impact Analysis (25 points)
The FIA is an important tool for analyzing family policies. Even if you don’t go into policy work, this tool can help you think critically about how policies and programs influence families. We will practice using the FIA in class. Students will be assigned a reading on the FIA and policy that they will complete at home on their own. In class, students will write their individual answers to a set of critical-thinking questions about the policy. Then, small groups will analyze the policy according to one or two criteria; and each group will report their results in class. Students will complete peer evaluations. This assignment will acquaint you with the FIA, which is an important approach in family policy studies, and will give you an opportunity to apply critical thinking skills to a real family policy example. The choice of policy will depend on the class's interests and current policy developments.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage or points earned</th>
<th>93%–100%</th>
<th>90%–92%</th>
<th>87%–89%</th>
<th>83%–86%</th>
<th>80%–82%</th>
<th>77%–79%</th>
<th>73%–76%</th>
<th>70%–72%</th>
<th>67%–69%</th>
<th>63%–66%</th>
<th>60%–62%</th>
<th>Below 60%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter Grade equivalent</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other information on grading
When determining your final grade, I will ask, “Did this student demonstrate they clearly understand the issues, concepts and facts? Were they able to correctly apply knowledge and skills?” I will also ask, “Did this student consistently attend class and contribute in positive, productive ways to the classroom environment and their own and other students' learning?” All of these factors enter into your final grade. **Class participation can raise borderline grades.**

Course Policies

First Classes Attendance Policy
The official UF Policy is as follows: **Students who do not attend at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered, and who have not contacted the department to indicate their intent, can be dropped from the course. Students must not assume that they will be dropped if they fail to attend the first few days of class. The department will notify students dropped from courses or laboratories by posting a notice in the department office. Students can request reinstatement on a space-available basis if documented evidence is presented.** This is a high demand course and seats are limited; you must secure your seat by attending one of the first two days of class.
Make-up Policy
Missed tests, quizzes, and presentations will result in a grade of zero, unless you provide written, professional documentation for your absence with a reason consistent with UF policy. You MUST provide written, verifiable proof of your need to miss the exam or presentation before your absence or the day you return. Email or call the instructor no later than 8 a.m. the morning of the test or presentation to explain why you are going to be absent; and provide documentation the first day you return to class. This documentation should state in writing the date that you are cleared to return to class. Make-up exams will be given at the instructor’s discretion, but if given, must be completed within the work week of the student’s return to class. Make-up exams will not be given after this time frame. You will be expected to take the exam as soon as you return to school; this may be before the next time the class meets, but you must take the exam immediately upon your return; you are responsible for arranging a make-up exam with a graduate TA and/or instructor. You are allowed to make up exams ONLY as a result of an incapacitating illness (i.e., you are not physically able to come in to class for the exam or perform work) or other unanticipated circumstances warranting a written excuse (e.g., death in the family), consistent with UF policy. Written and verifiable documentation is required. Examinations missed for any other reason will receive a grade of ZERO. Missed roundtable discussions and presentations without documentation will result in a grade of ZERO.

Late Assignments Policy
All late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day late for up to 5 days. After 5 days the assignment will be a zero. This penalty starts the minute after the assignment was due, unless there is an excused absence approved by the instructor as per UF policy. You must provide written, professional, verifiable proof of your need to miss the assignment that is consistent with UF attendance policies, before you will be allowed to turn in a make-up assignment. You will have 5 days from the day you return to turn in any make-up assignment without penalty, if circumstances allow it.

Excused Absences Policy
You may request excused absences that meet University policies published in the Undergraduate Catalog and by providing written, professional documentation before your absence or immediately upon return to class. Requests for excused absences will not be accepted later than 4 weekdays after the absence. Students who do not make up missed work within the time frame will lose this opportunity. Please work with the graduate TA to get your work turned in. Medical/dental appointments or family vacations are not excused absences. Students who leave early or miss class for doctor’s appointments, family vacations, or other reasons may not make up missed quizzes or exams or any in-class work. Acceptable reasons for excused absences include:

1. Sick days (documented by a medical practitioner)
2. Death of an immediate family member (funeral program or other acceptable documentation)
3. Professional conferences or authorized UF travel
4. 12-day rule (athletes)
5. Religious holidays and/or
6. UF approved holidays

Whether your absence is excused or not, it is your responsibility to get notes from classmates and make up missed work. Get to know someone you can call for notes, should you need to miss class. For the University of Florida policy, see: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html

Classroom Demeanor

Practice professionalism in your demeanor and communication. Above all, this means being respectful of each other and the instructor. Please be on time and ready to work; do not leave early. Both of these are disruptive and disrespectful to everyone. Keep conversations with others at a minimum during class time. Keep the dialogue respectful of your peers and of the instructor. Be sure to be objective, nonjudgmental, and non-confrontational.

Put aside distractions and be ready to participate in class. Your phone should be silent during class and should be put away during class time. Laptops, tablets, etc. should be used for class purposes only (not Facebook, surfing, etc.). Texting, chatting, and surfing are distracting to your classmates and the instructor ... and your own ability to learn. Students who are in violation will be warned (first offense) and asked to leave the classroom (second offense). Use of any devices may be forbidden during exams. Poor classroom behavior has several possible results: a warning; a meeting with the instructor; the loss of participation points; referral to the Dean; or removal from class if necessary, per UF policy.

UF Policies

Academic Honesty

The University requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. Cheating, plagiarism, and other acts diminish the process of learning. When you enroll at UF you promise to be honest. Your instructor fully expects you to adhere to the academic honesty guidelines you signed when you were admitted to UF.

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: “I understand the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.” Furthermore, on work submitted for credit by UF
students, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

This includes plagiarism, defined in the University Honor Code. “A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to: (1) Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution; (2) Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student. (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php.)

This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course. Academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. Students are expected to do their own work, use their own words in papers, and to reference outside sources appropriately, following APA guidelines (APA Publication Manual, 6th ed.). Students who do not follow APA guidelines or violate the University’s plagiarism policy will receive a zero for the assignment and will be referred the Dean of Students Office and the student judicial court.

If there are any questions about appropriate use of reference materials, please contact the instructor, well before the assignment is due, or the Dean of Students office. Students need to assume that all written work will be completed independently. All written work must be turned in to TurnitIn, and a hard copy submitted in class.

Undergraduate Honors Program
I encourage students who are interested and meet the basic requirements of 60 credit hours and a GPA of at least 3.75 to consider joining the Undergraduate Honors Program, especially if you are continuing onto graduate school. Participation in the honors program for this course requires a contract within the first three weeks of the semester. More information can be found at: https://fycs.ifas.ufl.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-honors/

Campus Helping Resources
Take advantage of the resources on campus that are here to support you and help you be successful. Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the University’s counseling resources. U Matter We Care and The Counseling & Wellness Center provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students.

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- University Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575
- The University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies. http://www.police.ufl.edu/
• Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
• Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/. Where are you headed after graduation?

Academic Resources
• E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu. https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml.
• Library Support, http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
• Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Services for Students with Disabilities
Please see the instructor about accommodations ASAP so we can make arrangements. The Dean of Students Office coordinates the needed accommodations of registered students with disabilities: “Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.”

This instructor follows the guidelines set by the DSO for responding to student accommodations and works with the individual student to meet these accommodations. Dean of Students Office is in 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261 (Voice)/392-3008 (TCC).

Student Complaint Process
Students wishing to file a complaint about the course should seek help from the appropriate resource located through the following link (for a residential course): https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

Online Course Evaluations
Please provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.
Software Use
All faculty, staff and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Materials and Supplies Fees
There are no additional fees for this course.