I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the nature and causes of poverty in the United States and the role of government in ameliorating poverty. Special attention is given to the importance of family structure, neighborhoods, and labor market conditions in determining the level and distribution of poverty. Welfare state policies are examined from a historical and comparative perspective, including recent changes in the U.S. welfare system.

II. REQUIREMENTS

Students will write two, short (one hour) exams covering the lectures and readings. The first exam will be given at the end of the sixth week, and the second exam will be given on exam day, January 17th. Students are required to attend weekly precepts and to prepare six short written assignments on alternate weeks. Each student will write a short research paper (12 to 15 pages) analyzing welfare reform in his or her state. The papers will be due on Dean’s Day (January 11, 2000).
Final grades will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precept</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### III. BOOKS AND READINGS, WEBSITES

Books may be purchased from the Princeton University Store. They are also on reserve at Firestone Library. Other reading materials are available in Firestone and/or the web.


### WEBSITES

- **Census Bureau** – [http://www.census.gov/](http://www.census.gov/)
- **Greenbook** - [http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/98gb/intro.htm](http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/98gb/intro.htm)
- **IRP** - [http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp/](http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp/)
- **Urban Institute, New Federalism Project** – [http://newfederalism.urban.org](http://newfederalism.urban.org)
### Weekly Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>(September 21 and 23)</th>
<th>Defining and Measuring Poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>(September 28 and 30)</td>
<td>The Faces and Causes of Poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>(October 5 and 7)</td>
<td>Poverty and the Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>(October 12 and 14)</td>
<td>Poverty and the Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>(October 19 and 21)</td>
<td>The Underclass Debate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>(October 26 and 28)</td>
<td>The Underclass Revisited</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BREAK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>(November 9 and 11)</th>
<th>The Origin &amp; Growth of the Welfare State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>(November 16 and 18)</td>
<td>Welfare States in Crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>(November 23)</td>
<td>The Conservative Challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>(Nov 30, Dec 2)</td>
<td>The Liberal/Progressive Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>(December 7 and 9)</td>
<td>Precursors to Welfare Reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>(December 14 and 16)</td>
<td>What’s Happening Now?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Introduction  (September 16)


### Week 1  (September 21 and 23)  Defining and Measuring Poverty


Week 2  (September 28 and 30)  Faces and Causes of Poverty


Week 3  (October 5 and 7)  Poverty and the Economy


Week 4  (October 12 and 14)  Poverty and the Family


Week 5  (October 19 and 21) The Underclass


Week 6  (October 26 and 28) The Underclass Revisited/Exam


Fall Break (October 30-November 7)

Week 7  (November 9 and 11) Welfare States in International Comparison


Week 8  (November 16 and 18) Welfare States in Crisis


Week 9  (November 23) The Conservative Challenge


Week 10  (November 30 and December 2) The Liberal/Progressive Agenda


**Week 11  (December 7 and 9)  Precursors to Welfare Reform**


**Week 12  (December 14 and 16)  Where Are We Now?**


**Final Paper  Due Dean’s Date: January 11, 2000**

**Final Exam  Due January 17, 2000**