

UEP Policy and Planning Competency Grid

Course Name/Number: U.S. Social Welfare 240

Instructor: James Jennings Semester: Fall 08

a) Knowledge Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. History, structure, function of urban and metropolitan settlements	
2. Economic influences on policy and planning (e.g. 'market' and 'polis' relationships)	Course literature and discussions
3. Environmental, social and cultural influences on policy and planning	
4. Understanding different roles in policy and planning	
i) Levels of government	Course literature, presentations
ii) Governance structures	Focus on institutions, and courts
iii) Citizens and residents	
iv) NGOs	
5. History, theory and processes of policymaking	Historical stages of U.S. social welfare
6. History, theory and process of planning	
7. Implementation of policy and planning	

8. Evaluation of policy and planning	Review of specific social policies
9. Administrative and legal aspects of policy	Review of specific social policies
10. Administrative and legal aspects of planning	
11. Politics of policy and planning	Review of specific social policies

b) Skills Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. Critical thinking	Course literature and instructor presentations
i) Defining problem	
ii) Documenting the extent of a problem	
iii) Documenting the political and social context	Course literature and instructor presentations; historical context for understanding the social welfare state in U.S.
iv) Documenting the environmental and spatial context	
v) Identifying possible analysis strategies and their implications	
vi) Identifying criteria for proposing solutions	
vii) Identifying criteria for selecting solutions	
viii) Evaluating the development and results of policies and plans	Role of race, class, gender as impacting policies and implementation of such

2. Research skills	
i) Understanding research design	
ii) Collecting relevant literature	Determining basic questions for analysis
iii) Analyzing relevant literature	
iv) Identifying and assessing data sources and limitations	
v) Developing data collection instruments and tools	
3. Data Analysis skills	Specific social policies
i) Interpreting and synthesizing data	
ii) Drawing inferences from specific observations to make	
iii) More generalizable findings	
iv) Comparative analysis	Select course literature
v) Longitudinal analysis	
vi) Recognizing and accounting for limitations to findings	
4. Qualitative Analysis skills	
i) Direct observation	
ii) Analysis of primary qualitative data	
iii) Analysis of secondary qualitative data	

5. Quantitative Analysis skills	Course literature, instructor presentations
i) Descriptive statistics	
ii) Inferential statistics	
iii) Basic forecasting	
iv) Use of spreadsheets and statistical software	
6. Spatial Analysis skills	Class presentations
i) Understand how to identify spatial problems and frame spatial questions for analysis and research	
ii) Use Geographic Information System for basic spatial analysis and mapping	Class presentations
7. Communication skills	Course requirements
i) Writing skills	
ii) Speaking skills	Student presentations
iii) Graphic presentation skills	
iv) Presentation strategies and methods	

c) Policy and Planning in Practice Competencies	Specific sub-competencies or examples as developed in this course
1. Collaboration skills i) Negotiation	
ii) Group project management	
iii) Group problem solving	
iv) Perspective-taking	
v) Adaptability, flexibility	
vi) Networking	
2. Organizational management skills i) Decision making	
ii) Strategic problem solving and adapting to change	
iii) Human resource development	
iv) Financial management and resource development	
3. Political and economic power mapping skills i) Understanding political and economic power structures and dynamics	Course literature and Class presentations; focus on history; race; class; gender
ii) Modes of influencing their use	
4. Ethical and professional behavior skills i) Understanding and upholding the role of ethics and accountability in professional policy and planning processes, practices, and behavior	

