

SYLLABUS
SOCIAL WELFARE LAW – FALL 2008
Thursday 6:00-7:50
Room 103

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Text:

Nice and Trubek, *Poverty Law: Theory and Practice*

Grades:

Grades are determined by a combination of the following

20% Class Participation and Attendance. Attend class and participate in the discussions.

30% Graded Assignments and Quizzes. The frequency of quizzes depends on whether I am satisfied that students are reading the required materials.

50% Final Paper. 20 page paper on legal issue facing the poor.

August 21, 2008: Introduction

Assignment:

Nice and Trubek, *Poverty Law*, pp. 1-40.

August 28, 2008: Welfare Reform and Impact on the Poor

Assignment:

Nice and Trubek: *Poverty Law*, pp. 577-583; 596-604; 621-628.

Draft two page typewritten opinion paper arguing for or against *Losing Ground: American Social Policy*. Nice and Trubek 577-583. What is Murray's position? What are the ramifications on the poor if one applies Murray's proposal. In the long run, would it help eliminate or promote poverty? Why?

September 4, 2008: Welfare Reform and its Impact on the Poor Continued

Assignment:

Review Minnesota Statutes chapter 256J and bring statute to class. Electronic version is fine. Come up with three components of MFIP that you agree with or disagree with and prepare to discuss in class. Prepare to defend your position and explain the law's effect on the poor. Think about intended and unintended consequences.

September 11, 2008: Due Process and the Right to be Heard

Assignment

Nice and Trubek: Poverty Law, pp. 284-332.

September 18, 2008: Social Security Disability

Assignment:

TBA

September 25, 2008: Medical Assistance and other Medical Programs for the Poor

Assignment:

TBA

October 2, 2008: Benefits for Non Citizens

Assignment:

TBA

October 9, 2008: Housing and the Poor

Assignment TBA

Quiz

October 16, 2008: No Class

October 23, 2008: Working Poor (UI)

Assignment

Review Minn. Stat. section 268.095 and prepare to discuss eligibility for state unemployment benefits.

Nice and Trubek, Poverty Law, pp. 805-811.

October 30, 2008: Consumer Law

Assignment

TBA

November 6, 2008: Emerging Areas

Assignment Review Minn. Stat. ch. 609A (bring copy to class)
Review Minn. Stat. § 299C.11
2 page paper on whether individuals should be allowed to seal criminal records. Why, or why not? If yes, which records and what should be the process? If no, what are the ramifications on the poor? What is the current law in Minnesota?

November 13, 2008 Child Protection

Assignment
Nice and Trubek, Poverty Law, pp. 719-745.

November 20, 2008 Access to Legal Services

Assignment
Nice and Trubek: Poverty Law, pp. 214-248

December 2, 2008 Make Up Day

Assignment
TBA