

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **PLCY 850**

#### **INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL POLICY**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course requires students to research the basic contours of their chosen policy concentration. Students will work with their faculty member to understand the scope, history, controversial issues, and key policy outcomes associated with this concentration area. This research will serve as a stepping stone to conducting a comprehensive literature review for their dissertation, and provide the needed context ensure that the students' chosen dissertation topics are focused and appropriate.

#### **RATIONALE**

This course is a necessary first step in the research required for the dissertation process.

##### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

##### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

##### **III. RECOMMENDED RESOURCE**

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.  
Current ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

##### **IV. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

##### **V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

Analyze classic and current literature dealing with social policy.

Identify the classic and current literature dealing with the student's chosen policy concentration.

Synthesize the literature on the chosen topic.

Recommend new research questions based on the current state of the literature on the student's chosen topic.

Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the basics of scientific inquiry.

**VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes

Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

Discussion Board Forums (8)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 750-1,000 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 400-500 words. Each thread and reply must utilize at least 3 scholarly sources (7-8 for the threads for forums 4 and 5).

Annotated Bibliographies (5)

The student will choose at least 8-10 peer-reviewed articles regarding a specific policy in the module's readings. The student will then summarize each article in 150-300 words (for a total of 1200-3000 words). All citations must conform to current Turabian formatting. These assignments will comprise a synthesis of current topics in social policy.

**VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (8 at 50 pts ea)	400
Annotated Bibliographies (5 at 120 pts ea)	600
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 940-1010 A- = 920-939 B+ = 900-919 B = 860-899 B- = 840-859  
 C+ = 820-839 C = 780-819 C- = 760-779 D+ = 740-759 D = 700-739  
 D- = 680-699 F = 0-679

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **PLCY 850**

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Segal: chs. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 50
<b>2</b>	Sowell (2007): all 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	50
<b>3</b>	Sowell (1995): all 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 3	50
<b>4</b>	Segal: ch. 6 1 presentation	DB Forum 4 Annotated Bibliography 1	50 120
<b>5</b>	Segal: ch. 7 1 presentation	DB Forum 5 Annotated Bibliography 2	50 120
<b>6</b>	Segal: ch. 8 Friedman: all 1 presentation	DB Forum 6 Annotated Bibliography 3	50 120
<b>7</b>	Segal: chs. 9 & 10 1 presentation	DB Forum 7 Annotated Bibliography 4	50 120
<b>8</b>	Segal: chs. 11 & 12 1 presentation	DB Forum 8 Annotated Bibliography 5	50 120
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.