University of Oregon  
Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management  

PPPM 455/555: Topics in Social Policy -- Poverty and Social Policy in the U.S.  
Fall 2015 (4 Credit Hours), CRN# 16353 / 16354  
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This Social Policy course will involve an in-depth look at and discussion of the nature of poverty in a modern industrial societies and the design of policies intended to combat poverty in the United States. In the first half of this course, we will explore concepts of related to the definition and measurement of poverty and well-being, as well as conduct an empirical examination of poverty and inequality in the U.S. today. During the second half of the term, we will focus on the role of government policy in mitigating the problems associated with poverty, including policies related to cash welfare, food assistance, housing and education policy. The discussion of current policy issues will be placed in the context of the poverty policies of the last 80 years. The status of empirical research used to evaluate current policy will also be an important consideration.

This course draws on material from a number of academic traditions and disciplines, including economics, sociology, geography, ethnography, philosophy, public administration and public policy analysis. Course work will include readings, class discussion, an exam, a paper and a class presentation.