

The Next Generation of Anti-Poverty Programs
WWS 593a
Thursday, 1:00-4:00 pm
Robertson

Elisabeth Donahue
Phone: 258-0340
email: edonahue@princeton.edu
Office: 281 Wallace
Office Hours: By appointment

Reading Materials Required:

Articles posted on Blackboard

Description of Class:

Katrina was an eye-opener for many in revealing the deep poverty that still exists in this country. What can we do about it? In this half-semester course, we will examine various policies that have been proposed by top thinkers in the field to decrease poverty in this country: increasing the safety net for those who are unable to work; increasing marriage and decreasing non-marital births; increasing earnings; offering work supports such as child care and health care; and improving education.

This course is being offered in conjunction with the *Future of Children*, a joint WWS-Brookings Institution project that produces a biannual journal and complementary outreach programs. As part of this course, students are required to attend two *Future of Children* events: 1) a talk given by Robert Doar, Commissioner for Temporary and Disability Assistance for NY State, and Lawrence Mead, a professor of politics from NYU and noted poverty expert, Wednesday, October 11th, 4:30 pm; and 2) a 1 ½ -day rough draft writers' conference on October 12-13th. (These events will take the place of the 5th class that week).

Readings:

All *Future of Children* ROUGH DRAFT Poverty papers are found at:
<http://www.futureofchildren.princeton.edu/conferences/poverty/> To access the papers, the user name is foc1 and password is children-first.

All other papers will be listed on blackboard, and websites are also provided.

Written Assignments:

1. Each week, students will be required to submit a short, 2-page memo on one of the policies being discussed that week. The memo should outline the proposal, give the evidence that exists to support the proposal, and conclude whether the student is or is not convinced that this is the right policy direction.

2. A final 15-page paper (approximately 4,000 words) will be due after reading period. It will be a *Future of Children*-style policy brief. In this policy brief, each student will highlight a particular policy that should be implemented, given the research presented in the readings. Examples of *Future of Children* policy briefs will be distributed and the format discussed in class. Outstanding briefs may be published on the *Future of Children* website (www.futureofchildren.org)

Grades: The overall grade for each student will be weighted as follows:

- 40% Final Policy Brief
- 20% Weekly Memos
- 20% Class Participation

SYLLABUS

Class 1. Thursday, September 14, 2006

Introduction: Organization of Course, *The Future of Children* volume on The Next Generation of Anti-Poverty Policies

Lecture: Why do we need a new generation of policies – Putting this volume into context.

Class 2. Thursday, September 21, 2006

Lecture: Reducing Poverty with Policies that Affect Family Formation

Reading:

- “Non-Marital Childbearing, Marriage and Poverty,” Rebecca Maynard and Paul Amato – *Future of Children* ROUGH DRAFT
- “What Do We Know About Couples and Marriage in Disadvantaged Populations? Reflections from a Researcher and a Policy Analyst, Theodora Ooms and David Fein (6/30/2006) (www.clasp.org)
- “Increasing Marriage Would Dramatically Reduce Child Poverty,” Robert Rector, et al., Center for Data Analysis Report #03-06 (May 20, 2003) (www.heritage.org)
- “Systematic Review of the Impact of Marriage and Relationship Programs,” Jane Reardon-Anderson, Matthew Stagner, et al. (2005) (www.urban.org)
- “Healthy Marriage Programs: Learning What Works,” *The Future of Children: Marriage and Child Wellbeing* (2005), Robin Dion (www.futureofchildren.org)

- “The Hefty Penalty on Marriage Facing Many Households with Children,” *The Future of Children: Marriage and Child Wellbeing* (2005), Adam Carasso and C. Eugene Steuerle (www.futureofchildren.org)

Class 3. Thursday, September 28, 2006

Lecture: Reducing Poverty by Supporting Work Efforts

Reading:

- “Next Steps for Federal Child Care Policy,” Mark Greenberg – *Future of Children* ROUGH DRAFT
- “Improving Health Care Access for Low-Income Populations, Alan Weil – *Future of Children* ROUGH DRAFT
- “Improving the Safety Net for those Unable to Work,” Rebecca Blank – *Future of Children* ROUGH DRAFT
- “Child Care Assistance Helps Families Work: A Review of the Effects of Subsidy Receipt on Employment,.” Hannah Matthews (2006) (www.clasp.org)
- “Barriers to the Employment of Welfare Recipients,” Sandra Danziger, et al., 2000, in *Prosperity for All? The Economic Boom and African Americans* (Robert Cherry and William Rogers, eds.)
- “Tax Policy for Health Insurance,” Jonathon Gruber in *Tax Policy and the Economy 19*, James Poterba, ed. (2005), pages 39-63

Class 4. Thursday, October 5, 2006

Lecture: Reducing Poverty by Making Work Pay

Reading:

- “Rewarding the Work of Single Adults, Gordon L. Berlin, – *Future of Children* ROUGH DRAFT
- “Raising Work Levels – Especially Among Men,” Lawrence Mead – *Future of Children* ROUGH DRAFT
- “Does Making Work Pay Still Pay? An Update on the Effects of Four Earnings Supplement Programs on Employment, Earnings, and Income,” Charles Michalopoulos (2005) (www.mdrc.org)
- “The Earned Income Tax Credit at Age 30: What we Know,” Steve Holt, Feb. 2006 (www.brookings.edu)
- “Working and Earning: The Impact of Parents’ Fair Share on Low-Income Fathers’ Employment,” John M. Martinez and Cynthia Miller (www.mdrc.org)

Class 5.

Attendance is required at these two events:

“Getting Dads to Pay AND Work: A New Father's Agenda,” with Lawrence Mead and Robert Doar, October 11, 2006, 4:30 pm, Robertson Hall, Princeton, NJ (Optional dinner with speakers to follow, Prospect House)

ROUGH DRAFT WRITERS' CONFERENCE (Agenda in Reading Packet)
October 12, 2-6:30 pm (Optional dinner with authors and editors to follow, Lahieres)
October 13, 9-4:30 pm

(NOTE: I would recommend reading the Duncan/Ludwig and Murnane papers for this week, even though we will not discuss them in depth until next week).

Class 6. Thursday, October 19, 2006

Lecture: Reducing Poverty through Education

- “Reducing Poverty through Early Intervention,” Greg Duncan and Jens Ludwig – *Future of Children* ROUGH DRAFT
- “Improving the Education of Children Living in Poverty,” Richard Murnane – *Future of Children* ROUGH DRAFT
- “From the Cradle to the Labor Market? The Effect of Birth Weight on Adult Outcomes,” Sandra Black et al., NBER Working Paper 11796 (www.chass.utoronto.ca/cepa/birthweight.pdf)
- “A Benefit-Cost Analysis of the Abecedarian Early Childhood Intervention,” Working Paper, Leonard Masse and W. Steve Barnett, National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers University (2005) (www.nieer.org)
- “Lifetime Effects: The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40. Lawrence Schweinhart et al. (2005) Ypsilanti, Michigan: High/Scope Press (www.nieer.org)
- “Fixing the NCLB Accountability System,” CRESST Policy Brief 8, Summer 2005 (<http://www.cse.ucla.edu/>)
- “Ready or Not: Creating a High School Diploma that Counts,” Introduction and Agenda for Action, The American Diploma Project, (2004), www.achieve.org