

Pre-assignment
Spring 2017

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL & NATURAL SCIENCES

CLASS TITLE: SWK 223 – T8 Social Policies and Issues

CLASS MEETS: Tuesdays, 6:30-9:20 p.m., in CL 104; on 1/24, 2/07, 2/21, 3/07, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, and 5/09

INSTRUCTOR: Judy Singleton, PhD

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REQUIRED TEXT: Pople, P.R. & Leighninger, L. The Policy-Based Profession: An Introduction to Social Welfare Policy Analysis for Social Workers; 6th ed.

There is a digital version of this textbook (to rent) which is much cheaper than the new or used paper versions. If you are interested in renting a digital version, please contact the Mount bookstore for details.

<http://www.bkstr.com/mtsaintjosephstore/home>

Welcome back to school after what I hope was a good holiday break for all of you! Our first class session is January 24, 2017. Please email me if you have any questions re: this preassignment.

Assignment: (to be submitted first night of class; preassignments received after night one will NOT receive credit; worth 40 points)

1. Read chapters 1, 2, and 3 in the Pople & Leighninger text and come to class prepared to contribute to class discussions on the reading materials.
2. **Richard Wilkinson: How economic inequality harms societies.** Watch this 16.5 minute Ted Talk video at http://www.ted.com/talks/richard_wilkinson.html and type a 1.5 – 2 page paper (double-spaced) reflecting on the economic system in the United States. You must answer these two questions:
 1. In your view, what were some of the major points of Wilkinson’s ‘talk’?
 2. If you wanted to decrease the economic inequality in the U. S., what changes would you suggest?

This assignment will be graded on content as well as proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Be sure to address each of the questions (“In your view, what were some of the major points of

Wilkinson's talk?" and "If you wanted to decrease the economic inequality in the U.S., what changes would you suggest?").

Your work must be submitted the first night of class (1/24/17) to receive credit. Print your preassignment paper **before** class and bring it with you to class, **not later**. **I do not accept late pre-assignments for credit**. The pre-assignment is worth 40 points.

I will distribute the course syllabus and discuss it on the first night of class. Please email me if you have questions. I look forward to seeing you in class on January 24th!