1. The crisis in social science
   a. The main approaches in social science disciplines involve research that
      i. Require homogeneity across society for analysis to be possible
      ii. And that assume statistical averages describe reality
      iii. This is a problem when social programs are increasingly locally variable
   b. The analytic focus that treats society as homogeneous in structure also is
      confused by complex institutional situations
      i. Where street-level professional knowledge guides practice and policy making
      ii. Where services are process-based, not outcome and product based
      iii. Where history and context shape and create diversity among programs
      iv. Where organizational culture matters
      v. Where the professional culture that develops in an institutional “field” shapes organizational practices

2. Recognizing the importance of policy epochs directs us to treat specific programs
   as products of historically specific social movements.
   a. There are distinctive organizational and policy styles that we trace to particular moments in history
   b. There have been three main policy epochs responsible for creating many human services institutions, each with a style and set of practices characteristic of their era
      i. The Progressive Era began in about 1880 and continued to about 1920
         1. There was no comprehensive government or government safety net of services in place
         2. The movement was driven by the growth of an urban middle class that saw poverty as caused by structural inequalities
         3. Knowledge progress and a conviction that values-based interventions coupled with specialized knowledge led to the invention and implementation of professions and professional approaches to service provision
         4. Services tend to be organized into large organizational systems with a style distinctive to each institution
            a. Public education
            b. Medicine and hospitals
            c. Police, courts, and prisons
            d. Social work and social welfare agencies
ii. The New Deal era was a response to the great depression and led to society-wide, governmental responses that
   1. treated citizens in terms of entitlements and
   2. that used government policy to shape the cycles of the economy
   3. It led to programs that gave citizens broad protections against poverty and need
      a. Social Security
      b. Aid to Families with Dependent Children (welfare)
      c. Works Progress Administration (WPA)

iii. The War on Poverty was created by the Kennedy/Johnson administration in the 1960s and responded to a time of social protest and society-wide action for justice and amelioration of poverty
   1. It grew out of concern for entrenched pockets of poverty in the wake of the prosperous 1950s
   2. It led to creation of categorical grants programs, where the federal government made direct grants to local programs, often small, new nonprofits.
   3. This led to an explosion of nonprofits as a preferred form for providing social services
   4. Programs include
      a. Medicare and Medicaid
      b. Community mental health
      c. Headstart
      d. Small housing construction and low income housing rehabilitation projects