I. As part of the field experience portion of this course you must secure clearances and complete the CITI certification and give me copies of each (4 items)

II. To get started in this class we need to have a discussion about whether social services are necessary and if so why.

A. In any society citizens “receive” the services that are provided and they understand them in the form that they are given—can we or should we understand them in terms of a larger framework?
   1. Some services may cause more problems than they solve, especially from some conservative perspectives—do we really need services?
      a. Is less government better?
      b. Would we be hurt if we just cut out some services (the big growth areas under Bush have been prisons and special education)
   2. Is there a menu of services that every “good” society should provide?
      a. What is the list?
      b. What framework do you use for creating these justifications?
      c. What does it mean when services are left off the list or if they are not provided in your “optimum” model?

B. The book Pragmatic Liberalism asserts that in our society there is basically a consensus of values about services
   1. arguments arise about modes of implementation
   2. people disagree about what data are important for evaluating services
   3. Do you think this values consensus exists?

C. One reason we assert there is consensus is because we have certain understanding about rights.
   1. In our view, rights are not given by God
   2. Rather they reflect the way we Americans relate to the state and how the state should relate to us
   3. Thus with each right that society should guarantee to us there also come responsibilities we have towards others and towards society as a whole

D. The rights:
   1. Right to life
      a. we expect individuals to value life
      b. we make protecting individuals’ lives a primary value
      c. we can’t relate to societies that do not share this value
   2. Freedom from pain
      a. society may not impose pain or anguish on others
b. our society places extreme emphasis on helping others overcome illness even if it is financially impractical

3. Freedom of action comes from a social evolution that
   a. guarantees that we may all engage in economic activity, own property, and move throughout society to achieve economic goals
   b. guarantees civil rights which means access to public spaces and accommodations and full participation in the political process.

4. Freedom from violence
   a. We tend to blame the violent and highly validate police in their right and responsibility to protect the rest of us.
   b. More subtly, we want to be freed from personal, sectarian, or partisan battles and conflicts that would oblige us to be violent towards others.
   c. One of the challenges in conflict societies is for people who have experienced violence and abuse to achieve an accommodation with perpetrators so they can live peacefully and productively together.

5. Right to basic needs of survival
   a. food, shelter, clothing
   b. health and protection for the vulnerable
   c. these come and go in terms of actual social provision—often they are provided through charitable nonprofits rather than by the state.

E. We disagree about how to implement the rights but the consensus emphasizes an agreement that Americans should be fair and compassionate people.