

Soc 315 Small Groups: Social Security

1. Answer—for Social Security—those five questions about welfare programs from this week’s readings (explicit and possibly latent functions, form of benefits, beneficiaries [be explicit here, some groups may benefit more than others], funding sources, and administrative authority)?
2. a) When and why was Social Security created, and b) how has it changed over time?
3. Explain what your group has identified, based on the readings and source material, as the key problems facing Social Security as it moves forward.
4. What, based on your analyses, should be done, if anything, to address problems with Social Security and Medicare? How do your ideas address the problems? Discuss the pros and cons.
5. Evaluate this quote from an author on Forbes.com: *“however much we've decided that funding retirement income for the elderly is an important objective, there are multiple other competing objectives. Without trying to start an argument on fair taxation levels, it's plain to see that you can't spend the same money twice. If we are to discuss increasing marginal taxes by 12.4%, is there really a national consensus that it should all be directed to Social Security? What about healthcare? Education? Daycare subsidies? Parental leave? Infrastructure? Affordable housing?”*

To paraphrase a certain former president, ‘It's the opportunity cost, stupid.’” Be thoughtful in your analysis, take your time and ‘unpack’ the author’s arguments.