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POVERTY AND POLITICS SCHOLAR TO BE NEXT SPEAKER IN K-STATE'S LOU DOUGLAS LECTURE SERIES ON PUBLIC ISSUES

MANHATTAN — Frances Fox Piven, a professor, author and activist, will present "The War at Home: The Domestic Causes and Consequences of Bush's Militarism" as part of Kansas State University's Lou Douglas Lecture Series on Public Issues.

Piven's lecture will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24, in Forum Hall at the K-State Student Union. The lecture, which will include a question-and-answer session at the end, is free and the public is welcome. A book signing will follow the presentation.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the department of political science; department of sociology, anthropology and social work; women's studies program; and the Donald J. Adamchak Distinguished Lecture Series in Sociology.

Piven is a distinguished professor of political science and sociology at City University of New York's Graduate School and University Center. She is a noted scholar of poverty and U.S. politics, with special interests in social welfare policy, political movements and electoral politics.

Her work is concerned with the uses of political science to promote democratic reform. Piven, in the early 1990s, promoted the concept of "motor voter" laws as a way to make it easier for poor and working-class individuals to vote. She helped in the founding of Human SERVE, which advocated for the right of citizens to register to vote when they apply for driver's licenses or federal aid. The group's efforts were realized in 1993 with the congressional passage of the National Voter Registration Act.

She also is the author of several books on class, including "Why Americans Still Don't Vote, and Politicians Like it That Way," "Regulating the Poor: The Function of Public Welfare," "Poor Peoples' Movements: Why They Succeed, How They Fail" and "The New Class War."

Her latest book, published in 2004, is "The War at Home: The Domestic Costs of Bush's Militarism." It looks at ways the war on terror has shored up the Bush administration's political base and analyzes the way politicians use the emotional fog of war to further their social and economics agendas.

(more)

Piven is the recipient of numerous honors. She is president-elect of the American Sociological Association, which has honored her with several awards, including the Award for Public Understanding of Sociology for her work as a social theorist, welfare rights activist and political science professor; Award for Practice of Sociology; and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the association's Political Sociology Section. She also has received the Mary Lepper Award from the Women's Caucus of the American Political Science Association; the Tides Foundation Award for Excellence in Public Advocacy; the National Association of Secretaries of State annual award; President's Award from the American Public Health Association; Eugene V. Debs Foundation Prize; and the C. Wright Mills Award.

Piven received her doctoral degree from the University of Chicago. Before joining the City University of New York, she taught at Boston University, Columbia University, New York University Law School, the Institute of Advanced Studies in Vienna, the University of Amsterdam and the University of Bologna. She is a past vice president of the American Political Science Association, where she also has served as program co-chair of its annual political science meetings. She also is past president of the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

The Lou Douglas Lecture Series on Public Issues was launched in 1980 by University for Man, now UFM Community Learning Center, to honor the memory of Douglas, a professor of political science at K-State from 1949 to 1977. The lecture series deals with topics the professor championed, including human rights, social justice, world peace and international development.

The Donald J. Adamchak Distinguished Lecture Series in Sociology is offered through K-State's department of sociology, anthropology and social work and honors the memory and many contributions of Adamchak to the department and K-State.

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