

SK 221- Social Policy, Winter 2016

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Required Text:

- *Canadian Social Policy: An Introduction*, 4th Edition. Graham, Swift & Delaney.
- Class summary and minutes prepared by all groups.
- Additional resources can be found on MylearningSpace.

Optional Text:

- *Economics of the Welfare State*, 5th or 4th Edition. Nicholas Barr.
- *Social Protection Floor: For a Fair and Inclusive Globalization*. ILO. Available at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_165750.pdf

Office Hours: Friday 11:30 am– 12:30 pm. Office: RCE244. Phone extension: x5478.

Objective:

Students in this course will be introduced to the theory and practices related to social policies within the Canadian welfare state. Attention is paid to the linkages between ideologies and policy directions and to the impact of globalization on Canadian social policy. We will examine the major social policies, programmes, and issues include among others: poverty, inequality, and equality of opportunity; labour markets and the working poor; health policy; and education. Attention will also be paid to the development and transformation of the welfare state through its interaction with demographic changes.

Evaluation:

1- Examination (total 60%):

- **Midterm Exam (25%):**
Date: the midterm exam is tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 26th, 2016.
Coverage: chapter 1, 2, 3, and 4. In addition, class notes, minutes prepared by all groups and external resources assigned.
- **Final Exam (35 %)**
Date: the final exam will be between April 7th and 23rd, 2016, the exact date will be determined by the registrar.
Coverage: chapter 5, 6, 7, and 8. In addition, class note, minutes prepared by all groups and external resources assigned throughout corresponding to the topics covered (see below course schedule).

2- **Class Active Participation and Group Work (30%)**

Active participation and discussion are integral part of the learning experience in this course. It is therefore necessary to attend and participate in all classes and group discussions. You are expected to attend class, contribute to the discussions, being respectful to others, respectfully challenge/support arguments and issues discussed (not persons).

During the first class, students are asked to form groups of 5 students. Each group will be responsible for:

- a. fully prepare, present, explain, and lead discussion in an assigned chapter from the textbook. It is expected that the presentation will be about 45 minutes, followed by 20-minutes discussion. Students are expected to fully lead this one-hour activity with instructor provided direction, if needed.
- b. write a class summary/minutes: the summary will cover the class' three segments: student led presentation, instructor's led presentation, and in-the-news. The summary is expected to consolidate these three segments in one document. Relevant group discussions are also to be included in the minutes. The summary must be submitted **within one** week of the class summarized.

Note: 'a' and 'b' are for **two different** classes. Please see the below table for dates for group presentation and minutes.

The grade will be assigned as follows:

- a. 10% for class attendance and active discussion.
- b. 10% for the PowerPoint presentation prepared, effective delivery of the material, and the management of the class discussion.
- c. 10% for the quality, conciseness, and comprehensiveness of the minutes prepared.

3- **Assignment: news item analysis (10%)** (individual work):

Social Policy issues are usually topics that are discussed extensively in the media. Your responsibility is to find one **news item** from any media outlets that discusses a **current** public project/policy change. You need to write **2 to 3 pages** analysis, which highlights a summary of the issue, your opinion on what could be done related to the issue, and the rationale/argumentation that support your opinion. The grade will be based on quality and relevance of the news item you selected, and your logical analysis of the issue, and your offered policy alternative. You need to also submit the news item itself along with your own analysis.

Due date: Friday March 25, 2016.

Syllabus: Anticipated coverage, subject to change, is as follows:

Week	Dates	Topic	Text coverage¹	Presentation/ summary
1	Jan 8	Introduction to Social policy Need for Social Policy Introduction of the welfare state	Chapter 1, chapter 4 (page 75-99)	
2	Jan 15	Earnings and Discrimination Income distribution Poverty and Inequality Taxes and redistribution In the news	Chapter 1, chapter 4 (page 81-99)	
3	Jan 22	Models for Social Policy Social Protection Floor In the News	Chapter 4 (page 68 – 75)	Presentation: G1 Minutes: G9
4	Jan 29	Evolution of the welfare state in Canada and selected countries In the news	Chapter 2	Presentation: G2 Minutes: G8
5	Feb 5	Social Policy Structure Universality Vs. Targeting debate In the News	Chapter 3 (page 46 -57)	Presentation: G3 Minutes: G7
6	Feb 12	Income security programs Selected example from Developing country programs In the news	Chapter 3 (page 57 - 66)	Presentation: G4 Minutes: G6
	Feb 19	No classes, reading week		
7	Feb 26	In-class Midterm exam		
8	March 4	Environmental issues, Globalization, and welfare retrenchment Health care In the news	Chapter 5 (page 100-112)	Presentation: G5 Minutes: G3
9	March 11	Citizenship and social inclusion Economic/social Mobility Education In the news	Chapter 5 (page 113-123)	Presentation: G8 Minutes: G2
10	March 18	Diversity Demographic changes In the news	Chapter 6	Presentation: G6 Minutes: G5
	March 25	Good Friday, university-observed holiday, no classes		
11	April 1	The Policy Making Process Social Policy at global level In the news	Chapter 8	Presentation: G9 Minutes: G1
12	April 4 Make-up for March 25	Implementing Social policy Wrap up In the news	Chapter 7	Presentation: G7 Minutes: G4
	April 7 - 23	Final exam period		

¹ This is only the required text coverage, but additional resources and class notes will be provided for the material that is not covered by the text

Notes

- 1- **Assignments are due on the identified dates, at or before the beginning of class.** Submitting assignments late is unfair both to other students who hand them in on time and the instructor who must submit grades on time. Work submitted after the due date - without prior discussion and approval by the instructor - will be graded down 10% for each day late (e.g. an assignment given 85% that is two days late will be graded down to 65%). Any assignment more than one week late will not be accepted without clear documentation of illness or another personal situation that may merit academic consideration.
- 2- Any **error in marking** must be reported to your instructor within *one week* of the date the work was returned in class. No marks will be changed after that time.
- 3- **Final Examinations:** Students must reserve the examination period of April 9-28, 2015. If you are considering registering for a special examination or event, you should select a time outside the examination period. Consult Academic Regulations in the Academic Calendar for special circumstances for examination deferment.
- 4- **Students with disabilities or special needs** are advised to contact Laurier's Accessible Learning Centre for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Academic Calendar, http://www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=1365&p=5123, for information regarding all services available on campus.
- 5- **Academic Integrity/Misconduct (cheating, plagiarism):** The University has a defined policy with respect to Academic Misconduct; penalties are severe and enforced at all times. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the academic misconduct policy and penalty guidelines, and are cautioned that, in addition to failure in a course, students may be suspended or expelled from the University for academic misconduct, and the offence may appear on their transcripts. The relevant policy can be found at Laurier's academic integrity website along with resources to educate and support you in upholding a culture of integrity; see <http://www.wlu.ca/academicintegrity>. **Ignorance of Laurier's academic misconduct policy is not a defence.** Academic Misconduct includes transmission or reception of information, or possession of unauthorized information, during laboratories, quizzes, tests, or examinations. Academic Misconduct also includes plagiarism. Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism, and students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for a plagiarism check. The *Student Code of Conduct and Discipline* and the procedures for investigating and determining appropriate disciplinary measures for breaches of this *Code* are given in the Academic Calendar; see http://www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=2505&p=11452.

6- Classroom Use of Electronic Devices: The use of electronic devices in the classroom is governed by WLU Policy 9.3: *Policy on the Classroom Use of Electronic Devices*; see: http://www.wlu.ca/documents/50202/9.3_Electronic_Device_Policy.pdf. Details of this Policy and the consequences of breaches are stated in the Academic Calendar. Mobile devices are permitted in this course provided they do not detract from the learning of any student, for example by noise level or by the display of distracting or disturbing content. Responsibility for enforcing this rule rests with both the instructor and the students. Students who do not feel comfortable approaching another student can email or talk to the instructor in person. Students who fail to comply with this policy may receive a verbal and/or written warning, or may be asked to leave the classroom for all or part of the course.

7- Course Drop Dates Winter 2015

January 11: Final day to drop/withdraw from 12-week course(s) at no tuition charge (provided the student remains registered in at least one course)

January 18: Last day to drop 12-week course(s) or withdraw at 10 percent tuition charge (tuition charge assessed at 10% of course rate)

March 6: Last day to drop or withdraw from full-year or 12-week winter course(s) without failure and for possible tuition adjustment (tuition charge assessed at 55% of course rate).



Foot Patrol walk home service | 519.886.FOOT (3668)

Foot Patrol is a volunteer operated walk-home service, available daily during evening hours. Male-female, radio-dispatched teams trained in Emergency First Aid are available on request to escort students to and from campus as well as to off-campus destinations, either by foot or by van.



Counselling Services & Peer Help Line | 1-866-281-PEER (7337)

Counselling Services are available to help students deal with emotional, psychological and social challenges of university. Counselling, consultation or referral are available on the 2nd floor of the Student Services Building (across from Health Services), Monday-Thursday 8:30am-8:00pm, Friday 8:30am-4:30pm. Peer Help Line, a confidential listening, referral, information and support line, is available during evening hours to provide support.



Student Food Bank

All Laurier students are eligible to use the Student Food Bank. Anonymous requests can be made online at WLU.SU.COM under the Services tab. All dietary restrictions are accommodated, and food hampers typically last up to a week.

For more information visit WLU.SU.COM