



## Fall 2015

**Course Number:** SOWK 383 S01

**Classroom:** PF 4259

**Course Name:** Social Policy and Social Justice

**Day & Time:** Friday, 1-4 pm

**Instructor:** Dr. Jacqueline Ismael

**Office Hours:** Friday, noon to 1 pm or by appointment

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## COURSE OUTLINE

### Syllabus Statement

Provides an understanding of Canadian social policy, its impact on social justice and how it influences social work practice.

### Course Description

This course will explore the relationship between conceptualizations of social justice, social welfare policy agendas and social work practice models. The concept of social justice is central to the profession of social work, and this course examines it in the context of social welfare policy. The course explores the changing trajectory of social welfare policy in Canada over the 20<sup>th</sup> century, focusing on the changing relationship between social policy and social justice.

The focus of the course is to provide social work students with the knowledge of social policies in relation to the wellbeing of individuals, families, groups and communities in Canadian and global contexts. A central objective of the course to provide social work students with knowledge and skills to identify negative or inequitable policies and their implications and outcomes, especially for disadvantaged and oppressed groups, and to participate in efforts to change these.

### Learning Objectives

1. Perspective - the understanding of the role that ideology, values, and a world view play in determining social justice and social policy.
  - Through a systematic examination of perspectives, social work students will learn to understand their professional role in advancing human rights and responsibilities and social justice in the context of the local community, Canadian society, United Nations Indigenous peoples' rights, and internationally.
2. Process – an understanding of how policy makers look at and propose solutions to social problems and issues.
  - Through a systemic examination of process, and the structures that sustain it, social work students will learn to appreciate diversity and difference as a crucial and valuable part of living in a society.
3. Objectives - the objectives of specified policies, their social justice dimension, and why these objectives are selected; what it is hoped they will accomplish and how, and the relationship between intent and outcome.

- Through a major assignment of policy analysis, social work students will apply key course concepts to a policy area develop skills in critical thinking, reasoning and reflective practice, including critical analysis of assumptions, consistent with the values of the profession, which they apply in their professional practice to analyze complex social situations, make professional judgment, and continually improve practice.

### Relationship to Other Courses

SOWK 383 is a core course in the BSW curriculum required for university transfer students.

### Course Text(s)

B. McKenzie & B. Wharf (2010). *Connecting policy to practice in the human services*. Oxford University Press. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

### Class Schedule

| Session | Date         | Topic   |
|---------|--------------|---|
| 1       | September 11 | Introduction to course<br>Review of course outline<br>Approaches to social policy<br>Assigned reading: McKenzie & Wharf, 1-29   |
| 2       | September 18 | Perspectives I: Ideology<br>Assigned reading: McKenzie & Wharf, 30-48   |
| 3       | September 25 | Perspectives II: Social structure<br>Assigned reading: McKenzie & Wharf, 49-75  |
| 4       | October 2    | Perspectives III: Social justice<br>Assigned reading: M. Robinson, What is Social Justice?<br><a href="http://gjs.appstate.edu/social-justice-and-human-rights/what-social-justice">http://gjs.appstate.edu/social-justice-and-human-rights/what-social-justice</a> |
| 5       | October 9    | Policy process I: Historical dynamics<br>Assigned reading: McKenzie & Wharf, 76-108   |
| 6       | October 16   | Policy process II: Social dynamics<br>Assigned reading: McKenzie & Wharf, 109-149   |
| 7       | October 23   | Mid-term  |
| 8       | October 30   | Objectives: from entitlement to charity<br>Assigned reading: McKenzie & Wharf, 150-165  |
| 9       | November 6   | Group presentations<br>Assigned reading: McKenzie & Wharf, 166-180  |
| 10      | November 20  | Group presentations<br>Assigned reading: McKenzie & Wharf, 181-201  |
| 11      | November 27  | Group presentations<br>Assigned reading: McKenzie & Wharf, 202-223  |
| 12      | December 4   | Group presentations<br>Assigned reading: McKenzie & Wharf, 224-228  |

### Assignments

| <u>*Component</u>      | <u>Weight</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Group Project Proposal |               | October 9   |
| Mid-term Exam**        | 40 percent    | October 23  |

|               |            |                        |
|---------------|------------|------------------------|
| Group Project | 30 percent | As scheduled in class  |
| Final Exam**  | 30 percent | Scheduled by registrar |

\*Completion of all components is required. Failure to complete any component will result in course failure.

\*\*No aids will be allowed in exams.

- **Group Project:**

The class will be divided into groups for the purpose of this assignment. Groups will be organized through random assignment. Each group will be assigned a Canadian social welfare policy area. The group is to select a major policy within that policy area and is to prepare a one-hour class presentation on the following:

Utilizing a selected Canadian social welfare policy, identify four (4) major forces or influences that are affecting the fulfilment of policy objectives.

Influences to be drawn from the following areas:

- Economic, social and/or political patterns that are intrinsic in the social structure;
- Paradigms or theories explaining social problems, social welfare, social change, social justice, etc.
- Ideologies explaining human nature and the nature of society.

For each influence, the following dimensions are to be examined:

1. A clear exposition of the nature, function, and dynamic of the influence;
2. An explanation of why this influence is of particular importance to the policy being examined;
3. The establishment and demonstration of the effects of the influence upon the operation of the policy considered in terms of its relative effects on consumers and the issues of poverty, inequality and inequity in Canadian society;
4. Assessment of the impact of the influence upon the structure and function of social work practice.

**VALUE: 30 percent of final grade**

**DUE:** Presentations are to be made in the last several class sessions. The schedule will be determined after mid-term.

- Due: as assigned on the Blackboard
  - Format: power point or equivalent
  - **Handout:** slide presentation handouts (3/page) or equivalent (please be sure your names are clearly identified).
  - **Hand-in:** Hard copy and electronic copy of powerpoint slides (that include talking notes with properly cited sources for each slide)
  - Five questions in multiple choice format based directly on the group's presentation
- **Social welfare policy proposal:** Each group **must** submit by October 9 a 2-3 page descriptive outline of their proposed topic with an annotated bibliography of principal references on the topic (5-6 references). The proposal should address (1) brief overview of policy; (2) rationale for selection; and (3) description of potential major influences to be considered. This is a **required** component of the assignment, but will be ungraded, and will be used to give direction and feedback to the students on the project. The outline is to be presented in the following format:

Title Page (with full names of group participants)  
Introduction  
Body organized in terms of above outline  
Annotated Selected Bibliography

- **Exams:**
  - Mid-term (40%) October 23
  - Final (30%) – scheduled by the Registrar
  - A study guide will be provided for each; no aids will be allowed in the exam.

### **Recommended Readings**

- Agnew, E.N., (2004). *From Charity to Social Work: Mary E. Richmond and the Creation of an American Profession*, University of Illinois Press
- Baines, C., (1988). *Women's Reform Organizations in Canada, 1870-1930, A Historical Perspective*, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto.
- Blake, R.B., & Keshen, J. A.,(Eds), (2006). *Social Fabric or Patchwork Quilt*, Broadview Press, Peterborough, ON.
- Finkel, Alvin, (2006). *Social Policy and Practice in Canada; A History*, Wilfred Laurier University Press, Waterloo, ON.
- Fleischacker, Samuel, (2004). *A Short History of Distributive Justice*, Harvard University Press
- Franklin, Jane (Ed), (1998). *Social Policy and Social Justice, The IPPR Reader*, The Polity Press, Cambridge, UK.
- Guest, Dennis, (1990). *The Emergence of Social Security in Canada*, UBC Press. Either the Second or Third Edition
- Ismael, Shereen (2006). *Child Poverty and the Canadian Welfare State*. University of Alberta Press.
- Ernie Lightman (2003). *Social policy in Canada*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.
- Lorenz, Walter, (1994). *Social Work in a Changing World*, Routledge, London and New York.
- Miller, D. (1999). *Principles of Social Justice*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.
- Newhouse, D., & Peters, E., (eds.) (2003). *Not Strangers in these Parts – Urban Aboriginal Peoples*, Policy Research Initiative, Government of Canada.
- Nussbaum, Martha C. (1999). *Sex and Social Justice*, Oxford University Press, New York.
- Nussbaum, Martha C. (2004). *Hiding from Humanity*, Princeton University Press.
- Polanyi, Karl, (1943/1957). *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of our Time*, Beacon Press, Boston, MA
- Posner, Richard (2009). *The Failure of Capitalism*, Harvard University Press.

- Reichwein, Baldwin, (2002, rev. 2003). *Benchmarks in Alberta's Public Welfare Service, History Rooted in Benevolence, Harshness, Punitiveness and Stinginess*, Alberta College of Social Workers. [http://www.acsw.ab.ca/publications\\_and\\_resources/publications/other](http://www.acsw.ab.ca/publications_and_resources/publications/other)
- Rice, J.J., & Prince, M.J., (2013), *Changing Politics of Canadian Social Policy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. University of Toronto Press.
- Sen, Amartya, (2000). *Development as Freedom*, Anchor Books, A Division of Random House, Inc., New York.
- Salomon, Alice (Andrew Lees, Ed.), 2004. *Character is Destiny, The Autobiography of Alice Salomon*, The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor.
- Taylor, Charles (2008). *A Secular Age*, The Belknap Press, Harvard University Press.
- Turner, J.C., & Turner, F. (Eds.). (2009). *Canadian social welfare* (6th ed.) Toronto, ON, Pearson Education Canada
- Westhues, A. (2012). *Canadian Social Policy: Issues and Perspectives*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier Press.
- Whitton, Charlotte, (1947). *Welfare in Alberta: The Report of a Study*, Imperial Daughters of the Empire (I.O.D.E).
- Wolterstorff, N., (2008). *Justice, rights and wrongs*, Princeton University Press.

### **RESEARCH ETHICS**

"If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, he or she should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB ethics website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment."

### **WRITING EXPECTATIONS**

It is expected that all work submitted in assignments should be the student's own work, written expressly by the student for this particular course. Students are referred to the section on plagiarism in the University Calendar ([www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html)) and are reminded that plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence.

## Grading

The University of Calgary Undergraduate Grading System and the standard Faculty of Social Work percentage conversion will be used.

| Grade | Grade Point | Description  | Percentage Range |
|-------|-------------|--|------------------|
| A+    | 4.0         | Outstanding  | 95 - 100         |
| A     | 4.0         | Excellent – superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter      | 95 – 100         |
| A-    | 3.7         |  | 90 – 94          |
| B+    | 3.3         |  | 85 – 89          |
| B     | 3.0         | Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete | 80 – 84          |
| B-    | 2.7         |  | 75 – 79          |
| C+    | 2.3         |  | 70 – 74          |
| C     | 2.0         | Satisfactory – basic understanding of subject matter   | 65 – 69          |
| C-    | 1.7         |  | 60 – 64          |
| D+    | 1.3         |  | 55 – 59          |
| D     | 1.0         | Minimal Pass – marginal performance  | 50 – 54          |
| F     | 0.0         | Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements                     | Below 50         |

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

## Course Evaluation

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University and Faculty of Social Work course evaluation forms.

Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at (403) 220-8237, address: MacEwan Student Centre room 452 or email: [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca). Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

### SAFEWALK (403) 220-5333

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night. Call (403) 220-5333. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The University of Calgary copyright policy has changed. It is the responsibility of each individual to ensure compliance with copyright regulations. Individual questions and concerns should be directed to [copyright@ucalgary.ca](mailto:copyright@ucalgary.ca).

Any research in which students are invited to participate will be explained in class and approved by the appropriate University Research Ethics Board.

Cell phones must be turned off in class unless otherwise arranged with the instructor.

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. The primary assembly point for the Professional Faculties building is the Education Block Food Court. The alternate assembly point is Scurfield Hall Atrium.

The Social Work representative to the Students Union is to be determined ([swsacalgary@gmail.com](mailto:swsacalgary@gmail.com)). The Student Ombudsman's Office can be reached at the [U of C Student Services Website](#)

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission.

You are reminded that academic misconduct, including plagiarism, has extremely serious consequences, as set out in the University Calendar.