

APPLIED ARTS DIVISION
School of Health, Education and Human Services
Fall Semester, 2016

University
of Regina



COURSE OUTLINE

SW469

Social Policy

**45 HOURS
3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY: Jordan Aslett

DATE: July 2016

APPROVED BY: Andrew Richardson

DATE:

APPROVED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: (date)

RENEWED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: (date)

YUKON COLLEGE

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Course Outline prepared by Jordan Aslett, 2016

Yukon College
P.O. Box 2799
Whitehorse, YT
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SOCIAL POLICY

INSTRUCTOR: Jordan Aslett

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 12:30-2:30

OFFICE LOCATION: A2208

CLASSROOM:

E-MAIL: jaslett@yukoncollege.yk.ca

TIME: Tuesdays 9am - 12pm

TELEPHONE: 867-456-8535

DATES: September 13th-December 6th

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the dimensions and practical implications of social policy in the lives of Canadians. Political, economic, and cultural influences over social policy are explored, as well as the skills needed to develop social policy and its relationship with the profession of social work.

This course considers social policy as a field of study and practice for social workers; the development of social policy, as well as characteristics, functions and processes common to human service organisations and delivery systems are covered in the course. The course will present a foundation for concepts and paradigms in social policy and examine how these impacts are felt by a practicing Social Worker. A base for understanding the interaction of the values, structures, purposes, services, and policies will be provided through student reading and research as well as by resources provided by the instructor. This course explores the socio-historical, economic, ideological and institutional contexts for the development of social policy in Canada. The policy-making process as well as the role of social policy in processes of inclusion, exclusion, marginalization, and oppression will be discussed. The critical analysis of selected social policies will be emphasized.

PREREQUISITES

Completion of 30 Social Work credit hours.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

For information on transferability and equivalency please contact the Bachelor of Social Work Office.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of the course the student shall:

- understand the relationship between social values, social policy, social programs and how they shape the delivery of social services to the community and the clients.
- develop core knowledge, skills, and values of social work policy practitioners.
- be able to critically analyse a social policy relevant to the Yukon Territory.
- understand the political process and the role power plays in policy development, approval, implementation, and evaluation at the First Nation, community, territorial, and national levels.
- help students develop their critical analytic skill through an exploration of theories and concepts utilized in the study of social policy.
- recognize how social policy can either reflect or guide social change.
- understand how the jurisdictional responsibilities of the federal, territorial and First Nations governments interact and influence financing and programming at the territorial and community level.
- recognize the importance of social policy for the implementation of the Umbrella Final Agreement and self-government agreements between the Yukon First Nations, the Federal and Territorial Governments.

COURSE FORMAT:

ASSESSMENTS

Attendance & Participation Assessment - 10%

10% of the final grade will be assessed through attendance and level of participation. Attendance will be taken at the commencement of each class. A participation assessment form will be given to students on the 2nd last class. Students are asked to provide specific examples of how they contributed to class learning through their participation in discussions and engagement with the material.

Assignments*

60% of the final grade will be assessed through the following three assignments.

Assignment 1 - Policy Issues - 10%

Students are required to research a social policy of their choosing and reflect on how that social policy has impacted their life. Alongside this reflection students must show a knowledge of the history of how the policy came to be and the key actors/organizations involved in implementation and evaluation.

Assignment 2 - Policy Communities - 30%

In groups students are required to research a social policy community (i.e. income support). Students will report to the class on the local, territorial and federal policy actors that relate to this field. On completion students will demonstrate an in-depth understanding of their chosen policy field.

Assignment 3 - Policy Advocacy - 20%

Students are required to submit a policy advocacy document on a social issue of their choice. This document can be in the form of a formal policy presentation, backgrounder or policy position paper. Students can choose to approach the social issue from a governmental (insider) or policy advocate (outsider) perspective.

Final Exam

25% of the final grade will be assessed through the use of a final exam held on a date TBD during the Yukon College exam period.

***N.B.**

Requirements for # of Pages and # of References

The requirements outlined for the length and number of references necessary for each assignment are non-negotiable. These requirements are intended to ensure that students complete course objectives in an academically rigorous manner.

The submission of an assignment that is less than the number of pages required will result in a grade of [F] on the assignment. The number of pages required DOES NOT include Cover Page, Appendix and Reference List. These are not considered part of the page count for the paper.

The submission of an assignment that does not include the minimum number of peer-reviewed sources will result in a grade of [F] on the assignment. Peer-reviewed sources are books and journal articles that have undergone peer-review. Government publications, reports from NGO's/Think Tanks, and Newspaper articles while relevant and important for completion of assignments - do not count as peer-reviewed sources. For help determining whether or not a source is peer-reviewed please see the

following website <https://library.mcmaster.ca/faq/how-can-i-tell-if-a-journal-peer-reviewed>

EVALUATION

Assignments	65%
Midterm Exam	N/A
Participation Assessment	10%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Assignments, Exams and Quizzes will be graded using the criteria set out by the University of Regina. See below for the description of how your assignments will be graded.

90-99 An outstanding performance with very strong evidence of:

- *An insightful and comprehensive grasp of the subject matter;*
- *A clear ability to make sound and original critical evaluation of the material given;*
- *Outstanding capacity for original creative and/or logical thought;*
- *An excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts both in speech and in writing.*

80-89 Very good performance with strong evidence of:

- *A comprehensive grasp of the subject matter;*
- *An ability to make sound critical evaluation of the material given;*
- *A good capacity for original, creative, and/or logical thinking;*
- *A very good ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts both in speech and in writing.*

70-79 Above average performance with evidence of:

- *A substantial knowledge of the subject matter;*
- *A good understanding of the relevant issues and a good familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;*
- *Some capacity for original, creative, and/or logical thinking;*
- *An above-average ability to organize, to analyze and to examine the subject material in a critical and constructive manner, and to express thoughts both in speech and in writing.*

60-69 A generally satisfactory and intellectually adequate performance with evidence of:

- *An acceptable basic grasp of the subject material;*
- *A fair understanding of the relevant issues;*
- *A general familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;*
- *An ability to develop solutions to moderately difficult problems related to the subject material;*
- *A moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner, and to express thoughts in writing.*

50-59 A barely acceptable performance with evidence of:

- *Familiarity with the subject material;*
- *Some evidence that analytical skills have been developed;*
- *Some understanding of relevant issues;*
- *Some familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;*
- *Partially successful attempts to solve moderately difficult problems related to the subject material and to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner;*
- *Basic competence in writing.*

0-49

- *An unacceptable performance.*

WRITING COMPETENCE/LATE ASSIGNMENTS/STYLE

Writing Competence: Competency in written work is a basic requirement for all students at a college or university level. Wherever possible, instructors are expected to obtain evidence of students' writing skills, and to require that students meet a reasonable standard of competence in their written work before they can be given a passing grade. Students who require additional academic assistance and/or wish to improve their writing skills may find it useful to contact the Writing Centre. Free 30-minute one-on-one coaching sessions are available in the YC Library. Appointments are arranged online dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/writingcentre.

Late Assignments: Five (5) % of the assignment's value will be deducted for every day it is late, up to a maximum of five days, after which the assignment will not be accepted

Style: Assignments must be typed and written using appropriate language. Carefully proof your work. Errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation will affect your mark.

American Psychological Association 6th Edition (APA): You must use APA 6th Edition

format when submitting your work. For general information on APA please visit Purdue Owl <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon College recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon College program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/yfnccr.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations. It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

Readings for this class draw from a traditional textbook and an instructor reprotex (available in the college bookstore) that highlights alternative viewpoints from academic and non-academic authors of Canadian social work literature. Some readings will also be posted to the class Moodle and/or reserved at the Library.

Readings are marked in the outline as either **Textbook**, **Reprotex** or **Moodle/Reserved at Library**

Textbook

McKenzie, B., & Wharf, B. (2015). *Connecting policy to practice in the human services* (4th Ed.), Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press

Reprotex

Instructor Reprotex/Course Readings - Available in the Yukon College Bookstore

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the current Academic Regulations that are posted on the Student Services/ Admissions & Registration web page.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.