**McMaster University School of Social Work**

**SW 701: Social Policy: Critical Frameworks**

Tuesday September 3rd, 2019 to Tuesday December 3, 2019, 9:30am to 12:30pm.

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# Course Overview

## Course Description:

In modern welfare states social policy is integral to the mechanism and process of pursuing equity and social justice for individuals, families, communities and society as a whole. Situating social policy in the contexts of history, politics, and ongoing globalization processes, this course explores key concepts, issues, and theories concerning social welfare and social policy making in and beyond Canada; the intersection of welfare restructuring and changing socio-economic conditions (including global capitalism and recent global financial crisis); and the connections between social policy and social work practices. Identifying the uneven policy effects on different social groups, it seeks a critical understanding of the issues of poverty, inequity, and social exclusion from a social policy perspective. In discussing the challenges and possibilities regarding the future of social welfare, the roles of various actors of policy making, including the state, citizens, and civil society, as well as social workers, in pursuing social justice and human rights in both the local and global contexts are also discussed.

## Course Objectives:

1. To understand the dynamics of social policy making and various perspectives underpinning the policy making process
2. To examine social policy issues arising out of the globalization process and restructuring
3. To appreciate the connections among social issues, social policy, and social work practices
4. To develop a *critical* understanding of the relationship between social policy and policy effects
5. To explore the strategies of social policy responses in the changing contexts

The basic assumptions of this course concur with the broader curriculum context set by the **School of Social Work's Statement of Philosophy**:

*As social workers, we operate in a society characterized by power imbalances that affect us all. These power imbalances are based on age, class, ethnicity, gender identity, geographic location, health, ability, race, sexual identity and income. We see personal troubles as inextricably linked to oppressive structures. We believe that social workers must be actively involved in the understanding and transformation of injustices in social institutions and in the struggles of people to maximize control over their own lives.*

## Course Format

Information will be presented through lectures, case study analyses and discussion.

For approximately one-third of the class time, information will be given in a lecture-discussion format. This information will focus on a selected theoretical framework as applied to social work practice with individuals.

## Required Texts:

* Online readings available through the McMaster University Library Database.
* Whiteside, H. (2016). About Canada: Public Private Partnerships. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing. (Book available for purchase through the McMaster University Campus Store)

## Additional Suggested Readings

* Additional readings are listed at the end of the course outline

# Course Requirements/Assignments

## Requirements Overview and Deadlines:

1. **Party Politics and Social Welfare Politics Group Project:**

**Info-graphic presentation:**

Info-graphic instructional workshop will be facilitated in class – date TBA.

**Tuesday October 8th, 2019.**

**30% of final grade : Group Assignment – Group Grade**

**Report and Info-graphic should be submitted at 4pm via Avenue.**

Outputs:

* Report: 10-12pg
* Infographic Poster
* In class presentation of Infographic and report
* Additional details will be posted to Avenue.

1. **Library research assignment**:

Facilitated workshop on September 17th, 2019 by librarian Olga Perkovic

**20% of final grade** (Individual Assignment/Individual Grade)

**Due date: November 5th, Via Avenue @ 5:00pm.**

**Outputs:**

* Library search work sheet
* Outline of Critical Literature Review
* Attendance at Library work shop

1. **Critical policy literature synthesis paper**:

Complete a policy focused literature review and synthesis on a topic related to you Critical Leadership Project or Critical Analysis Thesis

50% of final grade: Individual Assignment/Individual Grade

**Due date: Friday December 6th, 2019. Via Avenue @ 4:00pm – Turnit in will be used to grade this assingment.**

**Outputs:**

* Critical literature review including 8-10 primary sources (scholarly) with at least 1/3 (2-3 readings minimum) of the materials coming from course materials.
* Additional materials will require library research.
* Assignment details will be posted to Avenue to Learn.

# Assignment Submission and Grading

## Form and Style

* Written assignments must be typed and double-spaced and submitted with a front page containing the title, student’s name, student number, and the date. Number all pages (except title page).
* Written assignments are submitted through “Avenue” and are due at 11:59pm on the due date.
* Assignments should be stapled together. Please do NOT use plastic report covers or binders.
* Paper format must be in accordance with the current edition of American Psychological Association (APA) publication manual with particular attention paid to font size (Times-Roman 12), spacing (double spaced) and margins (minimum of 1 inch at the top, bottom, left and right of each page) as papers not meeting these requirements will not be accepted for grading.
* Students are expected to make use of relevant professional and social science literature and other bodies of knowledge in their term assignments. When submitting, please keep a spare copy of your assignments.

## Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss with the course instructor.

## Submitting Assignments & Grading

Assignments must be submitted electronically via Avenue to Learning by 11:59pm on the required due date. A 2% reduction will be applied each day (i.e., Monday - Sunday) after the due date. Students should consult the McMaster University policy on extensions if they wish to request an extension on an assignment. All extensions must be negotiated prior to the assignment due date. Please use the following criteria when preparing your assignment:

1. Include a title page with all relevant course information, adhere to the page limits specified, be formatted with 12 pt. font and standard margins, and be stapled;
2. The citations and references in all assignments (if applicable) must use APA format (5th or 6th edition): more information is available through the e-Resources link on the library home page <http://library.mcmaster.ca> and at <http://www.apastyle.org>.

## Privacy Protection

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class;
2. Return of materials to students during office hours;
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

## Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

# Student Responsibilities and University Policies

* Students are expected to contribute to the creation of a respectful and constructive learning environment. Students should read material in preparation for class, attend class on time and remain for the full duration of the class. A formal break will be provided in the middle of each class, students are to return from the break on time.
* In the past, student and faculty have found that non-course related use of laptop computers and hand-held electronic devices during class to be distracting and at times disruptive. Consequently, during class students are expected to only use such devices for taking notes and other activities directly related to the lecture or class activity taking place.

## Attendance

Students’ attendance and participation are crucial for this course.

You are expected to:

* come to class on time
* complete the required readings,
* take an active part in the discussion
* use technology and social media for class purposes only

## Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf), located at [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity)

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

* Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
* Improper collaboration in group work.
* Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations

Academic dishonesty also entails a student having someone sign in for them on a weekly course attendance sheet when they are absent from class and/or a student signing someone in who is known to be absent.

## Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](https://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf) policy.

## Accessibility Statement

The School of Social Work recognizes that people learn and express their knowledge in different ways. We are committed to reducing barriers to accessibility in the classroom, and working towards classrooms that welcome diverse learners. If you have accessibility concerns or want to talk about your learning needs, please be in touch with the course instructor.

#### **Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)** The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student’s religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/current-students/riso) about how to request accommodation.

## E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, they may not reply.

# Course Weekly Topics and Readings

**The weekly schedule may be subject to change.**

## Week 1: September 3, 2019.

### Topics:

* Introduction to the Course
* Elections and Social Work – prep for grp assignment
* Historical Contexts for Social Policy

### **Readings:**

* No assigned readings
* Video based resource:
  + From Canada a People’s History – “Hard Times” (1924-1940)”

## Week 2: September 10, 2019.

### Topics:

* Social Policy and Social Work
* The Changing Landscape of Social Policy

### **Readings:**

* Graham, J.R.; Swift, K. & Delaney, R. (2012). Introduction to Canadian social policy. pp. 1-20. In, *Canadian Social Policy: An Introduction, 4th Ed*.
* Mahon, R. (2008). Varieties of liberalism: Canadian social policy from the “golden age” to the present. Social Policy & Administration, 42 (4), 342–361.
* McKeen, W. (2006). Diminishing the concept of social policy: The shifting conceptual ground of social policy debate in Canada. *Critical Social Policy*, 26 (4), 865-887.

## Week 3: September 17, 2019

### Topics:

* Facilitated assignment workshops
  + ***Olga Percovic – Searching for Policy Materials in the Library and Online: Government Sources, Policy Documents, Legal Briefs and Grey Research.***
  + **Meet rm: 107 Mills Library: Wong E-Classroom**
* Students who do not attend today’s class are responsible for meeting the expectations of the assignments that will be covered in the workshops. There are no alternative workshop dates arranged with these facilitators.

No Readings are assigned:

Please see supplemental readings for information on infographics.

## Week 4: September 24, 2019

### Topics:

* Social Justice
* Rights Responsibilities and Social Welfare

### **Readings:**

* Smith, A. M. (2008). Neoliberalism, welfare policy, and feminist theories of social justice. *Feminist Theory*, 9 (2), 131-144.
* Young, I. M. (2006). Responsibility and global justice: A social connection model. *Social Philosophy & Policy*, 23 (1), 102-130.
* Elder-Woodward, J. (2014). "Living well” vs neoliberal social welfare. *Ethics & Social Welfare*, 18(3), 306-313.
* Almog-Bar, M., Weiss-Gal, I., & Gal, J. (2014). Bringing public policy into policy practice.*Journal of Social Work*, 35(4), 390-408.

## Week 5: October 1, 2019

### Topics:

* Government Funding/Taxation and Social Policy
* Actors and Ideologies in the Policy Process

### **Readings:**

* MacDonald, F. (2011). Indigenous peoples and neoliberal “privatization” in Canada: Opportunities, Cautions, Constrains. Canadian Journal of Political Science 44(2), pg. 257 – 273.
* Hancock, L.; Mooney, G. & Neal, S. (2012). Crisis social policy and the resilience of the concept of community. *Critical Social Policy*, 32(3), 343-364.
* Kwok, S. & Tam, D. M. (2010). Rethinking the role of municipal governments on redistribution in Ontario, Canada. *Journal of Policy Practice*, 9(2), 69-79.
* Lightman, E. & Leightman, n. (2017). Paying through taxes. Social Policy in Canada, 2nd Edition. Oxford (PDF on Avenue)
* [Dreher](https://scholar.google.ca/citations?user=IFU4XFgAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=sra), A. (2006). The influence of globalization on taxes and social policy: An empirical analysis for OECD countries. European Journal of Political Economy, 22(1), 179–201.

## Week 6: October 8th, 2019

### Topics:

* Group Presentations
* 4 x 30-minute presentations will be undertaken today

### **Readings:**

**No readings assigned for this class**

***Reading Week: October 15 –NO CLASS!***

## Week 7: October 22, 2019

### Topics:

* Social policy and gender: Reflections in people’s daily lives

### **Readings:**

* Grundy, J. & Laliberte Rudman, D. (2018). Deciphering Deservedness: Canadian Employment Insurance Reforms in Historical Perspective. Social Policy and Administration 52(3), 809-825.
* Saraceno, C. (2015). A critical look to the social investment approach from a gender perspective. *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, 22(2), 257-269.
* Wotherspoon, T., & Hansen, J. (2013). The “Idle no More” movement: Paradoxes of First Nations inclusion in the Canadian Context. *Social Inclusion* 1(1) pg. 21-36.

## Week 8: October 29, 2019

### Topics:

* Care and “caring problems”
* Markets, and ethics in caregiving

### **Readings:**

* [Martin-Matthews, A.,](http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/indexinglinkhandler/sng/au/Martin-Matthews,+Anne/$N?accountid=12347) [Sims-Gould, J.](http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/indexinglinkhandler/sng/au/Sims-Gould,+Joanie/$N?accountid=12347), & [Tong, C. E](http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/indexinglinkhandler/sng/au/Tong,+Catherine+E/$N?accountid=12347). (2012/2013). Canada's complex and fractionalized home care context: Perspectives of workers, elderly clients, family careers, and home care managers. [***Canadian Review of Social Policy***](http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/pubidlinkhandler/sng/pubtitle/Canadian+Review+of+Social+Policy/$N/28163/DocView/1370183849/fulltext/9984EFAF964F4E03PQ/5?accountid=12347),[68/69](http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/indexingvolumeissuelinkhandler/28163/Canadian+Review+of+Social+Policy/02012Y01Y01$232012$2f2013$3b++$2868$2f69$29/$N/68$2f69?accountid=12347)pg. 55-74.
* **Novek, S. (2013). Filipino health care aides and the nursing home labour market in Winnipeg. *Canadian Journal on Aging*, 32(4), 405-416.**
* **Zhou**, Y.R. (2013). Toward transnational care interdependence: Rethinking the relationships between care, immigration and social policy. Global Social Policy, 13(3), 280-298.

## Week 9: November 5, 2019.

### Topics:

* Understanding health disparities in the context of social policy

### **Readings**:

* Mitchell, T., & MacLeod, T. (2014). [Aboriginal social policy: A critical community mental health issue](http://www.cjcmh.com.www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/abs/10.7870/cjcmh-2014-010). *Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health*, 33(1), 109-122.
* Mulé, N. J., & Smith, M. (2014). Invisible populations: LGBTQ people and federal health policy in Canada. *Canadian Public Administration*, [57(2),](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/capa.2014.57.issue-2/issuetoc) 234–255.
* Hammack, P. L., & Cohler, B. J. (2011). Narrative, identity, and the politics of exclusion: Social change and the gay and lesbian life course.*Sexuality Research and Social Policy*,*8*(3), 162-182.
* Onishenko, D. & Erbland, J. (2016). The case of Ashley Smith: Policy window or policy failure?  Canadian Review of Social Policy 76(1), 70-89.

## Week 10: November 12, 2019.

### Topics:

* The complex relationship between social policy and inequalities

### **Readings:**

* Malacrida, C. (2010). Income support policy in Canada and the UK: Different, but much the same. *Disability & Society*, 25(6), 673-686.
* [Palmater, P. D](http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/indexinglinkhandler/sng/au/Palmater,+Pamela+D/$N?accountid=12347) (2011). Stretched beyond human limits: Death by poverty in First Nations. [***Canadian Review of Social Policy***](http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/pubidlinkhandler/sng/pubtitle/Canadian+Review+of+Social+Policy/$N/28163/DocView/1240370652/fulltext/54070428F8FE4A8DPQ/8?accountid=12347)*,* [65/66](http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/indexingvolumeissuelinkhandler/28163/Canadian+Review+of+Social+Policy/02011Y01Y01$232011$3b++$2865$2f66$29/$N/65$2f66?accountid=12347), 112-127.
* [Fernando, S.](http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/indexinglinkhandler/sng/au/Fernando,+Shanti/$N?accountid=12347), & [Earle, B.](http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/indexinglinkhandler/sng/au/Earle,+Benjamin/$N?accountid=12347) (2011). Linking poverty reduction and economic recovery: Supporting community responses to austerity in Ontario. [*Canadian Review of Social Policy*](http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/pubidlinkhandler/sng/pubtitle/Canadian+Review+of+Social+Policy/$N/28163/DocView/1240370646/fulltext/9F31EE50C6AC4A88PQ/3?accountid=12347),[65/66](http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/indexingvolumeissuelinkhandler/28163/Canadian+Review+of+Social+Policy/02011Y01Y01$232011$3b++$2865$2f66$29/$N/65$2f66?accountid=12347)31-44.
* Shantz, J. (2011). Poverty, social movements and community health: The campaign for the Special Diet Allowance in Ontario. *Journal of Poverty and Social Justice*, 19(2), 145-158

## Week 11: November 19, 2019

### Topics:

* Aging: Old age security policies
* Inadequacy, inequality, and risk in policies for aging people.

### **Readings:**

* LaRochelle-Côté, S., Myles, J., & Picot, G. (2012). Income replacement rates among Canadian seniors: The effect of widowhood and divorce.*Canadian Public Policy*,*38*(4), 471-495.
* Kaida**,** L., &Boyd, M. (2011). Poverty variations among the elderly: The roles of income security policies and family co-residence. *Canadian Journal on Aging*, 30(1), 83-100.
* **\*Zhou**, Y. R. (2014). Austerity now, poverty later?: Pensions. In D. Baines & S. McBride (eds.), Orchestrating austerity: Impacts and resistance (p.120-133).Fernwood Publishing. (\* This book chapter is available in PDF format.)

**Week 12: November 26, 2019**

### Topics:

### Digital Domains and Social Policy

#### Readings:

* Marando, D., & Craft, J. (2017). Digital era policy advising: Clouding ministerial perspectives?. *Canadian Public Administration*, *60*(4), 498-516.
* Roy, J. (2016). Data, dialogue, and innovation: Opportunities and challenges for “Open Government” in Canada. *Journal of Innovation Management*, *4*(1), 22-38.
* Martin, J. P. (2018). *Skills for the 21st century: Findings and policy lessons from the OECD survey of adult skills* (No. 138). IZA Policy Paper.

**Week 13: December 3, 2019.**

#### Wrap Up/Reflection on Term

Any material that required rescheduling may be reviewed during the class.

# Additional Resources

## Articles/Chapters

* Aronson, J., & Neysmith, S. (2006). Obscuring the costs of home care: Restructuring at work. *Work, Employment & Society*, 20, 27-45.
* [Brodie](http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/search?q=Janine%20M%20Brodie&search_in=AUTHOR&sub=), J. M. (2007). Reforming social justice in neoliberal times. [*Studies in Social Justice*](http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/browse/19114788), [1(2)](http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/browse/19114788/v01i0002), 93-107.
* *Graefe, P. (2006)* [*Federalism and social policy: Evaluating recent federal-provincial Agreements*](http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/docview/222297642/AEC6DA8BFDF6471APQ/1?accountid=12347)*.* Canadian Review of Social Policy*, 57, 1-15.*
* Loakimidis, V., Santos, C. C., & Herrero, I. M. (2014). Reconceptualizing social work in times of crisis: An examination of the cases of Greece, Spain and Portugal.*International Social Work*,*57*(4), 285-300.
* McDaniel, S., & Bernard, P. (2011). Life course as a policy lens: Challenges and opportunities.*Canadian Public Policy*,*37*(Supplement 1), S1-S13.
* Kretsos, L. (2014). Youth policy in austerity Europe: The case of Greece. *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth*,*19*(sup1), 35-47.
* Rogowski, S. (2015). From child welfare to child protection/safeguarding: A critical practitioner’s view of changing conceptions, policies and practice. *Practice*,*27*(2), 97-112.
* Peterson, C. (2013). The lies that bind: Heteronormative constructions of “family” in social work discourse.*Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, *25*(4), 486-508.

## Books:

* Barnes, M. (2009). *Subversive citizens: Power, agency and resistance in public services*. Bristol: Policy Press. (e-copy available at McMaster Library).
* Finkel, A. (2006). *Social policy and practice in Canada: A history*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.
* McKenzie, B. & B. Wharf, B. (2010). *Connecting policy to practice in the human services*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.
* Schram, S. F. (2006). Welfare discipline: Discourse, governance and globalization. Philadelphia:Temple University Press.

## Scholarly Journals:

* *Canadian Social Work Review*
* *Critical Social Policy*
* *Poverty & Public Policy*
* *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*
* *Social Policy and Administration*
* *International Journal of Social Welfare*
* *Social Policy & Society*

## Websites:

* Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/>
* Canadian Council on Social Development <http://www.ccsd.ca/links.html>
* Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy <http://www.unb.ca/crisp/index.php>
* Caledon Institute of Social Policy <http://www.caledoninst.org/>
* Canadian Policy Research Networks <http://www.cprn.org/doc.cfm?l=en>
* Community Social Planning Council of Toronto <http://www.socialplanningtoronto.org/>
* Make Poverty History <http://www.makepovertyhistory.ca/>
* National Council of Welfare (Canada) <http://www.ncwcnbes.net/en/home.html>
* Ontario Coalition for Social Justice: <http://www.ocsj.ca/>
* Social Assistance Review <http://sareview.ca/>
* Social Planning & Research Council of Hamilton <http://www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca/>
* 25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction (Hamilton-based): <http://www.25in5.ca/>