

# SOC 6110: Political Sociology - Social Policy

Autumn 2017

Location: Rm 240

Tuesdays 2:10-4PM

**Prof. David Pettinicchio**

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Office: Rm 240

Office hours by appointment

## Course Description:

This course examines the social and political context of policymaking – that is, how and why policies end up looking the way they do, and their social and political outcomes (whether intended or not). The course situates social policy within key theoretical debates in sociology, especially political sociology. For instance, what is the relationship between individual actors and the institutional contexts within which they work? Does policy change come slowly or does it happen in bursts? How much say does the public and social movements have in the policymaking process? In addition, we will cover numerous case studies embedded throughout the course ranging from disability, to gender, to the environment, to immigration.

## Course Objectives:

- Expose graduate students to key theoretical concepts and debates in political sociology.
- Apply these theoretical frameworks to various empirical cases.
- Provide an opportunity for graduate students to develop a research proposal for a future paper/project.
- Prepare graduate students for the social policy comprehensive exam (note that readings including an asterisk are included in past versions of the social policy reading list).

## Evaluation:

Graduate students will be evaluated in four ways: their attendance, *meaningful* contribution, and participation throughout the course, their research proposals (and presentation), and their discussion-leading exercise.

The research proposal (5 double-spaced pages) will outline the objectives of a new project or paper. It must address an existing debate related to political sociology and social policy. Students must articulate a clear research question, situate it in the existing literature, describe a proposed methodology to address the research question, and importantly, discuss the significance of the project (i.e., the “so what?” question).

An outline (2-3 double-spaced pages) of the research question, significance of the question, and brief contextualization of the question, is due earlier in the course so that I can provide feedback before the full proposal is due.

Graduate students will also briefly present their proposals at the end of the course followed by group discussion. This provides an opportunity for peer feedback – comments, suggestions and advice that can be used in moving forward with the project/paper.

Graduate students will also lead discussion on a chosen week. There will be an opportunity to sign-up for the topic of choice. There should be at least 2 discussion leaders per week, although the final number will depend on enrollment. In addition to facilitating discussion, a 2-3 page double-spaced memo analyzing and critiquing the main arguments and debates will be turned in on the discussion leader's week. Each memo should contain 2-3 discussion questions meant to help facilitate in-class discussion.

Memo: 25%  
Final research Proposal: 60%  
Participation/Leading Discussion: 15%

The final research proposals are given grades of A, A- or B+, etc. All other activities, including memos, are evaluated on a pass/fail basis.

**\*\*\*\*All work should be submitted in class (hardcopy) on the due date. Under extenuating circumstances, work can be placed in my department mailbox or sent via email. Please notify me *before hand* if a circumstance (such as illness for instance) prevents you from submitting work or acting as discussion leader.\*\*\*\***

Students should of course be familiar with policies on plagiarism:  
<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/facultyandstaff/Pages/Academic-Integrity.aspx>

### **Course Schedule:**

*\*\*\* Note that some readings will be made available on Blackboard. Other readings can be easily accessed online through Google Scholar, JSTOR, etc. \*\*\**

#### **Week 1 Introduction – What is Social Policy? (Sept. 12)**

Titumus, Richard. 1974. What is Social Policy?

\*Margaret Weir, Ann Orloff and Theda Skocpol eds. (1988) *The Politics of Social Policy in the United States*. Princeton N.J.: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1 Understanding American Social Politics.

Finkel, Alvin. 2006. *Social Policy and Practice in Canada: A History*. Chapter 1.

#### **Week 2 Theoretical Framework I: The Macro Level (Sept. 19)**

\*Thelen, Kathleen & Wolfgang Streeck. *Beyond Continuity*. Chapter 1. Institutional Change in Advanced Political Economies.

Beland, Daniel. 2005. Ideas and Social Policy: An Institutional Perspective. *Social Policy and Administration* 39:1-18.

Thelan and Mahoney. 2009. Explaining Institutional Change. Chapter 1 A theory of gradual institutional change.

Baumgartner Frank and Bryan Jones. 1993. Agendas and Instability in American Politics. University of Chicago Press. Ch. 1 Punctuated Equilibria in Politics.

### **Week 3 Theoretical Framework II: Micro-Level Considerations (Sept. 26)**

Jones, Bryan. 1999. Bounded Rationality. *Annual Review of Political Science*.

Fligstein and McAdam. 2012. A Theory of Fields. Oxford University Press. Ch. 1 The Gist of It and Ch 2 Microfoundations.

Rowlands, Ian. 1995. The Politics of Global Atmospheric Change. Manchester University Press. Ch. 12 Catalysts and Climate Change.

Pettinicchio, David. 2012. Institutional Activism: Reconsidering the Insider/Outsider Dichotomy in Social Movements. *Sociology Compass* 6:499-510.

Steenland, Brian. 2008. "Why Do Policy Frames Change? Actor-Idea Coevolution in Debates over Welfare Reform." *Social Forces* 86:1027-1054.

### **Week 4 The Welfare State (Oct. 3) \*\*\*Outline of Proposal Due.\*\*\***

\*Gøsta Esping-Andersen. 1989. "The Three Political Economies of the Welfare State" *Canadian Review of Sociology*, 26(1): 10-36.

\*Karl Polanyi. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*, chapters 6 and 11.

\*Daniel Beland and John Myles. 2012. "Varieties of Federalism, Institutional Legacies, and Social Policy: Comparing Old Age and Unemployment Insurance Reforms in Canada", *International Journal of Social Welfare*, 21, Supplementary Issue: S75-S87.

### **Week 5 Social Inequalities & Exclusion (Oct. 10)**

\* Philip Oreopoulos "Why Do Skilled Immigrants Struggle in the Labour Market? A Field Experiment with Sixty Thousand Resumes."

\* Bloemraad, Irene, Anna Korteweg, and Gökçe Yurdakul. 2008. "Citizenship and immigration: Multiculturalism, assimilation, and challenges to the nation-state." *Annual Review of Sociology* 34: 153-79.

Maroto, Michelle and David Pettinicchio. 2014. Disability, structural inequality, and work: The influence of occupational segregation on earnings for people with different disabilities."Research in Social Stratification and Mobility. 38:76-92

Eger, Maureen. 2010. "Even in Sweden." European Sociological Review 26:203-217

\*Lewis, Jane (1992) "Gender and the Development of Welfare Regimes", *Journal of European Social Policy*. 2(3): 159-73.

### **Week 6 The Politics of Retrenchment & Neoliberalism (Oct. 17)**

\*Paul Pierson. 1994. *Dismantling the Welfare State: Reagan, Thatcher, and the Politics of Retrenchment*, Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 2.

\*Harvey, David. 2005 [2007]. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford UP (excerpts, 3 readings)

Jacob Hacker. 2004. "Privatizing Risk without Privatizing the Welfare State: The Hidden Politics of Social Policy Retrenchment in the United States," *American Political Science Review*: 243-58.

Clarke, John (2004) "Dissolving the public realm? The logics and limits of neoliberalism," *Journal of Social Policy* 33(1): 27-48.

### **Week 7 Agenda Setting Processes (Oct. 24) \*\*\*Proposal outlines returned with feedback\*\*\***

Baumgartner Frank and Bryan Jones. 1993. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. University of Chicago Press. Ch. 4 The Construction and Collapse of a Policy Monopoly and Ch. 5 Two Models of Issue Expansion University of Chicago Press.

Pettinicchio, David. 2013. Strategic Action Fields and the Context of Political Entrepreneurship: How Disability Rights Became Part of the Policy Agenda. *Research in Social Movements, Conflict and Change*. 36:79-106.

Soroka, Stuart. 2002. Issue Attributes and Agenda-Setting by Media, the Public, and Policymakers in Canada. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 14: 264-285.

Beckett, Katherine. 1994. "Setting the Public Agenda: "Street Crime" and Drug Use in American Politics." *Social Problems* 41:425-447.

### **Week 8 Do Public Preferences Matter? (Oct. 31)**

Wlezien, Christopher & Stuart Soroka. 2012. Political Institutions and the Opinion-Policy Link. *Western European Politics*. 35: 1407-1432.

Margalit, Yotam. 2013. Explaining Social Policy Preferences: Evidence from the Great Recession. *American Political Science Review* 107: 80-103.

Mooney, Christopher and Richard G. Schuld. 2008. "Does Morality Policy Exist? Testing a Basic Assumption." *Policy Studies Journal* 36: 199–218.

Pettinicchio, David. 2010. Public and Elite Policy Preferences: Gay Marriage in Canada. *International Journal of Canadian Studies* 42: 125-153.

\*\*\*\*\*NOV 7 No Class – Reading week.\*\*\*\*\*

### **Week 9 The Role of Social Movements and Political Advocacy (Nov. 14)**

Burstein, Paul. 2014. *American Public Opinion, Advocacy, and Policy in Congress: What the Public Wants and What it Gets*. Ch 4 How Americans Try to Influence Congress.

Costain, Anne N. and Steven Majstrovic. 1994. "Congress, Social Movements and Public Opinion: Multiple Origins of Women's Rights Legislation." *Political Research Quarterly* 47:111-135.

Weldon, Laurel. 2011. *When Protest Makes Policy: How Social Movements Represent Disadvantaged Groups*. University Of Michigan. Ch 1 Introduction.

Meyer, David. 2005. "Social Movements and Public Policy: Eggs, Chicken, and Theory," in DSM, Valerie Jenness, and Helen Ingram, eds. *Routing the Opposition: Social Movements, Public Policy, and Democracy in America*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 1-26.

### **Week 10 Understanding Policy Outcomes and Policy Feedbacks (Nov. 21)**

Larner, Wendy. 2000. *Neo-Liberalism: Policy, Ideology, Governmentality*. Studies in Political Economy.

Reese, E. & Newcombe, G. (2003) Income rights, mothers' rights, or workers' rights? Collective action frames, organizational ideologies, and the American welfare movement. *Social Problems* 50:294-318.

Campbell, Andrea. 2005. *How Policies Make Citizens: Senior Political Activism and the American Welfare State*. Princeton University Press. Ch. 1 The Reciprocal Participation-Policy Relationship.

Maroto, Michelle and David Pettinicchio. 2014. The Limitations of Disability Antidiscrimination Legislation. *Law and Policy* 36: 370-407.

### **Week 11 Presentations/Discussion (Nov. 28)**

**Week 12 (Dec 5) \*\*\* Research Proposals due \*\*\*\***