

SOC208H1S: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL POLICY

University of Toronto

Winter 2019

Lecture Date/Time: Mondays, 12-2 p.m.

Lecture Location: WI 1016

Instructor: Gabriel Menard

Email: gabe.menard@mail.utoronto.ca

Office: Dept of Sociology (725 Spadina), room 335

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:30-4:30

TA: Shawn Perron (office hours by appointment)

TA Email: shawn.perron@mail.utoronto.ca

Course Description

What is social policy? Why and how do countries make policies to promote the well-being of citizens, and why do these policies take different forms? How do broader social contexts shape policy success and failure?

In this course, we answer these questions (and others) by examining social policy through a sociological lens. In the first part of the course, we examine the social factors that shape how social policies are made. Here we consider four core perspectives: economic, political, institutional, and cultural. In the second part of the course, we focus on situating social policies within broader social contexts. Here we explore social policy in relation to social forces at both the macro (*e.g.* globalization, neoliberalism) and micro (*e.g.* local implementation, organizational) level, paying particular attention to contemporary issues and contexts.

Course Objectives

In this course, you will:

- Become familiar with key concepts in the field of social policy, including the welfare state, distributional issues, interest groups, institutions, and culture and ideology.
- Gain practice using sociology's theoretical toolkit to analyze the development, implementation, and effects of social policy.
- Apply this toolkit to real-world issues in social policy.
- Develop skills to effectively read and interpret academic journal articles, in preparation for higher-level sociology courses.
- Explore how broader social contexts shape policy success and failure.

- Learn to draw implications from social policy analysis for policy-makers.

Prerequisites

The prerequisite to take SOC208H1S is SOC100H1 or SOC101Y or SOC102H. Students who do not meet the prerequisite requirement can be removed at any time, without notice.

Course Readings

All course readings will be available on the course website. Students are solely responsible for obtaining and reading all required materials before class. Please give yourself enough time to address any problems or delays that may arise in accessing the readings. I recommend accessing and saving all materials at the beginning of term.

Attendance & Participation

Attendance is mandatory for all lectures. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to each lecture; to arrive on time for lecture; and to arrive ready to discuss the assigned material. While in-class participation is not evaluated, it is strongly encouraged; students who engage with the material in class tend to perform better on evaluations.

Evaluation & Grading

<i>Description</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Research Proposal	February 4, 2019	15%
Midterm Test	February 11, 2019	25%
Research Paper	March 25, 2019	30%
Final Exam	TBA	30%

Writing Assignments

There are two writing assignments in this course, built around a cumulative independent research project undertaken throughout the semester. These assignments consist of: 1) a ***research proposal***, in which students will conduct preliminary research into a social policy topic of their choice, and propose a social policy issue to be analyzed in the final paper; and 2) a ***research paper***, in which students will analyze their chosen social policy issue through one (or more) of the core perspectives of social policy covered in class.

Research Proposal

Due: February 4, 2019 at 11:59am.

Length: approximately 2-3 pages

This assignment is intended to assist students in building a strong empirical foundation for the research paper. Students are asked to choose a topic of interest in social policy; to narrow that topic down to a specific social policy issue; and to conduct preliminary research into that issue. Using the findings of this research, students will explain their chosen issue and outline the scope of their future research paper. Students are also asked to supply a list of sources that can be used to support their future analysis. Evaluation is based largely on how well the proposal demonstrates thorough research and thoughtful consideration of both the chosen issue and the project's scope. More detailed instructions will be provided in advance of the due date.

Research Paper

Due: March 25, 2019 at 11:59am.

Length: approximately 6-7 pages

This assignment is intended to assist students in connecting course material with real-world social policy issues, and to develop research and writing skills in social policy analysis. Students are asked to analyze their chosen social policy issue through the lens of at least one core social policy perspective covered in class. Evaluation is based largely on the paper's engagement with its chosen perspective(s) and the insightfulness of the analysis. Students are expected to develop (using theory) an original argument concerning the development of their chosen social policy issue. More detailed instructions will be provided in advance of the due date.

Midterm Test & Exam

There will be both a midterm test (February 11) and a final exam (TBA – scheduled during exam period) in this course. These assessments will cover material from class and from the readings up until the date administered. A makeup test will be held only for students missing the midterm test for valid reasons with documentation (see below). The midterm test will be a 'closed test' – it will not be handed back to students, but students will be given the opportunity to review their test after it has been graded. The final exam will be scheduled by the *Faculty of Arts and Science* in accordance with their normal procedures.

Submitting Term Work

The two writing assignments (*i.e.*, the Research Proposal and Research Paper) are due at the beginning of class (11:59am) on the designated due date. Assignments must be submitted through Quercus. No hard-copy (paper) submissions will be accepted.

Late Penalties

Unless accompanied by proper documentation (see below), late term work will incur a penalty of 10 percentage points for the first 24-hour period after the assignment deadline (*i.e.*, from 12:01pm on Monday to 12:01pm Tuesday) and 5 percentage points per 24-hour period thereafter, including weekends and holidays.

Missed Tests and Deadlines

Students who miss a test will receive a mark of zero, unless *within three days* of the missed test, students who wish to write the make-up test submit to the instructor a written request for special consideration which explains why the test was missed. ***The request must be supported by proper documentation*** from a physician or college registrar (see below). The request should be accompanied by contact information (the student's email address) so the date, time and place of the make-up test can be communicated to the student. A student who misses a test and the subsequent make-up test for a valid reason will not have a third chance to take the test. Instead, the grade assigned for the missed test will be the same as the grade the student earns for the other test in this course.

If you miss a test or an assignment deadline, do not contact the instructor or TA unless you have followed the steps described here:

- In case of illness, you must supply a duly completed *Verification of Student Illness or Injury* form (available at www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). A doctor's note is acceptable but **MUST** indicate the start and anticipated end date of the illness. The letter must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted in class or during office hours.
- If a personal or family crisis prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar (it is a good idea anyway to advise your college registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies). The letter must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted in class or during office hours.

Regrading

If feel your grade on a test or assignment is unjustified, you must present your argument in writing (through email) to the TA within one week after the assignment is returned. This argument must respond substantively to the feedback provided on the assignment – you must indicate where and why you think the feedback or grading is misjudged. The TA will then respond to the student on the basis of the argument submitted. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the TA's response, you may then contact the instructor for a regrade. Note that the instructor will re-evaluate the entire assignment; this means the grade can go up, down, or remain the same, as appropriate. It is important to first read and digest the initial assignment feedback; for that reason, ***please do not contact the TA for a regrade within the first 24 hours after the assignment feedback has been released.***

Turnitin

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the

purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Assignments not submitted through Turnitin will receive a grade of zero (0 %), unless a student instead provides, along with their position paper, sufficient secondary material (*e.g.*, reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submit is truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via Turnitin) is in place because, strictly speaking, using Turnitin is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense with serious penalties. Plagiarism means presenting work done by another person or source as your own, or using the work of others without acknowledgment. Any assignment or essay that is plagiarized will be assigned a grade of zero. If you are in doubt as to whether you are plagiarizing, please consult the following tips on using sources from the University of Toronto webpage on writing:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

Other academic offenses are taken seriously as well, including cheating, misrepresentation, and resubmitting work that has already been submitted for credit elsewhere. ***It is each student's responsibility to know and understand what constitutes an academic offense.*** Know where you stand by reading the "Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters" in the Calendar of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Email

My goal is to answer emails from students on weekdays within 48 hours, with the exception of those received on Fridays (these will be answered on Mondays or the next business day if the Monday is a holiday). Please understand that it may not always be possible for me to respond promptly, and plan accordingly. ***You must include "SOC208" somewhere in the email*** (ideally the subject line). If I do not know which course you are in, I cannot effectively address your inquiry. Please review the syllabus in full before emailing me or the TA.

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services at (416) 978 8060; accessibility.utoronto.ca

Course Schedule

WEEK 1: What is Social Policy?

January 7

No assigned readings.

WEEK 2: The Welfare State

January 14

Olsen, Gregg M. 1994. "Locating the Canadian Welfare State: Family Policy and Health Care in Canada, Sweden, and the United States." *Canadian Journal of Sociology/Cahiers Canadiens de Sociologie*: 1-20.

Dean, Hartley. 2006. Pp. 29 - 32 in *Social Policy*. Polity Press: Cambridge, U.K.

I. CORE PERSPECTIVES

WEEK 3: Economics and Distribution

January 21

Korpi, Walter and Joakim Palme. 1998. "The Paradox of Redistribution and Strategies of Equality: Welfare State Institutions, Inequality, and Poverty in the Western Countries" *American Sociological Review* 63(5): 661-687.

Dean, Hartley. 2006. "Chapter 5: Who Gets What?" Pp. 58-68 in *Social Policy*. Polity Press: Cambridge, U.K.

WEEK 4: Power and Politics

January 28

Polakow-Suransky, Sasha. 2016. "The Ruthlessly Effective Branding of Europe's Far Right" *The Guardian*. November 1. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/01/the-ruthlessly-effective-rebranding-of-europes-new-far-right>

Hacker, Jacob S. and Paul Pierson. 2010. "Chapter 4: The Unseen Revolution of the 1970s", in *Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer – And Turned Its Back on the Middle Class*. Simon & Shuster.

WEEK 5: Institutions and State Structure

February 4

****Research Proposal due at 11:59am****

Dobbin, Frank. 2009. "Regulating Discrimination: The Paradox of a Weak State" Pp. 1 - 21 in *Inventing Equal Opportunity*. Princeton University Press.

Immergut, Ellen M. 1990. "Institutions, Veto Points, and Policy Results: A Comparative Analysis of Health Care". *Journal of Public Policy* 10(4): 391-416.

WEEK 6: Midterm Test

February 11

** In-class midterm test**

No assigned readings.

WEEK 7: Family Day/Reading Week

February 18

No class (university closed). No assigned readings.

WEEK 8: Culture, Morality, Ideology

February 25

Steenland, Brian. 2006. "Cultural Categories and the American Welfare State: The Case of Guaranteed Income Policy" *American Journal of Sociology* 111(5): 1273-1326.

Mosher, Janet and Joe Hermer. 2010. "Welfare Fraud: The Construction of Social Assistance as Crime" Pp. 17-53 in *Constructing Crime: Contemporary Processes of Criminalization*. UBC Press: British Columbia.

II. SOCIAL POLICY IN CONTEXT

WEEK 9: Globalization

March 4

Meyer, John W., John Boli, George M. Thomas, and Francisco O. Ramirez. 1997. "World Society and the Nation-State" *American Journal of Sociology* 103(1): 144-181.

Drezner, Daniel W. 2009. "Bottom Feeders" *Foreign Policy*. November 19. 1-6.

WEEK 10: Social Policy in Action

March 11

****Guest speaker, attendance mandatory****

No assigned readings.

WEEK 11: Dosage and Outcomes

March 18

Swidler, Ann. 2009. "Responding to AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa: Culture, Institutions, and Health" pp. 128 - 150 in *Successful Societies: How Institutions and Culture Affect Health*. Eds. Peter Hall and Michele Lamont. Cambridge University Press.

Boekmann, Irene, Joya Misra, and Michelle J. Budig. 2016. "Motherhood Earnings Penalties and Work-Family Policies: Is More Always Better?" *Work In Progress*
<https://workinprogress.oowsection.org/2016/05/10/motherhood-earnings-penalties-and-workfamily-policies-is-more-always-better/>

WEEK 12: Markets

March 25

****Research Paper due at 11:59am****

Mahon, Rianne. 2010. "After Neo-Liberalism?: The OECD, the World Bank and the Child". *Global Social Policy* 10(2): 172-192.

Pernell, Kim, Jiwook Jung and Frank Dobbin. 2017. "Research: Hiring Chief Risk Officers Led Banks to Take on Even More Risk." *Harvard Business Review*. <https://hbr.org/2017/07/research-hiring-chief-risk-officers-led-banks-to-take-on-even-more-risk>.

WEEK 13: The Future of Social Policy

April 1

Myles, John. "The Fading of Redistributive Politics in Canada." *Canadian Review of Sociology* 52(1): 1-21.

****Exam date TBA. Will occur during exam period.****