



# McGill

## McGill University

### COURSE OUTLINE

#### **SOCI-304A: SOCIOLOGY OF THE WELFARE STATE**

Fall Term 2016  
Tue/Thu 2:35pm - 3:55pm  
Room: Arts West 120

**Prof. Axel van den Berg**  
Office Hours: by appointment  
Leacock 816, tel. 398-6846

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The origins and history of the welfare state and the differences between types of welfare state regimes; debates about and empirical evidence for current developments in welfare state programs. Special attention will be paid to the interconnections between the evolution of the labour market and the resulting pressures on the welfare state.

#### **COURSE ORGANIZATION:**

The course meets twice a week. Most of the time will be taken up with lectures. Depending on the size of the class and demand, some sessions may be devoted to questions-and-answers or to more informal discussions of the topics at hand. Your participation in these discussions will affect your grade.

The course is divided into a number of broad topics. These will take varying periods to cover. The reading assignments are listed under each topic heading below. You will be expected to read some 50 pages of text per week on average. The lectures may sometimes comment on the readings but will mostly **complement** them. *You will have a hard time following either the readings or the lectures if you do not conscientiously keep up with both.* Since we will also be switching topics every week or so, **you will have to keep up** with the readings.

#### **EVALUATION:**

Your final grade for the course will be based on one in-class midterm and one final exam and your participation in class. The in-class exam is provisionally scheduled for Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>, during the normal class period. It will cover all the course material treated up until that time. The date and place of the final exam will be announced by the Student Affairs office. It will cover all course material covered *after* the midterm. Both exams will be short-answer. Your

participation in class, and especially during the periodic question-and-answer periods, will also contribute to your final grade. The final grade will be calculated as follows:

In-Class Mid-Term:	30%
Final Exam:	60%
Class Participation:	10%
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Total:	100%

In accordance with University regulations there will be a supplemental examination for those eligible, but there will be **no possibility of doing additional work** for students with unsatisfactory final grades. Students who miss either the mid-term or the final examination will automatically receive a grade of **J** for the course and *may* be eligible to take a deferred or supplemental examination during the supplemental period to make up for the missing exam. Supplemental or deferred examinations will count for 60% of the final grade.

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

**In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.**

### **Plagiarism**

French version:

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/)).

English version:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information).

### **READINGS:**

Required readings for the course will consist of a series of readings collected in a course pack. The course pack is available at the McGill Bookstore as well as on 3-hour reserve in the Redpath Library. Hyperlinks to the articles are provided for your convenience.

## **LECTURE TOPICS AND REQUIRED READINGS**

### **I. INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS SOCIAL WELFARE?**

Reading:

Entry 'Welfare State' in Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welfare\\_state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welfare_state)

### **II. THE EMERGENCE OF THE WELFARE STATE**

Readings:

Kuhnle, Stein and Sander, Anne. 2010. "[The Emergence of the Western Welfare State](#)," Ch. 5 in *The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State*, ed. by F. G. Castles, S. Leibfried, J. Lewis, H. Obinger and C. Pierson Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2010.

Hick, Steven. 2014. "The History of Social Welfare: Emergence and Decline of the Welfare State," Ch. 2 (pp. 26-53) in Hick, Steven, *Social Welfare in Canada: Understanding Income Security*, Toronto: Thompson Educational Publishing. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

### **III. THE DIFFERENT 'WORLDS OF WELFARE'**

Readings:

Danforth, Benjamin. 2014. "[Worlds of welfare in time: A historical reassessment of the three-world typology](#)," *Journal of European Social Policy*, Vol. 24, No.2, pp. 164-182.

Scruggs, L., and Allan, J. P. 2006. "[Welfare-state decommodification in 18 OECD countries: a replication and revision](#)," *Journal of European Social Policy* Vol. 16, pp. 55-72.

### **IV. EXPLAINING THE WELFARE STATE**

Readings:

Garlington S.B. 2014. "[Value orientations of social welfare policy Structures](#)" *International Journal of Social Welfare*, Vol.23, pp. 287-295.

Myles, John and Quadagno, Jill. 2002. "[Political Theories of the Welfare State](#)," *Social Service Review*, Vol. 76, No. 1, pp. 34-57.

### **V. POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND THE WELFARE STATE**

Readings:

Banting, K., and Myles, J. 2015. "[Framing the New Inequality: The Politics of Income Redistribution in Canada](#)," pp. 509-540 in D. A. Green, W. C. Riddell, and F. St-Hilaire, eds., *Income Inequality: The Canadian Story* (Vol. V). Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy.

Scruggs, L., and Allan, J. P. 2006. "[The material consequences of welfare states: Benefit generosity and absolute poverty in 16 OECD countries](#)," *Comparative Political Studies*, 39 (7), pp. 880-904.

## **VI. WORK AND THE WELFARE STATE: FROM WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

Readings:

Ozkan, Umut Riza. 2014. "[Comparing Formal Unemployment Compensation Systems in 15 OECD Countries](#)," *Social Policy and Administration*, Vol.48, No. 1, February 2014, pp. 44-66.

van der Wel, Kjetil A. and Halvorsen, Knut. 2015. "[The bigger the worse? A comparative study of the welfare state and employment commitment](#)," *Work, employment and society*, Vol. 29(1) 99–118.

## **VII. THE WELFARE STATE AND GENDER AND THE FAMILY**

Readings:

Mandel, Hadas and Semyonov, Moshe. 2006. "[A Welfare State Paradox: State Interventions and Women's Employment Opportunities in 22 Countries](#)," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol 111, No. 6, May 2006, pp. 1910-1949.

Guo, Jing and Neil Gilbert. 2007. "[Welfare state regimes and family policy: a longitudinal analysis](#)", *International Journal of Social Welfare*, Vol. 16: 307–313.

## **VIII. HEALTH CARE**

Readings:

Maioni, Antoni. 1997. "[Parting at the Crossroads: The Development of Health Insurance in Canada and the United States, 1940-1965](#)" *Comparative Politics*, 29:4 (1997), pp. 411-431.

Kunitz, S. J., & Pesis-Katz, I. 2005. "[Mortality of white Americans, African Americans, and Canadians: The causes and consequences for health of welfare state institutions and policies](#)," *Milbank Quarterly*, 83 (1), pp. 5-39.

## **IX. PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT**

Readings:

Myles, John. 2013. "Income Security for Seniors: System Maintenance and Policy Drift," Chapter 13 (pp. 312-334) in Keith Banting and John Myles, eds., *Inequality and the Fading of Redistributive Politics*, Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. [McLennan- HN107 I54 2013](#)

Wolf, Frieder, Zohlnhöfer, Reimut and Wenzelburger, Georg. 2014. "[The Politics of Public and Private Pension Generosity in Advanced Democracies.](#)" *Social Policy & Administration*, Vol. 48, No. 1, February 2014, pp. 86–106.

## **X. THE FUTURE OF THE WELFARE STATE: GLOBALIZATION AND RETRENCHMENT?**

Readings:

Achterberg, Peter and Yerkes, Mara. 2009. "[One welfare state emerging? Convergence versus divergence in 16 western countries.](#)" *Journal of Comparative Social Welfare*, Vol. 25, No. 3, October 2009, pp. 189–201.

van Kersbergen, Kees, Vis, Barbara and Hemerijck, Anton. 2014. "[The Great Recession and Welfare State Reform: Is Retrenchment Really the Only Game Left in Town?](#)," *Social Policy & Administration*, Vol.48, No.7, pp. 883-904.

## **XI. THE WELFARE STATE, TAXES AND PUBLIC OPINION**

Readings:

Matthews, J. Scott and Erickson, Lynda. 2008. "[Welfare state structures and the structure of welfare state support: Attitudes towards social spending in Canada, 1993–2000.](#)" *European Journal of Political Research*, Vol. 47, pp. 411–435.

Larsen, Christian Albrekt. 2008. "[The Institutional Logic of Welfare Attitudes: How Welfare Regimes Influence Public Support.](#)" *Comparative Political Studies*, 2008, Vol. 41, pp. 145-168.

## **XII. CONCLUSION**

No Required Reading.