COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI-304: SOCIOLOGY OF THE WELFARE STATE

Fall Term 2017
Tue/Thu 10:05am - 11:25am
Room: Stewart Biology N2/2

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 19th, 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:

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<tr>
<td>In-Class Mid-Term:</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<td>Class Participation:</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Total:</td>
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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/).

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/ 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:


II. THE EMERGENCE OF THE WELFARE STATE
Readings:


III. THE DIFFERENT ‘WORLDS OF WELFARE’
Readings:


IV. EXPLAINING THE WELFARE STATE
Readings:


V. POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND THE WELFARE STATE
Readings:


VI. WORK AND THE WELFARE STATE: FROM WORKMEN’S COMPENSATION TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
Readings:


VII. THE WELFARE STATE AND GENDER AND THE FAMILY
Readings:


VIII. HEALTH CARE
Readings:


IX. PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT
Readings:


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


XI. THE WELFARE STATE, TAXES AND PUBLIC OPINION
Readings:


XII. CONCLUSION
No Required Reading.