COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI-304: SOCIOLOGY OF THE WELFARE STATE

Fall Term 2020
Tue/Thu 2:35pm - 3:55pm
Office Hours: by appointment

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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 and prospects for the near future.

COURSE ORGANIZATION:
Lectures will be presented at the designated class times via Zoom. All students will receive an invitation to join the Zoom meetings. The lectures will be given live so that students can ask questions or raise issues while listening to the lecture by using Zoom’s chat feature. The lectures will also be recorded and saved on the MyCourses site so that students who were unable to attend the lectures synchronously can still watch them later.
The course is divided into a number of broad topics. These will take between one and two weeks each 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. Since you will be quizzed on the lectures and readings of each topic soon after the topic has been covered (see Evaluation below) you will have to keep up with both if you want to be able to pass the regular quizzes.

EVALUATION:
Quizzes
There will be 10 2-question quizzes, with one question from the lectures and one from the readings for each of the 10 main course sections (sections II to XI). Quizzes will be made accessible for a period of 48 hours on MyCourses after the lecture following the lecture in which
the course section was completed. Students will answer each question using no more than one page of typed text double-spaced (no more than 300 words). Students will have a total of no more than 45 minutes to do so for each 2-question quiz from the moment they have accessed the quiz on MyCourses. Each quiz will count for 10% of your final course grade. The first of these quizzes is provisionally scheduled to be accessible on MyCourses on September 17th, at 4:00pm Montreal time for a period of 48 hours.

**Pre-Quiz Question Periods:**
There will be a brief (about ½ hour) question-and-answer period at the beginning of the lecture following the lecture in which the course section was completed (that is at the beginning of the lecture after which the quiz will be made accessible). Students can submit their questions to the TA by email until noon (Montreal time) of the day of the question-and-answer period or submit their questions on the chat board during the question-and-answer period itself. Students who are unable to attend the question-and-answer period synchronously can still submit their questions to the TA until noon of the day of the question-and-answer period and watch the recording of the Q&A period later.

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 consist of a series of articles and chapters 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. The readings can also be accessed in the unit called “Course Readings” on the MyCourses site for this course. Hyperlinks to the articles are provided for your convenience below as well.

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 readings.