



McGill

McGill University

COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI-304: SOCIOLOGY OF THE WELFARE STATE

Fall Term 2023

Mon/Wed 2:35pm - 3:55pm

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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:

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 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. *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 Wednesday October

18th, during the normal class period. ***It will cover course sections I through V (see below).*** The date and place of the final exam will be announced by the Student Affairs office. ***The final exam will cover only the remaining sections of the course, that is, sections VI to XII.*** 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%

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/).

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. The readings can be accessed by following the hyperlinks in this course outline as well as in the unit called “Readings” on the MyCourses site for this course.

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

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: Oxford University Press.

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. 3rd ed. [McLennan-HV105 H523 2013](#)

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.

Hicks, Alexander and Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 2005. “[Comparative and Historical Studies of Public Policy and the Welfare State](#),” Ch. 25 (pp. 509-525) in Thomas Janoski, Robert L. Alford, Alexander M. Hicks and Mildred A. Schwartz, eds. *The Handbook of Political Sociology: States, Civil societies, and Globalization*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

V. POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND THE WELFARE STATE

Readings:

Caminada, Koen, Kees Goudswaard, Chen Wang, and Jinxian Wang. 2019. "[Has the Redistributive Effect of Social Transfers and Taxes Changed over Time across Countries?](#)" *International Social Security Review* 72 (1): 3–31.

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*, Vol. 39, No.7, pp. 880-904.

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

Readings:

Dinan, S. and Noël, A., 2020. "[Quebec's resilient redistribution model: Activation policies in the 2010s.](#)" *Canadian Public Administration*, 63(3): 473-497.

Bredgaard, Thomas, and Per Kongshøj Madsen. 2018. "[Farewell Flexicurity? Danish Flexicurity and the Crisis.](#)" *Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research* 24 (4): 375–86.

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.

Kang, Ji Young, 2018. "[Convergence of family policy across welfare regimes \(1990 to 2010\): Different connotations of family policy expansion,](#)" *International Journal of Social Welfare*, Volume 28, Issue 2, pp. 167-178.

VIII. HEALTH CARE

Readings:

Maioni, Antonia. 1997. "[Parting at the Crossroads: The Development of Health Insurance in Canada and the United States, 1940-1965,](#)" *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 29, No.4, 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*, Vol. 83, No. 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.

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:

Auguste, Daniel. 2018. "[Income Inequality, Globalization, and the Welfare State: Evidence from 23 Industrial Countries, 1990-2009.](#)" *Sociological Forum* 33 (3): 666–89.

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:

Gimpelson, Vladimir, and Daniel Treisman. 2018. "[Misperceiving Inequality.](#)" *Economics and Politics* 30 (1): 27–54.

Trump, K.S., 2023. "[Income Inequality is Unrelated to Perceived Inequality and Support for Redistribution.](#)" *Social Science Quarterly*, 104 (2), pp.180-188.

XII. CONCLUSION

No required readings.