



SYLLABUS

SWRK 1310 Introduction to Social Welfare Policy Analysis

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Syllabus

Welcome to SWRK 1310 — Introduction to Social Welfare Policy Analysis! This is an introductory social welfare policy course and the first that students take while in the BSW program. The course has been developed to give you a solid understanding of social welfare policy issues, specifically relating to the field of social work. As the introductory social welfare policy course, it will serve to strengthen your understanding of policy and its relationship to practice in subsequent courses.

Course description

The University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar describes this course as follows:

Examination of social welfare policy as the end product of ideologies. Introduction of elements of ideology and the comparison of competing ideological systems. The relationship of economic, political and ethical views of society and their manifestations in societal responses to human need and social services.

This course is designed to introduce you to the field of Canadian social welfare policy and the main political ideologies that influence our understanding of social “problems” and social policy. We will discuss what is meant by the terms, social welfare, policy, and policy analysis. You will learn about how everyday issues become constructed as social “problems” (and how others do not) and how policymakers choose to respond to these “problems”. The course will also introduce you to the concept of ideology and how certain ideologies frame social “problems” and the potential social policies. Throughout the course we will discuss and debate the meaning of social policies and the potential outcomes they have on us as social work practitioners and the clients whom we work with. Finally, we will have a chance to examine alternative ideological perspectives and how they may offer policy solutions that are more consistent with social work values and beliefs.

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Course objectives

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Define social welfare policy and describe its relevance to social work practice
2. Describe the theoretical underpinnings of policy analysis.
3. Articulate the major historical developments in social work/social welfare, and how these developments impact current social welfare policy.
4. Describe the major ideological paradigms that impact the framing of social “problems” and social welfare policy.
5. Analyze a Canadian social policy through the use of a particular ideological lens. Specifically, students will be able to articulate the policy’s purpose, implementation, and likely outcomes (intended and unintended).
6. Articulate the critiques of classical ideologies based on emerging perspectives, namely Indigenous, feminist, and critical perspectives.
7. Begin articulating their own values and beliefs regarding social “problems”, social welfare policy and social work.

As secondary objectives for the course, students will:

1. Be able to use information technology as a learning and research tool.
2. Demonstrate enhanced writing skills.
3. Demonstrate enhanced research skills.

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Course materials

Required

Bookstore

The following required materials are available for purchase from the [University of Manitoba Bookstore](#). Please order your materials immediately, if you have not already done so. See your [Distance and Online Education Student Handbook](#) for instructions on how to order your materials.

- **Textbooks:**

- Graham, J. R., Swift, K. J., & Delaney, R. (2012). *Canadian social policy: An introduction* (4th ed). Scarborough, ON: Peason Education.
- Mullaly, R. (2007). *The new structural social work* (3rd ed.). Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

- **Readings package:**

Distance and Online Education Readings Package SWRK 1310 Introduction to Social Welfare Policy Analysis Online Study

In addition to the chapters in the required text, additional readings are required. Some of these readings can be found on electronic reserve through the University of Manitoba Libraries, while others are available online.

University of Manitoba Libraries

The following materials are available electronically from the [University of Manitoba Libraries](#). Contact [Off-Campus Library Services](#) if you require assistance.

- Bacchi, C. (1999). Domestic violence: Battered women or violent men? In C. Bacchi's *Women, policy and politics: The construction of policy problems* (pp. 164-180). London: Sage Publications.
- Mitchell, P. (1999). Aboriginal justice uses healing approach [Aboriginal Ganootamaage Justice Services, Winnipeg]. *Herizons*, 12 (4), pp. 9-10.
- Morrisette, V. (2006). *Towards an Aboriginal perspective that addresses ideological domination in social policy analysis*. Chapter 5: Implications for Social Work (pp.162-209). Unpublished master's thesis, University of Manitoba.
- Westhues, A. (2006). *Canadian social policy: Issues and perspectives*. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

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Online materials

The following articles/readings are available online:

- Baker, M. (1999, May). Demography didn't change social policy. Ideology did. *Policy Options*, 54-58.
[Available at: <http://archive.irpp.org/po/archive/may99/baker.pdf>]
- Baldock, J. (2012). Social policy, social welfare, and the welfare state. In J. Baldock, L. Mitton, N. Manning, & S. Vickerstaff (Eds.) *Social policy* (4th ed.) (p. 7-26). New York: Oxford University Press.
[Available as a pdf on the course web site]
- Brink, S. (2004). Elder care: the nexus for family, work and health policy. Ottawa, ON: Caledon Institute of Social Policy.
[Available at: <http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/505ENG.pdf>]
- Howlett, D. (2005). The call for a living wage: Cross Canada campaigns. *Canadian Dimensions: For people who want to change the world*.
[Available at: <http://canadiandimension.com/articles/2005/05/01/27>]
- Mawhiney, A., Hardy, S. (2009). Aboriginal peoples in Canada. In J. C. Turner and F. J. Turner (Eds). *Canadian social welfare* (pp. 95-109). Toronto, ON: Pearson Canada.
[Available as a pdf on the course web site]
- Murray, S. & Mackenzie, H. (2007). Bringing minimum wages above the poverty line: Summary. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.
[Available at: http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National_Office_Pubs/2007/minimum_wage_above_poverty_line.pdf]
- Quinn, P. (1996). Identifying gendered outcomes of gender-neutral policies. *Affilia* 11(2), 195-206.
[Available at: <http://aff.sagepub.com.proxy1.lib.umanitoba.ca/cgi/reprint/11/2/195>]
- Raphael, D. (2001). Increasing poverty threatens the health of all Canadians. *Canadian Family Physician*, 47 (pp.1703-1706).
[Available at: <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/picrender.fcgi?artid=2018576&blobtype=pdf>]
- Savarese, J., & Morton, B. (2005). Women and social assistance policy in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Winnipeg, MB: Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence.
 [Available at: <http://www.pwhce.ca/pdf/incomeAssistanceComplete.pdf>]

Required hardware and software

You will require the following items for your computer for this course:

1. Headset or speakers to hear audio files and to participate in live office hours.
2. You will also need to install the following software on your computer for this course:
 - o * Acrobat reader
 - o * Flash Player

We strongly recommend that you install and test all required hardware and software immediately. If you encounter difficulties installing your software, contact de_support@umanitoba.ca.

Supplementary

Bookstore

Students may find the following supplementary textbooks useful. They are available for purchase from the University of Manitoba Bookstore. Please order your materials immediately, if you have not already done so. See your *Distance and Online Education Student Handbook* for instructions on how to order your materials.

Hick, S. (2007). *Social welfare in Canada: Understanding income security*. Toronto, ON: Thompson Educational Publishing.

Westhues, A. (2006). *Canadian social policy: Issues and perspectives*, 4th edition. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

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General expectations

As students and adult learners with experience and knowledge it is expected that you contribute to the course learning and teaching through attendance (online if necessary) and participation. Written assignments are expected to meet usual requirements of scholarship at the undergraduate level. In addition to the presence of content relevant to the course objectives, these will be among the criteria used in assigning the grade and include: appropriate use of the literature, coherence in the organization between and within sections, presentation of available evidence for your arguments and a logic to the steps taken towards conclusions. Assignments must use the APA reference style as outlined in the text:

American Psychological Association. (2009). [Publication manual of the American Psychological Association](#) (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Szuchman, L. & Tomlison, B. (2008). *Writing with style: APA style for social work* (3rd ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole-Thomson Learning.

Examples of this reference style can also be found online (copy and enter the URL once you have accessed the internet): <http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/citation/apa/index.html>

Course overview

Social welfare policy is an important part of social work for two reasons. First, it sets the framework within which most social work is practiced (e.g., industry, government, non-profit agencies, and private practice.) Second, policy analysis, development and implementation are forms of social work practice.

As social workers, it is important to understand the policy context within which we practice. This implies an awareness of not only the policies that have a direct impact on our work but also the values and viewpoints implicitly or explicitly stated in those policies. Why, for example, do some policymakers consider violence within intimate relationships as being "domestic" or "family" violence, while others consider it to be "violence against women"? To understand the answers to these and other questions requires that we be familiar with the range of ideas and values underpinning the context of our practice both in their historic and contemporary forms. In particular, the ideologies and values that contribute to our understanding of the role of government, the distribution of wealth, and access to social services all need to be examined, as these have a profound impact on how social work is conceptualized and practiced.

This course will introduce you to an analytical framework, enabling you to consider the intent, meaning, and likely outcomes of policy statements made by representatives of political parties, professional associations, governments, or individual theorists. The course, therefore, is one of critical thinking and analysis rather than of finding solutions to the problems of human welfare. It does, however, identify many of the main and secondary issues, the competing viewpoints, and the unresolved problems that face people in the profession of social work. It does so with the intent of providing not only theoretical and empirical background but also the normative framework necessary for social workers in Canada to understand the context of their practice.

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Course outline

Section One: Introduction to Social Welfare Policy Analysis

- Key concepts (social welfare, the welfare state, policy analysis, social welfare policy analysis, social work as a "policy-based" profession)
- Policy analysis framework

- Historical influences
- Social welfare approaches (residual, institutional, and structural)
- Social problem definition and construction

Section Two: Ideology

- Ideology and paradigm as concepts
- Significance of ideology to social welfare policy and social work
- Eight elements of ideology
- Neo-conservatism
- Liberalism
- Third Way
- Social Democracy
- Marxism
- Indigenous
- Feminist, anti-racist, and post-modern critiques

Section Three: Social Welfare Policy Analysis: Applying the Ideologies

- Indigenous issues and perspectives
- Women and gender-based policy analysis
- Immigrant and newcomers
- Persons with disabilities
- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-Spirit, and Queer (GLBTTQ*)
- Older persons
- Poverty
- Social welfare retrenchment and devolution
- Globalization
- Active Citizenship

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Learning activities

The course will offer you the opportunity to use and practice your emerging skills in policy analysis through online activities, self-assessments, discussion forums and a group assignment.

Evaluation and grading

Your written assignments must be completed in Word (.doc) format only and submitted online by using the designated drop box.

Distribution of marks

Evaluation	Percentage
Assignment 1: Discussion Forum	25%
Assignment 2: Ideology & the Media Group Paper	20%
Assignment 3: Ideology Analysis Paper	20%
Part I	35%
Part II	
Total	100%

Grading scale

Letter grade	Percentage range	Description
A+	> 93	Exceptional
A	86 – < 93	Excellent
B+	79 – < 86	Very good
B	72 – < 79	Good
C+	65 – < 72	Satisfactory
C	58 – < 65	Adequate
D	50 – < 58	Unacceptable
F	< 50	Failure

Note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

Appeals of final grades are to be directed to the Appeals Committee, Faculty of Social Work. Requests to re-read an assignment or to re-consider a grade may be directed to the instructor with a supporting rationale in writing within two

weeks of receiving the graded assignment. Please refer to the Student Handbook for further details on academic regulations and procedures, which can be found on the Faculty of Social Work website:

http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/social_work/future/564.html and on the University Registrar's Office website:

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/grades/690.html>.

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Assignments

Assignment One: Discussion Forums

The discussion forums are a key tool for our learning in this course. The advantage of the discussion board is that it is asynchronous; that is, we can all share our ideas with one another at a time that is convenient for each of us. The intent is to get everyone "talking" about a particular social policy issue. Learning occurs when we are able to openly discuss and debate course material. I expect you to be open about your reactions to topics and respectfully challenge one another. We may also use the discussion forums to share our reflections on readings, other student postings, raising questions, and discussing our social work-related experiences.

Assignment Two: Ideology and the Media Group Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to have you focus on the underlying ideological perspectives the media (e.g., MacLean's, Saturday Night, The Winnipeg Free Press, etc.) uses to portray social issues. You must complete this assignment in small groups.

Assignment Three: Ideology Analysis Paper (2 parts)

Social policies are enacted to address particular social problems. Like social policy, the nature of social problems is a function of the ideological context. In other words, the framing of a social problem will greatly depend on deeply held values and assumptions. Students will write a 12-15 paged paper (double-spaced and not including references) comparing/contrasting the perspectives of TWO main ideological paradigms as discussed in this course for a chosen social policy area or social program. The paper is broken down into two parts - Parts I and II are due on separate dates. Part II is scheduled as a take-home final exam.

Note: Detailed instructions about the assignments are found in the assignment widget in your course website.

Assignment due dates

Consult your course calendar for the assignment due dates.

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Plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation

You should acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar. Note: These policies are also located in your *Distance and Online Education Student Handbook* or you may refer to Student Affairs at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/student>.

Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism

The University of Manitoba adopts the following policy regarding academic misconduct, which can be found in the Section 3.15 of the Academic Calendar.

Academic misconduct is intentional cheating, fabrication, impersonation, or plagiarism. It is also knowingly helping or attempting to help others to be dishonest. Academic dishonesty lowers scholastic quality and defrauds others who will eventually depend on their own knowledge and integrity. Plagiarism or any other form of cheating on examinations, term tests, or assignments is subject to academic penalty as serious as suspension or expulsion from the Faculty or University.

Students who are unsure of what constitutes academic misconduct are encouraged to visit the Student Affairs website on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Fraud at: http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/cheating_plagiarism_fraud.html or consult with the course professor or instructor.

Students may also find the following tutorial useful: http://intranet.umanitoba.ca/academic_support/uts/tutorial/Captivate%20Files/advocacy/thepword/pword_grad/pwordgrad_1.swf.

You can also find information on plagiarism in the SWRK 1310 A03 Desire2Learn course site.

Student and Academic staff Responsibilities

The University of Manitoba has expectations regarding student behaviour. Policies concerning inappropriate or disruptive behaviour are online: http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/279.htm

And policies regarding student discipline are online: http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/student_discipline.html

In addition, policies regarding academic staff's responsibilities regarding students are available online:

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/278.htm

Confidentiality is to be practiced and maintained whether in written assignments, in-class discussions, or in discussions about the course outside of class.

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Professional unsuitability

The Faculty of Social Work may require any student to withdraw from the Faculty pursuant to the procedures set out in this By-Law when the student has been found unsuited, on considerations of competence or professional fitness, for the practice of Social Work. For further information please refer to the undergraduate handbook:

http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/social_work/media/BSW_Handbook_2012-2013_Final_updates_April_26_12.docx

Or, the graduate handbook:

http://umanitoba.ca/social_work/media/Pre-MSW_MSW_Handbook_2011-2012.pdf

Policy on Extensions, Late Assignments, and Resubmissions

To be fair to all students, extensions for any course assignments must be discussed and negotiated with the instructor prior to the due date (at least 2 weeks prior). If modifications are not negotiated in advance, assignment expectations will be commensurate with those of other students (this is a fancy/academic way of saying that an extension will not be granted!). Assignments handed in late without prior approval will be deducted by 5% of the final grade for each day late. There will be no opportunity for resubmissions. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all coursework has been completed. If an assignment is not completed and no arrangements have been made with the instructor, a grade of 0 will be awarded. A final grade will be awarded based on the work completed and submitted to the instructor.

Distance and Online Education (DE) Student Resources

In your course website there are links for the following:

- Contacting Distance and Online Education Staff
- Distance and Online Student Handbook
- Distance and Online Education Website

Acknowledgements

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University of Manitoba

Kendra is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba. Kendra specializes in violence against women, intimate partner violence, mothering and intimate partner violence, children's exposure to intimate partner violence, and social/family policy.

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