

Emergence of the Canadian Social Welfare State

SWRK 2110

Syllabus

Introduction

This course is designed to provide you with an understanding of the various social, economic, political, religious and demographic factors involved in the development of social welfare policy in Canada. The University of Manitoba *Undergraduate Calendar* describes the content of this course as follows:

An examination of the emergence of the Canadian welfare state from its various colonial inheritances to the Canada Assistance Plan. Social, political, economic, religious, geographical, demographic and cataclysmic factors influencing the development of the welfare state are examined and analyzed. Prerequisite: SWRK 1310 (or 047.131). Students may not hold credit for both SWRK 2110 (or 047.211) and the former 047.130.

Our concern in this course will be to move beyond the more direct presentation of *what happened* (which would be more appropriate for a history course) and to begin to consider *why* certain social welfare measures were taken at specific points in Canadian history. An analytical appreciation of the historical development of Canada's social welfare system is relevant to social policy today because this understanding can assist us in developing a critique of current policies, and in proposing methods to influence future policy changes.

Explanations for why certain developments in social welfare occurred in Canada generally include one or more of the following:

1. The development of social welfare measures was the result of progressive humanitarianism and growing enlightenment.
2. The development of social welfare measures was the result of struggles by various popular movements and similar interests (e.g., an industrial working class, an agrarian population, urban poor, immigration, etc.).
3. The Canadian State established specific social welfare measures as a deliberate method of social control directed at particular segments of the Canadian population (and/or at times of popular unrest and protest).
4. Financial expenditures on Social Welfare became necessary at various times in order to maintain economic and social stability.

It will be important for you to acquire the analytical skill to recognize these and other explanations for the historical development of social welfare in Canada.

Contacting your instructor

For information on contacting your instructor as well as other important information from your instructor see the Instructor Letter link in your course website.

Course objectives

To allow the student to form an appreciation of how the Canadian welfare state developed by considering the provision of relief as organized by European settlements in New France and British North America and, after Confederation, the gradual extension of state involvement in social welfare provision in an increasingly urban, industrialized country.

- To explore the relative influence on social welfare of progressive humanitarianism, state efforts at social control and struggles of religious, ethnic and working class groups.

- To examine the impact of major events such as the Winnipeg General Strike, the Great Depression, World War II and major government reports such as the Rowell-Sirois Report and the Marsh Report on social welfare developments in Canada.
- To gain experience in applying a theoretical explanation for welfare state involvement to a social policy issue or event in Canadian history.

Assessment

Assessment will be based on an Article Review worth 30%, an essay worth 30% and one 40% final exam.

The first assignment is an article review (1,000–1,500 words, double-spaced, typed).

The essay and second assignment (1,500–1,800 words, double-spaced, typed), will be on the analysis of a social welfare policy development in Canada, and the historical context within which this policy development occurred.

The exam will be during the University Exam period (2 hours).

In addition, there will be a short quiz which will *not* be calculated into your final grade, but which will give you some idea of how well you understand the material. It should help prepare you for the essay and final exam.

The grading scheme for the course is the one mandated by the Faculty for use in all BSW courses and outlined in the *BSW handbook*.

Assignment due dates

Assignment	Percentages	Sept.-Dec.	Jan.-Apr.	May-Aug.
1 Article Review	30%	Oct. 11	February 8	June 7
2 Essay	30%	Nov. 29	March 30	July 26
Final exam	<u>40%</u>	Check	Check	Check
Total	100%	www.umanitoba.ca	www.umanitoba.ca	www.umanitoba.ca

Note (1): The final exam will be conducted at the University of Manitoba, Fort Garry campus or at an alternate location off-campus. **All students must declare** an exam location. The Registrar's Office is responsible for scheduling the final exam. Once finalized, the exam date and time information will be posted on the University of Manitoba Exam site.

Note (2): If the assignment due date falls during the Mid-term Break in February, it will be due on the Monday following the Mid-term Break. If you are unable to submit an assignment on time, contact your instructor well in advance of the due date, for we cannot guarantee that the instructor will accept late assignments.

General guidelines for assignment and exam preparation

A word of caution about the assignments and the final examination

Some students find that they do very well on the assignments, but they do not do nearly as well on the final examination. While your grades on the assignments will give you some idea of how well you are mastering the material, they may not indicate how well you will do on the examination, because the examination is written under very different circumstances. Because the assignments are open book, they do not require the amount of memorization that a closed-book examination requires nor are they limited to a specific time period. Some students have told us that, based on the high marks they received on the assignments, they were overconfident and underestimated the time and effort needed to prepare for the final examination.

Please keep all this in mind as you prepare for the examination. If your course has a sample exam or practice questions, use them to practice for the examination by setting a time limit and not having any books available. Pay careful attention to the description of the type of questions that will be on your final

examination. Preparing for multiple choice questions involves a different type of studying than preparing for essay questions. Don't underestimate the stress involved in writing a time-limited examination.

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

Please note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

Course materials

The course requires one main text, a supplementary book of readings, and two transcripts of radio programs that are located in the course readings section.

Required text and readings

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.

The main text is *The Emergence of Social Security in Canada*, 3rd ed., by Dennis Guest (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2003).

The supplementary book of readings is *Social Welfare Policy in Canada: Historical Readings*, edited by Raymond B. Blake and Jeff Keshen (Toronto: Copp Clark Ltd., 1995).

The transcripts located in the course readings section are from the CBC *Ideas* program, and are:

Radical Preachers, Radical Politics

The Birth of Medicare

You are responsible for reading Chapters 1 to 10 in *The Emergence of Social Security in Canada*. You do not have to read the last three chapters for this course. The supplementary text is a collection of readings on Canadian social welfare history. You are responsible for all the readings in Sections 1 through 4, but not the readings in Section 5.

Outline of the course materials

Module 1 An Introduction to Social Welfare Policy

Readings: Guest, Chapter 1

Module 2 Pre-Colonial and Colonial Models of Social Welfare

2.1 Aboriginal forms of “welfare” prior to European contact

2.2 New France: The Seigneurial Regime, the Role of the Church and the Poor Relief Systems of Montreal and Quebec City

2.3 The Use of the Elizabethan Poor Law model in the Maritime colonies.

2.4 Rejection of the Poor Law: Upper Canada after 1791

2.5 Land, Labour and Economic Development between 1800 and Confederation

Readings: Guest, Chapter 2

Module 3 Confederation, Victorian Canada and The National Policy

- 3.1 The British North America Act and social welfare in a constitutional context
- 3.2 The National Policy and Central Canada: Industrialization, Urbanization and Labour and the impact on social welfare issues
- 3.3 The National Policy and the West: economic and demographic development in Western Canada
- 3.4 The Social Gospel and Social welfare in Canada

Readings: Guest, Chapter 3

Blake and Keshen, Readings in Section 1: Ideas of a Welfare State”

Transcript: Radical Preachers, Radical Politics

Module 4 The Reform Era, The Great War and the 1920s

- 4.1 The Reform Era and Social welfare policy developments: Juvenile Delinquency legislation, Child Welfare, Mother’s Allowances and the Old Age Pension Act
- 4.2 Political and social welfare implications of WWI and The Winnipeg General Strike; The Church versus the State in Quebec

Readings: Guest, Chapters 4, 5, and 6

Blake and Keshen, Readings in Section 2: “Patterns of Early State Intervention”

Module 5 The Depression

- 5.1 Bennett and responses to the depression: relief and the relief camps
- 5.2 Charlotte Whitton and the development of the social work profession during the depression
- 5.3 Bennett’s *New Deal*
- 5.4 McKenzie-King and the development of Unemployment Insurance

Readings: Guest, Chapter 7

Blake and Keshen, Readings in Section 3: “World War II: The Critical Years” (first article only, pp. 172-200)

Module 6 World War II

- 6.1 Populist Political Movements and the Precursors to the Institutional Model in Canada: Social Credit, The League for Social Reconstruction and the Report on Social Security and Allied Services (Beveridge Report) of Great Britain
- 6.2 The Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations (Rowell-Sirois Report)
- 6.3 The Marsh Report and other reports on social security issues in the 1940s

Readings: Guest, Chapter 8

Blake and Keshen, Readings in Section 3 “World War II: The Critical Years” (remaining articles)

Module 7 The Post-War Era: Continuing battles over Social Welfare

- 7.1 The CCF and Medicare in Saskatchewan
- 7.2 The Canada Assistance Plan

Readings: Guest, Chapter 9

Blake and Keshen, Readings in Section 4: “The Flowering of State Welfare”

Transcript: The Birth of Medicare

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>.

Distance and Online Education (DE) Student Resources

In your course website there are links for the following:

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

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