

SWRK3130 Contemporary Canadian Social Welfare Course Syllabus

Course description

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

An examination of social welfare in Canadian society, leading to an evaluation of present approaches in the light of changing economic and social conditions and changing needs. Students may not hold credit for both SWRK3130 (or 047.313) and the former 047.301.

3.00 Credit Hours

This course will examine the economic, political and social context of contemporary social policy development in Canada. It will also outline the structure and operation of the primary social welfare programs across the country. The focus of this course is on understanding why certain changes were made to Canada's social safety net and grasping the formal structures and programs as attempts to resolve chronic human problems. The course will encourage students to assess the appropriateness of contemporary social policy, and to evaluate the designs of specific programs in terms of their effectiveness in meeting client needs. This course provides learners with the knowledge and skills needed to analyse the development of social policy in Canada during the contemporary period (1995 – present).

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Articulate the historical, political, economic, cultural, and geographical forces that shape contemporary Canadian social policy;
2. Understand the design and workings of major social programs that make up the Canadian social safety net, including Employment Insurance, Old Age Security, Canada Pension Plan/Quebec Pension Plan, social assistance, and the Canada Health and Social Transfers;
3. Examine contemporary Canadian social welfare programs in an international context and the role of social movements in influencing social policy;
4. Develop a critical analysis of contemporary Canadian social welfare and the driving forces behind the neoliberal retrenchment of the welfare state;
5. Enhance an understanding of the impacts of social welfare on marginalized groups;
6. Examine the current impacts of colonization on traditional Indigenous social institutions and explore examples of and opportunities for decolonization, particularly in social welfare policy and programs serving Indigenous peoples.

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

Hick, S. (2014). *Social welfare in Canada: understanding income security (3rd Ed.)*. Toronto, ON: Thompson Educational Publishing, Inc.

Topics

UNIT 1	Introduction to Contemporary Canadian Social Welfare Policy
Unit 2	Economic Theory and Canadian Policy
Unit 3	Anti-Inflation Policy in Canada: The Historical Experience
Unit 4	Causes of Inflation
Unit 5	The Phillips Curve
Unit 6	The Federal Budget: Deficits and Debts
Unit 7	The Significance of Deficits and Debts
Unit 8	The Origins of the Federal Debt
Unit 9	Social Spending and Deficits
Unit 10	The Canada Health and Social Transfer
Unit 11	Employment Insurance

Unit 12	Social Assistance
Unit 13	The Elderly and the Retired
Unit 14	Social Welfare and Newcomers
Unit 15	Social Welfare and Aboriginal Peoples of Canada
Unit 16	Social Welfare in the Era of Globalization and Human Rights

Evaluation and grading

Evaluation	Percentage
Assignment 1: Discussion Forum Posts and Response Posts	25%
Assignment 2: Living on Social Assistance, Ethical Dilemmas and Case Studies	20%
Assignment 3: Research Paper Part A and Part B	30%
Take Home Exam	25%

Grading scale

Letter grade	Percentage range	Description
A+	93 – 100	Exceptional
A	86 – 92.5	Excellent
B+	79 – 85.5	Very good
B	72 – 78.5	Good
C+	65 – 71.5	Satisfactory
C	58 – 64.5	Adequate
D	50 – 57.5	Marginal
F	less than 50	Failure

Note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

Plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation

Plagiarism is defined in the University of Manitoba General Calendar, and it carries serious academic penalties. It is important to acquaint yourself with the University of Manitoba'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. You may also refer to Students Affairs at <http://umanitoba.ca/student>

Student and Academic Staff Responsibilities

The University of Manitoba has expectations regarding student behavior.

Policies concerning Inappropriate or Disruptive Behaviour are online http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/279.html

Policies regarding Student Discipline are online http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/discipline/531.html

Policies regarding Academic Staff's Responsibility Regarding Students are available online http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/278.htm

Confidentiality

As professionals, students and instructors will comply with applicable provincial privacy laws, including The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and The Personal Health Information Act (PHIA) and will respect the guidelines on confidentiality as outlined in the CASW Social Work Code of Ethics. All parties are responsible for ensuring that no personal information or personal health information that could identify a user of any service system be used in class meetings or in assignments. In addition, while it is acknowledged that the classroom is a public setting, instructors and students shall respect one another's privacy, when discussing classroom activities outside of the classroom. Violations of privacy legislation or the policy may result in action related to student discipline or professional unsuitability.

Guidelines

The following guidelines are based on general best practices. The Faculty recognizes that circumstances can vary and encourages consultation with your field instructor, field liaison, advisor or course instructors.

- The issue of confidentiality will be discussed by student and instructor during orientation to field. The student is required to review the Code of Ethics regarding Confidentiality in Professional Practice prior to assignment of clients.
- The confidentiality policy of the field site will be shared with the student who is required to review and sign, where applicable, to confirm understanding and compliance.
- Students that will come in contact with personal information or personal health information will be provided with training on The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and The Personal Health Information Act (PHIA) and will sign a pledge of confidentiality.
- The student is expected to possess a basic understanding of confidentiality and its limits and to demonstrate transparency with clients in communicating these limitations.

- Limits to confidentiality include matters as required or permitted by relevant laws, court order or when a clear threat to the safety of the client or others is evident .
- Case studies must not contain any identifying information.
- Documents with identifying information from field agencies must be treated in accordance with the agency's policies.
- Disposal of documents with identifying information, including electronic records, must be carried out according to Agency protocols.
- Identifying information is not to be used in the classroom or in other context aside from Faculty approved supervision meetings.
- Confidentiality guidelines will be observed, when using social media.

Students are strongly encouraged to consult field instructors, field liaisons, Faculty advisors or course instructors, if they are unsure about matters related to this policy.

Social Media

The Faculty of Social Work adheres to the CASW Code of Ethics, which outlines the core social work values as:

- Respect for the inherent dignity and worth of persons
- Pursuit of Social justice
- Service to humanity
- Integrity of professional practice
- Confidentiality of professional practice
- Competence of professional practice.

The Faculty values academic freedom and freedom of inquiry and freedom of expression as pillars of social work education and also acknowledges the right of every individual to be free from harassment, discrimination and oppression. The Faculty of Social Work recognizes the growing importance of social media and is committed to supporting their ethical and responsible use.

Members of the Faculty of Social Work Community, including students, faculty, sessional instructors and staff, are responsible and accountable for their actions and statements. The guidelines contained in this document are intended to help in making appropriate professional decisions about communication in classrooms and through blogs, websites, wikis, twitter and other forms of social media. The use of unfounded or derogatory statements or misrepresentation is prohibited by the Faculty of Social Work and associated field agencies and may be subject to examination under several University of Manitoba policies related to student discipline, professional unsuitability, sexual harassment, or respectful work and learning environments. These policies and guidelines refer to the Faculty of Social Work and its associated field agencies and are not intended to infringe upon your personal rights and freedoms.

Guidelines for the Use of Social Media

The content of publically accessible communications shall be consistent with the values specified in the CASW Code of Ethics and be in compliance with The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and The Personal Health Information Act (PHIA). The Faculty values and encourages freedom of expression and critical debate and does not support the use of inflammatory, libellous or disrespectful language. Further, harassment and behaviour

that create a hostile work or learning environment run contrary to the University's fundamental values, as reflected in the Respectful work and Learning Environment Policy (June 22, 2004). The Faculty encourages communication that is accurate and based on reasoned engagement with professional and scholarly knowledge. Postings should be treated as public documents and, therefore, professionalism is highly recommended. Always keep in mind that interaction through social media can result in anyone forming opinions about the Faculty, a field setting, employees, clients, students or the author of the posting.

Communications that mention the Faculty of Social Work, field agencies, employees, students or clients must identify that the views expressed are those of the author and not the views of the Faculty or other members of its community. Under no circumstances should information that is confidential, pertaining to the Faculty, practicum agency, clients or colleagues be shared. Keep in mind that many factors can lead to the identification of a client, especially to those who know her or him. Confidentiality must be strictly observed, as specified in the CASW Code of Ethics and the faculty's confidentiality policy.

The following guidelines for social media interactions with current and past clients are based on general best practices. The Faculty recognizes that circumstances can vary and encourages consultation with your field instructor, advisor or field liaison.

- Do not "friend" clients or accept requests to be "friended" from current or previous clients.
- Do not use messaging websites such as Twitter or Facebook to contact clients or to respond to clients.
- Use your professional email address to communicate with clients.
- Use caution when discussing your work or studies with clients.
- Remember that all email communication are retained in the logs of your and your clients' internet providers.
- Remember that information that you provide about yourself on websites can be accessed by clients.

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 BSW Student Handbook:

http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/social_work/media/BSW_Handbook_2013_2014_Updated_August_23_13.pdf

General Expectations

As students and adult learners with experience and knowledge it is expected that you will contribute to the classroom learning and teaching through attendance 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 should use the APA reference style as outlined in the texts:

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th Ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Szuchman, L. & Thomlison, B. (2010). *Writing with style: APA style for social work (4th Ed.)* Toronto: Nelson Thomson Learning.

Examples of this reference style can also be found online at University of Manitoba Libraries at <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/content.php?pid=356868>

Professional expectations of student behaviour

The University of Manitoba, Faculty of Social Work is accredited by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) to foster and evaluate professional behavioural development for all students in the social work program. The Faculty of Social Work also bears a responsibility to the community at large to produce fully trained professional social workers who consciously exhibit the knowledge, values and skills of the profession of social work. The values of the profession are codified in the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) Code of Ethics. Given this context, all students in the social work program will be expected to exhibit the following ethical standards of behaviour: accountability; respect; confidentiality; competence; integrity; diversity; and social justice. Please refer to the Faculty of Social BSW Student Handbook and the Canadian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics for more information.

Student Services

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, or have a disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should discuss these issues with the instructor and/or one of the following Student Affairs offices as soon as possible:

Disability Services
155 University Centre

Phone: 204-474-6213 (Voice)
204-474-9690 (TTY)

Student Counselling and Career Centre
474 University Centre

Phone: 204-474-8592

Learning Assistance Centre
201 Tier Building

Phone: 204-474-9251

Acknowledgments

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University of Manitoba, Distance and Online Education