



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Social and Cultural Studies

**Social Policy**

# **SPOL 203 Special Topic: Comparative Welfare Regimes**

**20 POINTS**

TRIMESTER 2 2013

## **Important dates**

**Trimester dates:** 15 July to 17 November 2013

**Teaching dates:** 15 July to 18 October 2013

**Mid-trimester break:** 26 August to 8 September 2013

**Last assessment item due:** 16 October 2013

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds)

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

## **Class times and locations**

Lectures: Monday 1.10 pm-2.00 pm Murphy 632.  
Thursday 1.10 pm - 3.00 pm Murphy 632.

## **Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Carol Harrington  
Murphy Building MY 1022  
Telephone 04 4637451  
e-mail: [Carol.Harrington@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Carol.Harrington@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office Hours: See blackboard. Appointments outside office hours can be made by e-mail.

## **Communication of additional information**

Blackboard will be used in this course for announcement, course readings and notes. You will automatically receive all Blackboard announcements as an email sent to your @myvuw.ac.nz email address. If you are not going to use this Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

## **Prescription**

This course will explore how the welfare state varies in different countries. When seeking 'solutions to social problems', students of Social Policy need imagination and flexibility. Comparing different forms of welfare, and understanding how things really are different in other countries, frees students from the constraints of a particular time and place, and stimulates imaginative thinking. This course focuses on the set of countries variously called the "OECD democracies" or "advanced capitalist democracies": that is, roughly, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, and those in Western Europe and North America.

## **Course learning objectives (CLOs)**

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Relate New Zealand's contemporary social policy regime with those in other 'developed nations';
2. Explore the convergence and divergence of international welfare regimes in order to better understand how changes in policy are brought about;
3. Examine possibilities for policy transfer from outside New Zealand to solve social problems;
4. Compare both the institutional and ideological differences between 'developed nations' in the realm of social policy;
5. Examine how global social policy is made.

## **Teaching format**

Lectures and tutorials. See BlackBoard for a schedule.

## Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Give a tutorial presentation and submit 5 tutorial responses
- Attend a minimum of 6 tutorials
- Submit essays 1 & 2
- Sit the test.

## Workload

University guidelines stipulate that a 20-point course should require 13 hours per week, including class time, of student work.

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Tutorial responses (template on Blackboard)	10%	1,2,3,4,5	Varies
2	Essay 1 (2000 words)	30%	2, 3, 4, 5	Aug 23
3	In class test (50 minutes)	20%	1,3,4	Oct 10
4	Presentation on essay topic for essay 2 (approx 8 minutes)	10%	2, 3, 4, 5	Oct 13/16
5	Essay 2 (2000 words)	30%	2, 3, 4, 5	Oct 16

Essay and student presentation topics and instructions will be available on Blackboard and will be discussed during class.

## Submission and return of work

Essays should be uploaded to Turnitin; the upload time will count as the time of submission, however a hard copy should also be submitted.

Hard copies of assignments must be placed in the assignment box on level 9, Murphy Building, to the side of the lifts. The Assignment Box is cleared at 4pm daily, all work is date-stamped, its receipt recorded, and then handed on to the appropriate markers. Every effort will be made to return marked assignments within three weeks of the due date. Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9<sup>th</sup> floor reception desk, between **2.00 and 4.00 pm only** from Monday to Friday.

## Penalties

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy undergraduate courses are subject to a penalty. The exact deduction will be calculated on the basis of one half mark per day late for each 10 marks, i.e. 1 mark will be deducted each day for an assignment worth 20% of the total course mark.

Note: assessment work will not be accepted for marking more than 7 days after the due date or 7 days after an approved extension date. Work must still, however, be submitted to meet the mandatory course requirements.

## Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

There are no other arrangements for this course

## Set texts

There are no set texts for this course. Readings will be placed on Blackboard.

## Recommended reading

Please see Blackboard.

## Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:
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## Student feedback

This year is Dr Harrington's first time teaching this course; therefore lecture content and assessment are different to previous years.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

## Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

## **School Contact Information**

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International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine MY1023

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School of Social and Cultural Studies: [www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs/)