



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Social and Cultural Studies

Social Policy

SPOL 203 Special Topic: Comparative Welfare Regimes

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 1 July 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Last Assessment Item due: 15 June 2015

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Monday 2.10 pm-4.00 pm Cotton CO118
Thursday 2.10 pm - 3.00 pm Cotton CO118

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Carol Harrington
Murphy Building MY 1022
Telephone 04 4637451
Email: carol.harrington@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hours: See blackboard. Appointments outside office hours can be made by email.

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

The expectations are that students will work 10 hours per point, therefore a 30point course equates to 300 hours over trimester 1 + 2 including scheduled contact time of 2 hours per week.

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	April 20
3	In class test (50 minutes)	20%	1,3,4	June 4th
4	Presentation on essay topic for essay 2 (approx. 8 minutes)	10%	2, 3, 4, 5	May 21, 25;
5	Essay 2 (2000 words)	30%	2, 3, 4, 5	June 15

Essay and student presentation topics and instructions (including a marking criteria) 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 9th 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.

Set texts

There is no set text 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:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course based on the feedback of previous students will be noted during the course. Student feedback on University courses may be found at 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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

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