



Carleton
UNIVERSITY

School of Social Work
MSW Program

COURSE OUTLINE

SOWK 5700
Comparative Social Policy:
Canada and the European Union

FALL 2012

Time of class: Tuesday 2:30 – 5:30 PM

Location: Room 517 Dunton Tower

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to comparative social policy with a focus on Canada and member states of the European Union (EU). The course is organized so that students will have the opportunity to learn some of the fundamentals of comparative social policy, the issues involved in comparative work and apply some of this to their own research papers. An important focus of the course is the development of skills in critical analysis of comparative social policies.

The course is divided into two broad sections. The foundation section will include the relevance of comparative social policy, issues and dimensions involved in doing comparative research, methodological and theoretical issues in comparative studies, basic information on the structures of welfare states in Canada and the EU, and discussions of the current economic environment. A second section of the course will focus more specifically on social policy issues and social policies in Canada and the EU with a view of critiquing, comparing and contrasting the policies. In this section of the course students will present their work.

The course will be conducted as an interactive seminar where student participation is central.

Objectives

By the end of this course students should:

- ✔ have developed a solid understanding of the relevance of comparative policy studies in the general field of social policy
- ✔ have a good knowledge of the methodological issues related to comparative policy studies
- ✔ understand the historical and contemporary relevance of the European Union to Canada
- ✔ have a good understanding of comparisons of selected social policies/social issues between Canada and countries of the European Union .
- ✔ be able to develop a critical comparative analysis of a selected social policy/social issue between Canada and one or more countries of the European Union.

COMPULSORY READINGS

There is a list of required readings that is comprised of articles that are based on weekly themes. Students will also be required to download some electronic material.

Course packs are available for purchase at Allegra Printing, 1069 Bank Street (Bank at Sunnyside). (Tele: 613-730-3000). Students also can access the readings electronically through Carleton's reserve system, Ares.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In addition to the required course pack and on-line readings, the following books and journals can be consulted also.

- Clasen, Jochen (1999). *Comparative Social Policy: Concepts, Theories, Methods*. Oxford: Blackwell. **Note: On reserve at MacOdrum.** To preview, see:
<http://books.google.com/books?id=0wz4MkDpc3UC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>
- Ginsburg, Norman (1992). *Divisions of Welfare: A Critical Introduction to Comparative Social Policy*. London: Sage.
- Hantrais, L. and Mangen, S. (2006). *Cross-national Research Methodology and Practice*. London: Routledge.
- Hill, Michael (2006). *Social Policy in the Modern World: A Comparative Text*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Kennett, Patricia (2004). *A Handbook of Comparative Social Policy*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd. To preview, see:
<http://books.google.com/books?id=OvS6V003rFsC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>
- Kennett, Patricia (2001). *Comparative Social Policy*. Open University Press.
- Olsen, Gregg (2002). *The Politics of the Welfare State: Canada, Sweden and the United States*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Vanhuyse, Pieter and Achim Goerres (eds.) (2011). *Ageing Populations in Post-Industrial Democracies: Comparative Studies of Policies and Politics*. Routledge.
- White, L., Simeon, R., Vipond, R., Wallner, J. (2009). *The Comparative Turn in Canadian Political Science*. Vancouver: UBC Press.
- Yeates, Nicola (2008). *Understanding Global Social Policy*. Bristol, UK: Policy Press.

CCPA Monitor

Canadian Review of Social Policy

European journal of social security

Global Social Policy

Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis

Journal of European Social Policy

Social Policy and Administration: An International Journal of Policy and Research

Social Politics

International Journal of Canadian Studies (and affiliated with this journal, International Comparative Policy Forum)

Web Sites of Interest

www.globalwelfare.net

<http://www.canadiansocialresearch.net>

<http://globalization.mcmaster.ca/>

<http://gaspp.stakes.fi/EN/index.htm>

<http://www.euro.centre.org/> (European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research)

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1 – blog exercise – 5%

Due: Week 3, September 25

This assignment is intended to get you to familiarize yourselves with relevant comparative policy material on the Internet. You are asked to search the Internet for a blog that deals with comparative social policy and see what you find. If you are unable to find anything that is **comparative**, then please focus on a social policy blog. And in a *paper between 350 and 500 words*: (1) give the details of what you have found (one relevant blog) (2) identify the sources ...Canadian, French, American etc.? (3) Explain how this information may be useful for this course.

Assignment 2 – leading class discussion – 10%

Due: in first half of the term

Each of you is expected to lead a formal class discussion on at least one of the weekly readings. This involves developing a strong familiarity with the article, preparing a short handout (2-3 pages) and developing two or three relevant questions for class discussion that you will lead. You will be assigned your reading in the first few weeks of class.

You must prepare enough handouts for everyone in the class.

You are expected to attend and actively participate in all of the weekly sessions in this course. Please be prepared to discuss all of the readings for the course.

Assignment 3 – Outline of presentation/paper topic and annotated references – 10%

Due: Week 6, October 16

The next three assignments (outline & annotations, presentation, and final paper) involve a process of building on each other. In this current assignment (#3) you are asked to prepare a comprehensive outline that will constitute the structure of your final papers (assignment #5) and form the information base of what will become your presentations (assignment #4). Students must have a clear topic, an idea of how the topic will be structured and must include three (3) annotated references (no more than half page each) of articles or books that are central to the final paper. It is expected that the outline will contain some of the details of what the final paper will cover. This assignment should be between 4-6 pages in length.

Assignment 4 – Presentation to the class – 25%

Due: You will be presenting your research between week 9 (November 6) and week 12 (Nov.27)

Each of you will make an individual presentation to the class (following from the above assignment) which will become the basis of your final paper. Please note that, for the most part, students are asked to select a policy area from among the weekly lists identified in the course outline. Students' areas of interest will be discussed in class and attempts will be made to match you with your area of interest but please be aware that you may be reassigned to another topic if there is an imbalance in the topics that people choose.

The length of the presentation will be determined by the number of students in the class and will be established in the first few weeks of classes.

Students are to choose a social policy area from the designated topics over weeks 8-12 (identified in the course outline); choose a country to discuss and be prepared to discuss some important aspects of the country in the presentation (demographic characteristics, politics, ruling party, a bit of history, type of government in power, and the main features of the policy issue. Your presentation must include a developed bibliography.

This assignment can be approached in several ways. Students can work together in a group on a multi-country model, using standardized measures across the countries, or each individual in the group can present her/his own case study of one country. Each presentation will be assessed individually

Assignment 5 – Final research paper – 50%

Due: week 12, November 27

The final paper will be a continuation of, and develop from, the presentation. The paper must be done individually and it must include a comparative piece on a social policy in Canada and a country in the EU. For example, if your presentation is about health care in France, the final paper will continue on that topic but it must also include a section on health care in Canada with a component of the paper dedicated to comparing and contrasting health care policy in France and Canada (or a province in Canada). In the final paper it is appropriate (desirable) to include the complexities and conundrums that were encountered in conducting comparative social policy research.

Among many factors, social policy includes politics, economics and culture; for this paper it is important to consider these factors in your countries of comparison.

STRUCTURE OF CLASS & PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE

The class will begin at 2:35 sharp and end at 5:25 every Tuesday afternoon this term. Approximately half way through the class, we will take a 15 minute break. Please be punctual.

Because this course is conducted as an interactive seminar, participation is important for its success. You are expected to attend all classes, complete the readings and participate constructively in discussions. An attendance sheet will be circulated for each class and it is your responsibility to sign the sheet. If your name is not on the sheet, you will be marked absent.

After you have missed two classes, you will be deducted 5% per class for additional missed classes, up to a total of 25%. In exceptional circumstances such as illness or family emergency, exceptions can be made if the professor is notified in advance and if a medical or other appropriate certificate is presented to the professor.

GENERAL REMINDERS

Students requiring accommodations

For students with disabilities

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), chronic medical conditions and impairments in mobility, hearing and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from the PMC, please meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodation for the formally scheduled exam (if applicable) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

For religious observance

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.ca/equity>.

For pregnancy

If you are pregnant and require an academic accommodation please contact me during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known. For more details visit the equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Due dates for assignments

Assignments must be submitted on time.

Handing in assignments late can be unfair both to students who hand them in on time and the instructor who must submit grades on time. In exceptional circumstances (illness or family emergency) it may be difficult to meet the deadline and in such cases you must contact me before the paper is due. In these cases extensions to the due date must be justified with a medical or other appropriate certificate.

Work submitted after the final date without prior arrangements with the professor will be deducted one letter grade for each day late, e.g., a paper which has been graded B+ will receive a B for the first day overdue, a B- for the second overdue day etc.

It is advisable to keep a record of your papers. Papers are to be handed in on, or before, the due date before or after class or in the main office (where they are date-stamped). **Please do not slip your paper under my door because they can get lost.**

A note about plagiarism

Do not plagiarize; plagiarism is a serious offence. It includes having someone else write your paper or part of it, reusing old papers or papers from other courses, copying material from a book or off the internet without giving it the proper credit. Plagiarism is a serious offense that can have serious consequences. For more information please consult the graduate calendar.

OUTLINE OF WEEKLY SESSIONS

INTRODUCTION

Week 1 – September 11

Topic: Introduction to the course; review of course outline; course requirements; introduction to the study of comparative social policy.

Required readings:

Hill, Michael (2006). Chapter 1, “Introducing the Comparative Study of Social Policy,” in *Social Policy in the Modern World: A Comparative Text*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 3-18.

Week 2 – September 18

Topics: What is comparative social policy? Why is the international context important? What are some of the issues involved in doing comparative policy studies?

Required readings:

Alcock, Peter and Gary Craig (2009), Editors. Chapter 1, “The International Context,” *International Social Policy: Welfare Regimes in the Developed World*, Palgrave MacMillan, (Second edition), 1-24.

Versluis, Esther, Medeltje van Keulen and Paul Stephenson (2011). Chapter 1, “Doing EU Policy Analysis,” *Analyzing the European Union Policy Process*. UK: Palgrave MacMillan, 11-30.

Week 3 – September 25

Topic: An Overview of Social Policy and Social Welfare in the EU

Required readings:

Dixon, John (1999). Chapter 2, “Social Security’s Tradition,” in *Social Security in Global Perspective*, 41-79.

Saraceno, Chiara (2010). Chapter 7, “Concepts and Practices of Social Citizenship in Europe: The Case of Poverty and Income Support for the Poor,” in *United in Diversity? Comparing Social Models in Europe and America*, Jens Alper and Neil Gilbert, Editors. Oxford University Press, 151-157.

Potucek, Martin (2011). Chapter 5, “Metamorphoses of Welfare States in Central and Eastern Europe,” in *Welfare State Transformations: Comparative Perspectives*, Martin Seeleib-Kaiser, Editor, 79-95.

Week 4 – October 2

Topic: An Overview of Social Policy and Social Welfare in Canada

Required readings:

James Rice and Michael Prince (2000). “The Crisis of the Welfare State: Canadian Perspectives and Critiques,” Chapter four in, *Changing Politics of Canadian Social Policy*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 83-109.

Graham, John, Karen Swift and Roger Delaney (2012), Chapter 3, “Contemporary Social Policy Structures,” *Canadian Social Policy*, Toronto: Pearson, Fourth Edition, 46-67.

Week 5 – October 9

Topic: **Concepts, theories and methods in comparative social policy**

Required readings:

Linda Hantrais (1999). "Contextualization in cross-national comparative research,"
International Journal of Social Research Methodology, 2:2, 93-108.

online article:

<http://www.tandfonline.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/doi/abs/10.1080/136455799295078>

Mabbett, D. and H. Bolderson (1999), "Theories and methods on comparative social policy,"
in J. Claser, Ed. *Comparative Social Policy: Concepts, Theories and Methods*,
Oxford: Blackwell, 1-38.

online article:

<http://www.bbk.ac.uk/politics/our-staff/academic/deborah-mabbett/theoriesandmethods.pdf>

Extra reading:

Osterle, August (2002). "Evaluating Equity in Social Policy: A Framework for Comparative
Analysis," London: Sage Publications, 8:1, 46-59.

Online article:

http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/details.xqy?uri=/13563890/v08i0001/46_eeisp.xml

Week 6 – October 16

Topic: **Concepts, theories and methods in comparative social policy (cont'd)**

Required readings:

Hantrais, Linda (2009). Chapter 6, "Research and Policy in International Settings,"
International Comparative Research: Theory, Methods and Practice, Palgrave MacMillan,
118-141.

Landman, Todd (2008). Chapter 2, "How to compare countries," *Issues and Methods in
Comparative Politics: An Introduction*. New York: Routledge (third edition). 23-49.

Esping-Andersen, Gosta (1989). "The three political economies of the welfare state,"
Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology, 26(1), 10-36.

Week 7 – October 23

Topic: **Social Policy in an era of globalization**

Required readings:

Teeple, Gary (1995). "The Global Economy and the Decline of Social Reform,"
Globalization and the Decline of Social Reform, 55-74.

Seeleib-Kaiser, Martin (2011). "Welfare State Transformations in Comparative Perspective:
Shifting Boundaries of 'Public' and 'Private' Social Policy?" in *Welfare State
Transformations: Comparative Perspectives*, edited by Seeleib-Kaiser, 1-13.

Week 8 – October 30

Topic: Gender and Comparative Social Policy

Required readings:

Jepsen, Maria (2009). “Gender Equality and Social Policy Issues in the European Union,” 126-145. *Promotion of Social Policies – An Investment in the Future: Canada, European Union, Baltic States, Nordic Countries*, Capilano University, 126-145.

Kantola, Johanna (2010). “Policy-Making Processes, Actors and Institutions in the EU from a Gender Perspective,” *Gender and the European Union*, 76-103.

PART TWO: Specific Comparative Social Policies – Student presentations

For the next three or four weeks (depending on the size of the class) students will be making presentations to the class on their research findings. Students will be expected to research their topics on their own although a list of some relevant readings, including on-line sources, will be distributed in class. Some suggested readings are identified below.

Week 9 – November 6

Topics: Family Policy: Maternity/paternity leave, child care & long term care for seniors

Maternity/paternity leave & Child care

Evans, Patricia (2007). “Comparative Perspectives on changes in Canada’s paid parental: Implications for class and gender,” *Journal of Social Welfare*, 16, 119-128.

On line article:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/doi/10.1111/j.1468-2397.2006.00450.x/abstract>

Kroger, Teppo (January 2011). “Defamilisation, dedomestication and care policy: comparing childcare service provisions of welfare states,” *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 31:7/8, 424-440. **Online article:**

http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/details.xqy?uri=/0144333x/v31i7-8/424_ddaep.xml

Mahon, Rianne (2009). “Work-family (im) Balance in Canada,” in *Promotion o Social Policies—An Investment in the Future*, 202-224. (in library not on line)

Thevenon, Olivier (March 2011). “Family Policies in OECD Countries: A Comparative Analysis,” *Population and Development Review*, 37:1, 57-87.

Online article (copy and paste link in address bar of your web browser):

www.thefamilywatch.org/doc/doc-0198-es.pdf

Care for seniors

Haynes, Philip, Michael Hill and Laura Banks (Feb 2010). "Older people's family contacts and long-term care expenditures in OECD countries: A comparative approach using qualitative comparative analysis. *Social Policy and Administration*, 44-1, 67-84.

Ruppe, George (July 2011). "Active aging and prevention in the context of long-term care," Rethinking Concepts and Practices; European Centre Policy Brief, 1-17.

Online article:

http://www.euro.centre.org/detail.php?xml_id=1929

Stuart Mary and Michael Weinrich (2001). Home—and community-based—long-term care: lessons from Denmark. *Gerontologist*, 41:4, 474-480

Online article (copy and paste link in address bar of your web browser):

gerontologist.oxfordjournals.org/content/41/4/474.full.pdf

Week 10 – November 13

Topic: Work-related policies (women's employment, pensions, unemployment insurance)

Women's employment

Agocs, Carol and Bob Osborne (2009). "Comparing Equity Policies in Canada and Northern Ireland: Policy Learning in Two Directions?" *Canadian Public Policy*, 25:2, 237-262.

Online article:

http://muse.jhu.edu.proxy.library.carleton.ca/journals/canadian_public_policy/summary/v035/35.2.agocs.html

Van der Lippe, Tanja and Liset van Dijk (2002). "Comparative Research on Women's Employment," *Annual Review of Sociology*, 28, 221-241.

Online article:

http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/details.xqy?uri=/03600572/v28i0001/221_crowe.xml

Pensions

Bode, Ingo (September 2007). "From the Citizen's Wage to Self-made Pensions? The Changing Culture of Old Age Provision in Canada and Germany," *Current Sociology*, 55:5, 696-717.

Online article:

http://journals2.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/details.xqy?uri=/00113921/v55i0005/696_ftcwtsp.xml

Cooke, Murray (Spring/Summer 2003). "The Canada Pension Plan goes to Market," *The Canadian Review of Social Policy*, 51, 126-131.

Online article (copy and paste link in address bar of your web browser):

www.yorku.ca/crsp/issue51/issue51-10.pdf

Curl, Angela and M.C. Hokenstad (June 2006). "Reshaping Retirement Policies in Post-Industrial Nations: The need for flexibility," *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 32:2, 85-106.

Online article:

<http://heinonline.org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/jrlsasw33&id=363&collection=journals&index=journals/jrlsasw>

Myles, John (2003). "What justice requires: pension reform in ageing societies," *Social Policy*, 13:3.

Online article:

<http://esp.sagepub.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/content/13/3.toc>

Unemployment insurance policies

Townson, Monica and Kevin Hayes (2007). "Women and the Employment Insurance Program," Canadian Centre for Policy Analysis (CCPA).

Osberg, Lars (2009). "Canada's Declining Social Safety Net: The Case for EI Reform." Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA).

Week 11 – November 20

Topic: Health Insurance and Social Assistance

Social assistance

Beaujt, Roderic and Jianye Liu (2002). "Children, Social Assistance and Outcomes: Cross-national Comparisons," *PSC Discussion Papers Series*, 15:18, 1-29.

Online article:

<http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/pscpapers/vol15/iss18/1/>

Gough, Ian, Jonathan Bradshaw, John Ditch, Tony Eardley and Peter Whiteford(1997). "Social Assistance in OECD Countries," *Journal of European Social Policy*, 7:1, 17-43.

Online article (copy and paste link in address bar of your web browser):

www.canadiansocialresearch.net/rrep047.pdf

Neslon, Kenneth (2004). "Mechanisms of poverty alleviation: anti-poverty effects of non-means-tested and means-tested benefits in five welfare states." *Journal of European Social Policy*, 14:4, 371-390.

Online article:

<http://esp.sagepub.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/content/14/4/371.abstract>

Health care

Armstrong, Pat (2009). *They Deserve Better: The Long-Term Care Experience in Canada and Scandinavia*.

Frontier Centre for Public Policy May 25, 2009). "Comparing Canada and Europe's Healthcare Systems," Interview with Ben Eisen;

<http://www.fcpp.org/media.php/1208>

Disability policy

Jongbloed, Lyn (2011). "Disability Policy in Canada: An Overview," *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, June 1, 2011, 22, 18-27.

Prince, Michael (2007). "Disability Policy in Canada: building blocks or blocked building," CACL Forum, November 23, 2007.

Week 12 – November 27

Topic: (a) Other selected social policy issues, (b) Social policy in the wake of the financial crises

Brooks, Clem and Jeff Manza (June 1006). "Social Policy Responsiveness in Developed Democracies," *American Sociological Review*, 71, 474-494.

Online article:

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/stable/30039000>

Ferrarini, Tommy and Kenneth Nelson (2003). "Taxation of social insurance and redistribution: a comparative analysis of ten welfare states," *Journal of European Social Policy*, 13:1, 21-33.

Online article:

http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/details.xqy?uri=/09589287/v13i0001/21_tosiarcaotws.xml

Hantrais, Linda (1997). "Exploring Relationships between Social Policy and Changing Family Forms within the European Union," *European Journal of Population*, 13, 339-379.

Online article:

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/stable/20164010>

Khoo, Evelyn, Ulf Hyvonen and Lennart Nygren (2002). "Child Welfare or Child Protection," *Qualitative Social Work*, 1:14, 451-471.

Online article:

http://journals2.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/details.xqy?uri=/14733250/v01i0004/451_cwocp.xml