COURSE DESCRIPTION

Content

The aim of this seminar is to provide students with the analytical tools to understand and examine social policies and programs. The seminar starts with the analysis of the theoretical assumptions supporting the concepts and approaches to social policy, including liberalism, cosmopolitanism, Marxism, postcolonialism and feminism. The seminar also pays attention to recent turns in social thinking that question traditional boundaries of social policy including the definition of who is the subject of justice. The seminar analyzes critically concepts of freedom, humanity and cosmopolitanism as the foundation of social policy as well as the shortcoming of privileging the design of strategies centered on production over distribution, or those solutions that render invisible the global south. The seminar explores as well global initiatives in social policy such as conditional cash transfer programs, social protection, and global care, the commons and ethnographic cosmopolitics.

The main objectives of the course are:
- To examine the relationship between the key epistemological and ontological assumption and social policy proposals
- To think critically about who counts and how those that count are included in social policy programs.
- To critically examine ways of practicing social policy and the possibilities and limits of these practices;
- To critically examine global social policy proposals formulated by international institutions (United Nations (World Bank, OECD), private foundation (Gates Foundation) or corporations (Nike, Gap).

Organization and assessment

We meet weekly in seminar format. Students are expected to complete the required readings for each seminar, participate fully in discussions, and fulfill the course requirements. The seminars are organized in two parts: the first half is organized around a set of questions ask by the students. The second half are led off by short (10 minutes) student presentations around a critical issue raised by the readings on the weekly topic.

The assessment is based on the following assignments:

- Seminar questions: students are asked to formulate 2 thought-provoking questions for discussion in the first half of the seminar. The questions may point to a particularly passage, contention issue or concept formulated by the authors. Students must send the question the Tuesday before the respective class and be prepared to explain the relevance of the question in class.
- A seminar discussion and paper: it is a concise (~2,500 words) and well-written set of thoughtful reflections on one of the topics of the seminar. The paper must demonstrates a rich understanding of the reading material and the student’s own position on this material. The paper is neither a summary of readings nor a “report” on the articles. The paper must be centered on an argument about the student’s particular standpoint or controversy around a key concept or issue. The topic will be chosen in advance according to the
class schedule. On the occasion of the scheduled presentation, the student will make a ~10 min. presentation of the summary of the paper. A copy of the paper must be sent to all the participants of the seminar by email by 5pm on the Monday following the seminar meeting. The paper is worth 30% of the grade and the presentation and discussion 5%.

- **Final essay:** At the end of the seminar, you will be required to write an essay of approximately 3500 words that must analyze a global social policy or expand one of the debates examined in this course. I would encourage you to use the opportunity to formulate your research project for your MA thesis or MPR. The essay is graded in two parts: the outline is worth 10% and the final paper is worth 40% of your final grade.

- **Participation:** Students must attend all seminar meetings and be prepared to discuss the reading for that week. This is a reading-intensive seminar, and keeping up is an absolute requirement. Weekly participation in seminar discussion is worth 15% of the grade.

**Summary of Assessments and dates:**

- Seminar paper 35% (30% written paper + 5% presentation) To be Selected
- Participation 15% (general contribution to the seminar)
- Final paper 50%
  - Outline 10% (due February 16)
  - Final paper 40% (due April 06).

**Required Readings:**

All required course materials are available on CuLearn. To access your course materials, go to: https://carleton.ca/culearn.

**SCHEDULE**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td>Introduction: Who Counts for Social Justice?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Liberal Foundations of International Justice</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Humanitarian Predicament</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Overcoming Inequality: Changing Structures of Production</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>The Precariat: the case for basic income.</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Feb 9</td>
<td>Social Policy beyond Work</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Revalorizing Care Provision</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>From Biopower to Geontopower</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Social Policy beyond the Anthropocene</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>The Commons: a post-capitalist horizon?</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Indigenous struggles for Social Ontologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Un-Commoning the Commons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>April 06</td>
<td>Student's Presentation</td>
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Week 1 Introduction: Who Counts for Social Justice?


Recommended Readings


Week 2 Liberal Foundations of International Justice


Recommended readings

Week 3 Humanitarianism


Recommended Readings:

Week 4 Overcoming Inequality: Changing Structures of Production


Recommended readings


**Week 5 The Precariat: the case for basic income**


Hardt, Michael. 2010. Guaranteed income: Or, the Separation of Labor from Income. Hybrid: 5, 21-31

Recommended readings


**Week 6 Social Policy beyond Work**


**Week 7 Revalorizing Care**


Recommended Readings


**Week 8 From Biopower to Geontopower**


Recommended readings:


**Week 9 Social Policy beyond the Anthropocene**


Recommended readings:


**Week 10 The Commons: a post-capitalist horizon?**


Recommended readings:


**Week 11 Indigenous struggles for Social Ontologies**


Recommended readings:


**Week 12 Un-commoning the Commons**


Recommended readings


**Academic Accommodations**

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact 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 PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests
should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course. Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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</table>
Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/ or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.