SOCI 5806C: Global Social Policy

Autumn 2013

Tuesdays, 8:30-11:30 (Please confirm Location on Carleton Central)

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SHORT DESCRIPTION

This course examines the political and economic dimensions of global social policy. It begins with an examination of the political power of a range of actors, operating within and outside global institutions, alongside economic structural factors that help to shape the context of social policy discourse and policy making. It then considers a number of social risk factors that have spread as a result of economic globalisation and the global policy solutions offered to tackle these risks.

TEACHING METHODS

This course will be delivered in weekly 3-hour sessions. From week 2, students will deliver presentations on their chosen topics (see below).

AIMS

- To increase students’ knowledge and appreciation of the impact of political and economic factors on international policy making
- To develop students knowledge of theories of power and economic development and how these impact on policy making
- To increase students’ knowledge and appreciation of how power, exercised by different actors, shapes global social policy discourse and outcomes.
- To increase students’ awareness and understanding of the various risks and opportunities to states and citizens of corporate activity and economic globalisation

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:

- A clear understanding of the relationship between political and economic factors in global social policy
- An ability to theorise about, and analyse, different forms of power and its impact on policy outcomes.
- Knowledge of the key global actors in international social policy
Knowledge of the key social risks generated by economic globalisation and transnational corporations in particular.

An ability to analyse and assess the impact of different actors on global social policy discourse and policy outcomes.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Participation (20%):

Attendance is essential to your learning on this course. The participation component of the assessment requires each student to:

1) participate in all sessions (see guidelines below);
2) present two-three readings on one of the seminar topics. The student will prepare two questions for discussion and play a key role in the group discussion on the readings

Critical reviews (2* 10% = 20%):

Students should write an overview and critique of at least two texts from two different weeks (weeks 2-10). You should choose weeks other than the week of your presentations. The summaries should be about three pages double spaced, with the first half summarizing the key arguments of the readings and the second commenting on the articles’ strengths and weaknesses. The reviews are due in class the week the assigned article is discussed.

Purpose:
The purpose of the critical reviews is:

• To engage with the required reading in a focused and critical manner
• To enhance your contributions to seminar discussions.

Task:

Each critical review should begin with relevant bibliographic details (author, title, source, publisher, year of publication). It should include the following information:

• Topic of the reading
• Key question or central argument
• Key supporting claims of the author
• Your identification of the strengths and/or weaknesses of the reading

Class debate on the Social Protection Floor (15%):

In week 11 we will hold a debate on the social protection floor. Students will be assigned an organization which they will represent at an event entitled “Social Protection Floor: One Year On”. All students will be required to thoroughly research their organization and accurately represent the perspectives / preferences of that organization.
The final paper (45%):

The final paper should be between 18-20 pages of text (Times New Roman, pt 12, double spaced), with at least 15 references (social science format). Students can construct their own question based on one or more of the key themes in this course. The questions must be agreed and signed off by Kevin Farnsworth by the end of week 5. The signed form (available from week 2) must be attached to the final submission of the essay.

**Late Policy:** Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. **Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 2% a day not including weekends.** Assignments will not be accepted two weeks after the due date. No retroactive extensions will be permitted. Do not ask for an extension on the due date of the assignment. Exceptions will be made only in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement) and where the student has verifiable documentation.

**Marking criteria**

Although this course is assessed by different methods, there are six broad assessment objectives against which you are assessed. These are provided as a guide only (they are not necessarily equally weighted):

1. Knowledge of the topic - ideas, concepts and institutions;
2. Analysis of issues and an awareness of different viewpoints;
3. Evaluation of competing explanations or theories applied to a problem
4. Ability to identify relevant sources of evidence, both empirical and theoretical, and to use these to produce an informative referencing system.
5. Ability to fully and accurately address the question
6. Skill in the (verbal or written) presentation of an answer with accuracy, clarity and coherence.

**OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME**

Week 1 – 10th September: What is global social policy?
Week 2 – 17th September: The economics of Global Social Policy
Week 3 - 24th September: The Politics of Global Social Policy
Week 4 – 1st October: The battle of ideas in GSP: IGOs, business, labour and civil society
Week 5 – 8th October: Business and Global Social Policy
Week 6 – 15th October: Global social policy and labour
Week 7: 22nd October: Non-Governmental Organisations and global social policy
Week 8 – 5th November: Human Rights, Poverty and GSP
Week 9 – 12th November: Health, pensions and social protection: any closer to a global consensus?
Week 10 – 19th November: Class debate
Week 11 – 26th November: Gender and Global Social Policy
Week 12 – 3rd December: Corporate harm and corporate social responsibility as Global Social Policy
PROGRAMME

Week 1 – 10th September: What is global social policy?

Students should read two from the following:

Deacon, B. 2013 “Global social policy studies: Conceptual and analytical reflections” Global Social Policy 13 (5)

Kaasch, A. 2013 “Conceptualizing global social policy” Global Social Policy 13 (3)


Week 2 – 17th September: The economics of Global Social Policy

All students should read the following:


In addition, you may read any of the following to provide more of a grounder in the issues:


Gough. 1979 Political Economy of the Welfare State (Chs.1-3,5)


Week 3 - 24th September: The Politics of Global Social Policy

All students should read the following:


In addition, students may find it useful to read any of the following:


**WEEK 4 – 1ST OCTOBER: THE BATTLE OF IDEAS IN GSP: IGOS, BUSINESS, LABOUR AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

Read at least two texts (that you have not already looked at) from the following list


**Week 5 – 8th October: Business and Global Social Policy**

Read at least two texts (that you have not already looked at) from the following list:


Farnsworth, K. 2010 “Business and Human Rights” Global Social Policy Journal


Week 6 – 15th October: Global social policy and labour

Please read the following:


In addition, you may find it useful to read one or two texts from the following list:

Barlow, M., Clarke, T. 2001 Global Showdown How the New Activists are Fighting Global Corporate Rule


Kabeer, N 2002 ‘Globalisation, labour standards and women’s rights: dilemmas of collective action in an interdependent world’ Institute of Development Studies, Sussex


Week 7: 22nd November: Non-Governmental Organisations and global social policy

Please read the following (choose whichever chapters interest you most, but ensure you thoroughly read the first chapter in both books):


Tvedt, T. (1998), Angels of Mercy or Development Diplomats: NGOs and Foreign Aid,
In addition, you may want to read from the following list:


**Week 8 – 5th: November Human Rights, Poverty and GSP**


In addition, you may like to read either of the following:


**Week 9 – 12th: November: Health, pensions and social protection: any closer to a global consensus?**

Read two of the following texts


In addition, the following text is a useful case study of the Social Protection Floor legislation. I would recommend you read at least chapter 7.

Week 10 – 19th November: Class debate
Details will be provided in week 1

Week 11 – 26th: Gender and Global Social Policy

Please read at least the Benería paper, plus one further paper from the list below:


Week 12 – 3rd December: Corporate harm and corporate social responsibility as Global Social Policy

Please read at least the first two texts from the following:


Farnsworth, K. 2006 Business and GSP in Yeates, N. Global Social Policy