Brief course description for

**Comparative Social Policy:**
**Canada and the European Union**
(Cross-listed)
SOWK 5700
WGST 5901
EURR 5201

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PLEASE NOTE:
1. This course is appropriate for both Masters and PhD students

2. This is a condensed version of the course outline; the full, final version will be available when the class starts and may vary slightly from this version. Please ensure that you get the full and final course outline when you begin this course.
Course description

This course is designed to introduce upper level students to the field of comparative social policy with a focus on Canada and countries in the European Union (EU). Based on the reality that we are living in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world, the course provides students with the opportunity to: learn some of the fundamentals of comparative social policy; understand the issues and complexities involved in comparative research; learn about comparative methods and be able to apply some of this to their own research. An important aspect of this course is to help students develop skills in critical analysis of comparative social policies in Canada and European Union member state.

The course is divided into two broad sections. The foundation section will include the relevance of comparative social policy to social work, 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. Students will apply their learning by engaging directly in a comparative analysis of a social policy or policy issue in the second half of the course.

The course is intended to be run as an interactive seminar with active student involvement, particularly in the second half of the term when students will present their work.

Readings

Required readings

There is a required course pack that is comprised of articles that are based on weekly themes. You can purchase the course pack at Allegra Print Shop, 1069 Bank Street (near Bank & Sunnyside) (613-730-3000). The readings can be accessed electronically through Carleton’s reserve system, Ares.

Students will be required to access and download electronic material where indicated in this course outline.

Other useful books & journals & websites

Books


**Journals**

*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**

www.globalwelfare.net

http://www.canadiansocialresearch.net

http://globalization.mcmaster.ca/

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

http://www.eurocentre.org/ (European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research)

**Assignments**

There are four assignments for this course.

1. **Leading class discussion on reading – 10 %**

   Each student 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. The readings will be assigned in the first few weeks of class.

2. **Outline of comparative policy paper – 20 %**

   Students will select (a) a social policy or policy issue for comparative analysis and (b) the countries (Canada and country(ies) of the EU) being comparing. It is expected that students
will develop an outline that covers some details that will be further developed in both the presentations and final papers.

This assignment also includes the beginning of a bibliography which will be more fully developed as the research continues.

A third part of this assignment is the inclusion of three annotations of articles/books etc. that are central to the research topic.

3. Class presentation - 25%
Each student will make a presentation to the class (following from the above assignment). This should be based on the topic of the outline in assignment #2 (and which will lead to the final paper).

4. Final paper – 45%
The final paper will be a continuation of, and develop from, the previous outline (Assignment #2) and presentation (Assignment #3). The final paper will be a continuation of, and developed from, the presentation. The paper must be done individually and it must include a comparative piece on a social policy or social policy issue in Canada and a country in the EU. Because an important part of this course is about the methodology of conducting comparative research, you are encouraged to include a piece on the methodology of your study and discuss any complexities and conundrums that were encountered in conducting comparative social policy research.

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Please remember to get the final, full outline when the course begins; this is a condensed version of the course