

▶▶ JSGS 864 – SOCIAL POLICY - INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

University of Saskatchewan Campus	
Instructor:	Daniel Béland
Phone:	966-1272
E-mail:	daniel.beland@usask.ca
Office Hours:	Tuesdays, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Office Location:	Diefenbaker 150
Term:	Term 2 (Winter 2012)
Room:	Prairie Room #137, Diefenbaker Building
Date and Time:	Tuesdays, 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This interdisciplinary graduate course offers a comparative and historical discussion of major social policy concepts and problems. More specifically, the course provides comparative insight on key social policy issues. Such a comparative approach draws on the best available scholarship to make the students aware of important similarities and differences between Canada and other countries. Finally, the course explores topics like population aging, unemployment, the role of international organizations, and “new social risks” that shape contemporary social policy debates, in Canada and abroad. Overall, the course seeks to integrate a review of the best literature on social policy development with a balanced overview of Canadian and international debates on welfare state reform.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To adopt a comparative and historical perspective on social policy development;
- To discuss the emergence and the current transformations of the modern welfare state;
- To explore the role of social programmes in Canadian politics and society; and
- To stimulate critical thinking and writing skills for public policy research and administration.

REQUIRED READINGS

Underlined books available at the U of S bookstore; journal articles available through the PAWS system; references in **yellow** are on reserve at the U of S library for the duration of the winter semester; copies of the unpublished papers in **green** will be available on PAWS.

- Bashevkin, Sylvia. 2000. “Rethinking Retrenchment: North American Social Policy during the Early Clinton and Chrétien Years,” *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 33(1): 2000: 7-36.
- **Béland, Daniel and Alex Waddan. Forthcoming. “The 2010 Health Insurance Reform in the United States: Assessing Continuity and Change,” *Social Policy & Society*.**
- Béland, Daniel and John Myles. 2005. “Stasis amidst Change: Canadian Pension Reform in an Age of Retrenchment.” In Giuliano Bonoli and Toshimitsu Shinkawa (eds), *Ageing and Pension Reform around the World*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing: 252-272. Available online: <https://dspace.ucalgary.ca/handle/1880/45051>
- Bonoli, Giuliano. 2005. “The Politics of the New Social Policies: Providing Coverage against New Social Risks in Mature Welfare States,” *Policy & Politics*, 33(3), 431-449.

- Cornell, Stephen. 2006. *Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Self-Determination in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States*. Cambridge, MA: Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy and Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. <http://jopna.net/pubs/jopna%202006_02_coverandinside.pdf>
- Courchene, Thomas J. and John R. Allan. 2009. "A Short History of EI," *Policy Options*, September 2009: <http://www.irpp.org/po/issue.php?month=September&year=2009>
- Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press: 9-34.
- Gilbert, Neil. 2002. *Transformation of the Welfare State: The Silent Surrender of Public Responsibility*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hacker, Jacob S. 2004. "Privatizing Risk without Privatizing the Welfare State: The Hidden Politics of Social Policy Retrenchment in the United States," *American Political Science Review* 98(2): 243-60.
- Hale, Geoffrey E. 1998. "Reforming Employment Insurance: Transcending the Politics of the Status Quo," *Canadian Public Policy*, 24(4): 429-451.
- Jenson, Jane. 2004. "Canada's New Social Risks: Directions for a New Social Architecture." Ottawa: Canadian Policy Research Networks. <http://www.cprn.com/documents/31815_en.pdf>
- Mahon, Rianne and Daniel Béland. 2011. "Putting Canadian Social Policy in Comparative Perspective" (unpublished paper).
- Maioni, Antonia. 2008. "Health Care Politics and Policy in Canada" in *Health Care in Crisis: The Drive for Health Reform in Canada and the United States*. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, pp. 14-25. <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/CI_OneIssue_9.pdf>
- Mintz, Jack. 2009. *Summary Report on Retirement Income Adequacy Research*. Ottawa: Department of Finance. <<http://www.fin.gc.ca/activty/pubs/pension/riar-narr-eng.asp>>
- O'Connor, Julia S. 2002. "Understanding the Welfare State and Welfare States: Theoretical Perspectives" in Douglas Bear (ed.), *Political Sociology: Canadian Perspectives*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002: 110-128.
- O'Connor, Julia S., Ann Shola Orloff, and Sheila Shaver. 1999. *States, Markets, Families: Gender, Liberalism and Social Policy in Australia, Canada, Great Britain and the United States*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 1-28.
- Orenstein, Mitchell A. 2008. *Privatizing Pensions: The Transnational Campaign for Social Security Reform*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Rice, James J. and Michael J. Prince. 2000. *Changing Politics of Canadian Social Policy*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Street, Debra. 2008. "Balancing Acts: Trends in the Public-Private Mix in Health Care" in Daniel Béland and Brian Gran (eds), *Public and Private Social Policy: Health and Pension Policies in a New Era*. Houndsmills: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Wiseman, Michael and Martynas Yčas. 2008. "The Canadian Safety Net for the Elderly," *Social Security Bulletin*, 68(2): 53-67. <www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v68n2/v68n2p53.pdf>

EVALUATION

Briefing note (due date: 7/02)

15%

Write a 1200-1500 word briefing note on the contemporary EI (Employment Insurance) debate in Canada. Longer briefing notes will be rejected. Detailed instructions about how to write a briefing note will be posted on PAWS.

Group presentation (14/02)

10%

Provide an overview of the debate on EI reform in Canada by discussing the briefing notes that you and your two group members submitted two weeks earlier. Each group will speak for ten minutes, followed by a short question period.

Policy report (due date: 03/04)

40%

Prepare a policy report on pension reform in the country of your choice, with the exclusion of Canada. The goal of the report is to analyze the pension experience of a foreign country in order to draw lessons for Canada. Write between 3000 and 3500 words,

including notes and references. Longer reports will be rejected. The bibliography must contain at least eight references. The paper must be typed, but cannot be submitted electronically; staple or paper clip pages together.

Take-home synthesis (questions distributed on 03/04; due date for the written answers: 10/04) 25%

Two essay questions dealing with key issues discussed in class. Write no more than 1500 words per question.

Informed participation 10%

Students must attend the lectures regularly, read the assigned material before each lecture and participate in class discussion.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Without compelling reasons, late assignments will not be accepted and will result in a mark of zero.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (10/01): Overview

Readings: O'Connor, 2002; Rice and Prince, 2000: 1-53.

Week 2 (17/01): Social policy in Canada—An introduction (1)

Reading: Rice and Prince, 2000: 54-156.

Week 3 (24/01): Social policy in Canada—An introduction (2)

Reading: Rice and Prince, 2000: 157-256.

Week 4 (31/01): Welfare regimes and gender roles

Readings: Esping-Andersen, 1990: 9-34; O'Connor et al., 1999: 1-28; Mahon and Béland, 2011.

Week 5 (7/02): The public-private dichotomy—The case of Health Care

Readings: Street, 2008; Maioni, 2008: 14-25; Hacker, 2004; Béland and Waddan, forthcoming.

****Briefing note due*

Week 6 (14/02): The politics of retrenchment—The case of Employment Insurance

Readings: Bashevkin, 2000; Hale, 1998; Courchene and Allan, 2009. ****Group presentation*

Week 7 (21/02): Reading week (No lecture)

Week 8 (28/02): A comparative perspective on retrenchment and restructuring (1)

Reading: Gilbert, 2002: 3-98.

Week 9 (6/03): A comparative perspective on retrenchment and restructuring (2)

Reading: Gilbert, 2002: 99-196.

Week 10 (13/03): Old-Age Security

Readings: Béland and Myles, 2005; Wiseman and Ycas, 2006; Mintz, 2009.

Week 11 (20/03): Global actors and pension reform (1)

Reading: Orenstein 2008: 179-193; 1-70.

Week 12 (27/04): Global actors and pension reform (2)

Reading: Orenstein 2008: 71-178.

Week 13 (03/04): Looking at the future—From new social risks to Aboriginal self-governance?

Readings: Bonoli, 2005; Jenson, 2004; Cornell 2006. ****Policy report due*

****Distribution of the questions for the "take home" (due date: 14/04).*

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

All students who have special needs are encouraged to register with Disability Services for Students (DSS). Access to most services and programs provided by DSS is restricted to students who have registered with the office. Once you have registered, please contact the professor to discuss accommodations.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

Understanding and following the principles of academic integrity and conduct as laid out in the University of Saskatchewan's Guidelines for Academic Conduct is vital to your success in graduate school (as attached; and available at http://www.usask.ca/university_council/reports/archives/guide_conduct.shtml). Ensuring that your work is your own and reflects both your own ideas and those of others incorporated in your work is important: ensuring that you acknowledge the ideas, words, and phrases of others that you use is a vital part of the scholarly endeavour. If you have any questions at all about academic integrity in general or about specific issues, contact any faculty member and we can discuss your questions.