

Social Issues and Social Policy Analysis (SA)

Sociology and Anthropology 340

Section: D100

Term: 2003 Spring

Instructor: Steve Kerstetter

Email: sakerstetter@cs.com

Office: AQ 5079

Discussion Topics: The Canadian welfare state is being transformed by governments captivated by neoliberal adjustment strategies, conservative fiscal policies and global forces that view promoting the private marketplace as the prime directive. This transformation is accompanied by changes in employment, unemployment, underemployment, inequality and poverty and changing family forms and structures. The transformation is also taking place at a time of sweeping changes in tax regimes that affect the ability of governments to finance a wide range of social programs.

What protection do provincial welfare programs, federal employment insurance, child benefits and pensions provide to Canadians? How are these programs changing and what factors underlie their transformation? Why should we care about the capacity of the welfare state to provide basic societal protection?

Contemporary social policy debates are preoccupied with questions regarding the capacity of government, affordability and sustainability, the allocative efficiency of the market, and ideologies that assign less responsibility for social welfare to the state and more to individuals and communities. This course provides students an opportunity to develop critical social policy analysis skills through an examination of the social, political and economic context of recent income security reforms in the Canadian welfare state.

Grading: Group Debates: 25%

Class Test 1 (short answers, closed book, in class): 30%

Class Test 2 (essay questions, closed book, in class): 35%

Attendance/Participation: 10%

*All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned.

Required Texts: Ernie Lightman, 2002, Social Policy in Canada: Who Benefits? Who Pays?
Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Social Issues and Social Policy Analysis (SA)

Required and recommended readings will be placed on reserve in the library.

Recommended Texts: Will be placed on reserve in the library.

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Prerequisites: SA 150 and either SA 101 or one other lower division (A) course.

Notes:

The course instructor reserves the right to check for plagiarism using software provided by the SFU administration for this purpose.

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.