

**Social Issues and Social Policy Analysis (SA)**

Sociology and Anthropology 340

Section: D100

Term: 2003 Fall

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Discussion Topics: The Canadian welfare state is being transformed by governments captivated by neo-liberal strategies, conservative fiscal policies and global forces that promote the marketplace. 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.

How much protection is provided by provincial welfare programs, federal employment insurance, child benefits, pensions and employment standards legislation? 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 protection to Canadians?

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%

Mid-Term Examination (short answers, closed book, in class): 30%

Final Examination (essay questions, closed book, in class): 35%

Attendance/Participation: 10%

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

Jackson, A. and D. Robinson, 2000. Falling Behind: The State of Working Canada. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy

Recommended Texts: None

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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.

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