



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 4478G-001
Advanced Program and Policy Evaluation
Winter 2023
Tuesdays 9:30-12:30 in HSB-13
Delivery Method - In-person

Instructor: Michael Haan, Associate Professor

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00

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Course Description:

An advanced examination of major issues in the fields of program and policy evaluation including the relative value of different designs that can be used in the conduct of this type of applied social research. This course focuses on the assessing the ability of Canadian programs and policies to enhance the wellbeing of all Canadians, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations. Specifically, we will explore the mechanisms and tools of transfer and redistribution that are central to all aspects of Canadian social policy. Students will become familiar with various theories of the welfare state, the Canadian social contract, and how these principles impact social policy outcomes and social inequality at the federal and provincial levels.

The course builds off and integrates knowledge you have acquired throughout your degree by asking you to engage in a self-directed original group research project related to an area of Canadian social policy, e.g. child care, elder care, higher education, (dis)ability, or indigenous inequality. The course will take a problem-based learning approach with the group research project being central to the course.

The first half of the course will focus explicitly on the material in the textbook, and will largely consist of me lecturing. Next, we will practice employing hands-on policy evaluation techniques. For your presentation, you will be required to outline the policy problem (such as immigrant poverty), describe what social policy in the area is trying to do (reduce immigrant poverty), present on current and past policy solutions, and, finally, assess the extent to which these interventions are working. You will then be required to write a policy brief on this topic. I will provide an example of what these presentations should look like in weeks 2 or 3.

Prerequisite(s): Sociology 3306A/B and registration in third year or above in any Department of Sociology module or BHSc Aging, or fourth year in any module.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Antirequisite(s): None

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

- (1) Understand and engage with contemporary social policy issues in Canada;
- (2) Hone critical thinking and independence in analyzing a social policy issue of priority to you;
- (3) Improve skills related to writing to a non-academic audience;
- (4) Gain experience working within a group on an original self-directed research project; and
- (5) Participate in public sociology or sociology that engages with the broader public.

Course Material:

Lightman, Ernie and Lightman, Naomi. 2017. Social Policy in Canada, 2nd Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Communication:

How to Contact Me:

I can be reached through email: mhaan2@uwo.ca

How to get important information:

I will use OWL to send you relevant information. I will also be available via email, and will answer any questions within 24 hours. If you ask a question that I think others in the class will be interested in, I reserve the right to send my response to everyone. I will not identify you as the person that asked the question.

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:

Laptops are permitted in class, but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

Method of Evaluation:

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Class Participation	10%
Class Assignment (due March 21)	15%
Policy Presentation	15%
Policy Brief (due one week after presentation)	15%
Mid-term exam (take-home, due February 17)	15%
Final Policy Paper (due April 10)	30%

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning:

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Student Absences:

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade:

Late assignments without academic accommodation will be deducted 10% per day. If you do not complete any of the mini-assignments, you will get a zero for that assignment. No makeups are permitted.

Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:

For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible.

Students should contact me to discuss an extension or a make-up exam, depending on what was missed.

Note: missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

Important Policies

Academic Consideration for Missed Work: Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation in order to receive accommodation for missed work worth 10% or more of the final grade in the course. All required documentation for absences must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty. Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. The student medical certificate is available at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation: When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Accessibility Options: Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

A Note on Plagiarism: Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

Plagiarism Checking: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of

detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

Mental Health: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/academic_counselling/).

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html .To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week 1 (January 10): Introduction to the course.

Week 2 (January 17): Setting the context (Chapter 1)

Week 3 (January 24): The Welfare State (Chapter 2)

Week 4 (January 31): Defining Social Policy (Chapter 3)

Week 5 (February 7): Social Policy and the Market (Chapter 4) *Mid-term exam sent to students.*

Week 6 (February 14): Privatization (Chapter 5)

Mid-term exam due February 17.

Reading Week February 18-26

Week 7 (February 28): Allocating Benefits: what (Chapter 6)

Week 8 (March 7): Allocating Benefits (Chapter 7)

Week 9 (March 14): Generating Benefit Revenues: Taxes (Chapter 8)

Week 10 (March 21): Generating Benefit Revenues: Fees, charges, and levies (Chapter 9)

Week 11 (March 28): Generating Benefit Revenues: volunteers (Chapter 10)

Week 12 (April 4): Globalization (Chapter 11)