GlobalSt 704
Globalst 704: Global Social Policy
Global Social Policy
Winter 2017
Wednesday 11:30-14:30
L.R. Wilson Hall 3001

Instructor: Dr. Kirsten J. Fisher
Office: L.R. Wilson Hall 2023
Office Hours: By Appointment
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Course Description and Objective:

This interdisciplinary course introduces students to key concepts and issues of global social policy and its connections with globalization processes. It examines trends in global social policy and the diverse experiences of different welfare regimes across the world. Locating social policy within the context of global inequalities, this course also seeks a deeper understanding of the issues of poverty, social exclusion, and deprivation from an international perspective. In discussing the challenges and possibilities regarding the future of welfare, the roles of various non-state sectors (e.g., transnational corporations, international organizations, and international NGOs) in pursuing social justice and human rights in the global context are also addressed.

As this is a graduate-level interdisciplinary seminar, students will be required to engage in critical dialogue with their peers, sharing their unique and reasoned perspectives on the material addressed in class. While engaging with new positions and arguments on the particular topic of global social policy, students will flex and strengthen their ability to present and support ideas and defend clear positions on potentially controversial issues.

Required Reading:

All readings will be uploaded by the instructor to Avenue2Learn.

Assignments:

1. Attendance and Participation: 20%
2. Facilitation of Class Discussion: 10%
3. Critical Thought Papers (2 x 10%): 20%
4. Research Presentation: 15%
5. Essay: 35%

Attendance and Participation:

Students are expected to attend classes regularly, follow the reading, and participate in discussions and in-class assignments. Attendance and Participation grades will not be based entirely on class attendance, although attendance will be necessary to earn
Attendance and Participation grades.

Finally, Attendance and Participation marks will take into account the presence and participation at the Conference Weeks. For the conference weeks to be successful, all students must contribute to the constructive audience participation of their colleagues' presentations.

**Facilitation of Class Discussion:**

Students are expected to sign up for one or two class(es) for which they will serve as discussants (number will depend on class enrolment). For the classes that they are assigned to serve as discussants, students must critically review the assigned readings, introduce class discussions with a short (approximately 10 minute) presentation (of the general points made by the authors, links -- agreement or conflicting arguments -- between authors, and the respective works' strengths and weaknesses), and prepare discussion points/questions from which their fellow students engage in a rich exploration of the material presented. A memo (point form, a page or two) of the points which will be discussed should be emailed to the instructor by noon the day before the class.

**Critical Thought Papers:**

Students are expected to complete two (2) Critical Thought Papers before the end of the course. Students are free to choose the readings/topics they wish to reflect upon, as long as the Critical Thought Papers are submitted prior to the beginning of the class to which the readings correspond. Critical Thought Papers are considered reflections about the readings and topics discussed in the class. These Papers should be between 3 and 5 pages in length.

**Research Presentation:**

The final two (2) weeks of this class will be Conference Weeks, a period when students will present their research and gain valuable feedback from their classmates that they may be able to incorporate into their final essays.

Presentations will be evaluated based on style, insight and especially on critical assessment and engagement with the topic. Secondary sources should be used.

**Essay:**

Students will be required to write an essay of approximately 16 pages (double spaced), due at the end of the course (April 7). The focus of this paper is the critical examination of a theme or case of interest.

Essays will be evaluated based on style, insight and critical assessment and engagement with the topic. A good essay must present a strong thesis and be organized in a coherent manner that supports its principal argument.
A good paper makes use of the readings, class discussions and outside sources. Prior approval of essay topic is required.

Schedule:

**Week 1: Introduction to the Course (Jan 4)**


**Week 2: Thinking about Global Social Policy (Jan 11)**

Deacon, Bob. (2007) “The International and Global Dimensions of Social Policy”, in *Global Social Policy & Governance*. Los Angeles: Sage. 3-23. (Do not concern yourself with the challenging details and debates of this chapter, but I want you to read it for an overview and for its introduction to important vocabulary/terms and concepts.)


**Week 3: Global Justice (Jan 18)**


**Week 4: Thinking about the Variety of Welfare Regimes (Jan 25)**


Week 5: Theorizing about Global Poverty Reduction (Feb 1)


Suggested Reading:


Week 6: Global Democracy, Human Rights and Equality (Feb 8)


Suggested Reading:


Week 7: International Institutions and International Social Policy (Feb 15)


Suggested Reading:


Week 8: Refugees and Migration (Feb 22)


Razum, Oliver. “Restricted entitlements and access to health care for refugees and immigrants: The example of Germany.” 321-324.


Suggested Reading:


**Week 9: Women and Gender (March 1)**


**Week 10: The Rights of the Child and Social Development (March 8)**


**Week 11: Care Policies and Global Health (March 15)**


**Week 12: Conference Week 1 (March 22)**

**Week 13: Conference Week 2 (March 29)**

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Assignment Format Requirements**

All the written work should be written following a recognized citation guideline (APA, MLA, etc.) consistently, and submitted as hard copy on the date due. Submitted work should have a title page showing; title of the assignment, student name & number, department & course name, course code, instructor name and date of submission. Submitted work should be in the following format: font Times New Roman, font size 12, and double spaced.

**Academic Dishonesty**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been
obtained.

2. Improper collaboration in group work.

3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**Students with Disabilities**

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140, ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

**McMaster Statement on Electronic Resources**

In this course, we will be using the Avenue2Learn site (avenue.mcmaster.ca). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic component of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss with the instructor.

**McMaster Statement on Course Modification**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.