Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce students to Canadian social policy. The course outlines the historical trajectory of social policy in Canada and highlights significant social, ideological, political and economic factors that have shaped social policy in Canada. Certain national and provincial social programs such as old age pension, unemployment insurance, child benefits and welfare assistance will be analyzed. In the final section, attempt will be made to analyze and assess the ongoing pattern of social policy reforms and the impacts that these welfare reforms have had on Canadians of different socio-economic backgrounds. The implications of welfare state restructuring for the principles of social justice and equity will be evaluated.

Learning Objectives:
Students are expected to acquire a foundational understanding of the interplay of economic, political and social forces that structure the terrain of social welfare policy in Canada. Furthermore, it is the main aim of this course to enhance the ability of students to gain an appreciation for the dynamics and complexity of social policy in Canada. Finally, students are anticipated to develop analytical and research skills that are essential to pursuing advanced studies in the field of public administration and social policy.

Format: The course will consist of lectures, interactive discussion of the readings, and occasional audio-visual presentations. Lecture notes will be posted on the course moodle. Course lecture takes place during the first part of class. During the second part of class there will be class discussion. In order to facilitate class discussion and participation, students are expected to read the assigned readings. Lecture notes and Announcements will be posted on the course moodle.
Required Textbooks:


*** Additional readings may be assigned or recommended during the course of study. ***

Suggested (Optional)Textbook:

Online Sites Related to Social Policy Issues

Caledonia Institute of Social Policy
[Http://www.caledoninst.org](http://www.caledoninst.org)

Canadian Council on Social Development
[http://www.ccsd.ca/links.html](http://www.ccsd.ca/links.html)

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
[http://www.policyalternatives.ca](http://www.policyalternatives.ca)

C.D. Howe Institute
[http://www.cdhowe.org](http://www.cdhowe.org)Centre for Social Justice
[http://www.socialjustice.org](http://www.socialjustice.org)

Course Requirements:

- Attendance and Participation: %15
- In Class Test:  June 11th  %30
- Research paper : June 23th %25
- Final Exam: TBA %30

Lecture and Reading Schedule;

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

Section I: Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Social policy

The Determinants of Social Policy
Finkel; Introduction

**Suggested Readings:**
Westhues, Anne and Wharf, Brian, Chs, 2, 3, 4.

**Week 2: Canadian welfare state in an international context**

Esping-Andersen, Gosta: the Three Worlds of Welfare State Capitalism, pp.10-46 (Electronically accessible)

**Section II: Historical Contexts; Development of the welfare state in Canada**

**Social policy in the Pre-Keynesian Era**
Finkel ch 3, ch 4
Blake and Keshen ch1, ch2

**Week 3: Historical Contexts; Social policy During the Keynesian Era**
Finkel ch 5, ch6
Blake and Keshen ch 7, ch 8

**Economic Crisis, Neo-liberalism and Social policy Reform**
Finkel ch 12
Blake and Keshen ch 13


**Section III: Expansion, Restructuring and Retrenchment of Social Programs**

**Week 4; Social policy and elderly people; Old Age Pension**
Finkel ch 7
Bake and Keshen ch 18

**Suggested Readings:**
Westhues, Anne and Wharf, Brian, Ch 15

**Social policy and Child Care**
Finkel ch9
Bake and keshen ch 9, ch 12

Suggested Readings:
Westhues, Anne and Wharf, Brian, Ch 9

Week 5: Social policy and Medicare
Finkel ch 8
Blake and Keshen ch 14, ch 21

Suggested Readings:
Westhues, Anne and Wharf, Brian, Ch 19

Social Policy and Unemployment Insurance/Employment Insurance
Blake and Keshen ch 5, ch 10, ch 20

Week 6: Social Policy and Social Assistance: from Welfare to Workfare


Social Policy, Poverty and Income Inequality
Finkel ch 11
Blake and Keshen ch 17


Review

Written Assignment:
Students are required to write a research paper of 7-9 pages in length. The research paper is worth 25% of the final mark. It should be double-spaced, with standard margins and standard font size. You should have at least 6-7 sources (books, journals, government reports/documents). It is not acceptable to use the course textbooks or any other Canadian politics textbooks as a major source for your research paper. Late paper will lose 2% of its grade for each day that it is late. Extension will only be granted for exceptional circumstances. Written assignments should be submitted either in class or during my office hours. Papers submitted via e-mail or fax will not be accepted.

**Accommodation for Disability:**

Students with disabilities who require adaptation or services must discuss their needs with the instructor. Accommodation for disability must be arranged in conjunction with the Office for Persons with Disability. For specific resources, visit the Counseling and Disability Services website, at: http://www.yorku.ca/cds/

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is generally considered to be the most serious academic misconduct that a student can commit. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, instances of plagiarism will have serious academic consequences. In order to avoid slipping into the realm of plagiarism, students are advised to familiarize themselves with York University’s definition of academic dishonesty.

**Reappraisals**

For petition and reappraisal procedures and information, visit the Senate’s website at http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2012-2013/policies/petitions/