



SOCI704

Developing Social Policy

S1 Evening 2014

Sociology

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	6
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	7
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	8

Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Adam Stebbing

adam.stebbing@mq.edu.au

Contact via adam.stebbing@mq.edu.au

W6A 824

By appointment

Guest

Ben Spies-Butcher

ben.spies-butcher@mq.edu.au

Contact via ben.spies-butcher@mq.edu.au

Guest

Tobia Fattore

tobia.fattore@mq.edu.au

Contact via tobia.fattore@mq.edu.au

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

SOC810

Unit description

This unit focuses on a specific aspect of social policy making and applied social research. This unit will have three parts. The first part engages with key concepts of social policy and the welfare state. The second part outlines three historical welfare models (Australia, Sweden and the United States) and offers tools for classifying political and social dynamics surrounding welfare states. The third part looks at the contemporary political and social dynamics surrounding welfare states. Across the semester, we keep a focus on welfare policy-making in Australia and recent social policy changes.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are

available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Critically assess, use and synthesise information
- Discuss key social theories and frameworks used to understand the development of social policies
- Further develop research skills by completing an annotated bibliography
- Further develop research skills by completing an individual research project
- Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy debates and reflecting on international developments
- Challenging your preconceptions about welfare and other areas
- Applying social theory and research findings to 'real world' social problems
- Respectfully engage with others in policy debates and discussions

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Annotated Bibliography</u>	15%	Week 5 workshop
<u>Critical Review</u>	25%	Week 8 workshop
<u>Research Essay</u>	50%	Week 13 workshop
<u>Workshop Engagement</u>	10%	Ongoing

Annotated Bibliography

Due: **Week 5 workshop**

Weighting: **15%**

This annotated bibliography can be thought of as a component of the larger research essay. The first thing this task requires you to do is select an essay question to focus on for both this task and research essay. Make sure that you have a look at both tasks before selecting an option (the essay questions you can choose between are listed below).

Annotated bibliographies are important research tools that provide us with a record of the sources that we have examined over the course of a research project. So, what is an annotated bibliography? An annotated bibliography is an organised list of sources, each of which is followed by a brief note or 'annotation' of about 250 words (in this case).

These annotations should seek to do two or more of the following:

- briefly describe the content and focus of the source (this is crucial, but *please do not just do*

this)

- comment on the position it takes on the policy
- comment on the methods used in the source
- evaluate the source's methods and conclusions
- record your reactions to the source.

An annotated bibliography summarises to a large extent the core argument of several sources. The first step is to describe the work and its topic. In this part, you will repeat the author's ideas, **not** your own. *Please avoid providing an overview of the source's layout - make sure that you are focused on outlining and explaining the main ideas.*

Previous sources can themselves provide us with access to other relevant sources. So, you should also identify up to 3 cross-references from each source, which requires you to search the reference list for other sources of interest and to write down their citations. Choose the most relevant sources. If you have any queries about this, ask the unit convenor.

For this annotated bibliography, you need to collect 10 references that are relevant to the policy that you have selected. You should provide an annotation for **three references**. When choosing the other sources, keep in mind that academic sources are preferred and that you will need a range of sources.

N.B. *You do not have to provide an annotation for all the sources you collect.*

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Discuss key social theories and frameworks used to understand the development of social policies
- Further develop research skills by completing an annotated bibliography
- Applying social theory and research findings to 'real world' social problems

Critical Review

Due: **Week 8 workshop**

Weighting: **25%**

You need to select one of the required readings from Week 3, 4, 5 or 6. Provide an overview of the reading: what are the key points made and what is the overall argument? How does the author support their arguments? Then provide a short critique of the piece drawing on other readings from that or other weeks.

This does not mean you need to dismiss the original argument, just that you should consider key criticisms that have been made or how the argument fits with other issues raised by other authors. You should end with a brief conclusion identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the article.

Remember this is not a research essay. The aim is to look at one argument in detail. You do not need many references (3 or 4 from the list is adequate, including the reading itself). You might

choose to cite a reference that is not from the list if you wish. The list is simply a guide, but you are not expected to undertake wide-reaching independent research for this task.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically assess, use and synthesise information
- Discuss key social theories and frameworks used to understand the development of social policies
- Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy debates and reflecting on international developments
- Challenging your preconceptions about welfare and other areas

Research Essay

Due: **Week 13 workshop**

Weighting: **50%**

This individual research task tests your ability to apply and engage with concepts covered in the unit to the essay question, your ability to find and use good evidence, and your skills as a writer. You are required to provide a critical response to ONE of the essay questions that will be made available on iLearn from week 7. These questions will relate to the broad themes of social inequality and social policy that are central to this course.

This assignments should be written in the format of an academic essay, with a clearly defined introduction, body and conclusion. It should be written in paragraphs and double spaced. You also need to write clearly and use formal language. Take care to use jargon appropriately and define key concepts.

This is a research assignment. Course materials should be your starting point. But, you are expected to draw on readings and materials beyond the course readings. This should include material listed as 'additional readings' and material that you find yourself. All material should be properly referenced, preferably using the Harvard style of referencing. Please do not draw directly on lecture notes and consult original sources where possible.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically assess, use and synthesise information
- Discuss key social theories and frameworks used to understand the development of social policies
- Further develop research skills by completing an individual research project
- Challenging your preconceptions about welfare and other areas
- Applying social theory and research findings to 'real world' social problems

Workshop Engagement

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **10%**

The weekly workshops are compulsory. To meet the requirements of this course, you are required to attend at least 80 per cent of workshops. In addition to attending, you are also expected to actively participate. As an incentive, 10 percent of your final mark will be awarded for your attendance and your participation. We will look for evidence that you have done the readings and your ability to engage respectfully with other students.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Discuss key social theories and frameworks used to understand the development of social policies
- Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy debates and reflecting on international developments
- Challenging your preconceptions about welfare and other areas
- Respectfully engage with others in policy debates and discussions

Delivery and Resources

Course Delivery

For SOCI704, you need to attend the weekly two-hour seminar during semester.

See <http://timetables.mq.edu.au> for information on rooms.

Texts for SOCI 704

There is no required text set for this unit. The readings will be available on e-reserve. Many are already available. Make sure that you try searching for the course code 'SOC810', 'SOCI 704' and the author's surname of the relevant reading (search for each separately).

While there is no need to buy a textbook, we have put together a list of recommended texts that should help you throughout the semester. These sources are online and can also be ordered through the Co-op bookshop:

Alcock, P. and G. Craig (2009) *International Social Policy: Welfare regimes in the developed world*, Palgrave Macmillan: Basingstoke.

Fawcett, B., Goodwin, S., Meagher, G. and R. Phillips (2010) *Social Policy for Social Change*, Palgrave Macmillan: Melbourne.

McClelland, A. and P. Smyth (2010) *Social Policy in Australia: Understanding for Action*, Oxford University Press: Melbourne.

Pierson, C. and F.G. Castles (2010) *The Welfare State Reader*, 2nd Edition, Polity Press: Cambridge.

iLearn page

Important information about the weekly schedule, course readings and assessment are all available on the course *iLearn* page. If you do not have access, please contact IT help. You are required to check iLearn and your student email regularly for course updates and information.

Information about Turnitin

All written assessments need to be submitted online via Turnitin only. A link to Turnitin is available via the Assessments tab on the iLearn page. Please contact the convenor if you cannot find it (do not leave it until the day of the assessment). Written assessments are due by 6pm at the start of the relevant workshop. But, there is no need to submit a hard copy of the assessment or to include a cover sheet.

Grademark

Feedback will be made available online via GradeMark. It will take four majors forms (in no particular order): specific comments in the text of your paper; overall comments; a score on a qualitative rubric (that cannot be used to calculate your mark numerically); and a numeric score. Once you have received your assignment back, please make sure that you have access to these forms of feedback.

Readings on e-reserve

The readings for the course should be available free-of-charge via e-Reserve. e-Reserve can be accessed via the Macquarie University library website.

Changes since the last offering of this unit

The recommended texts, assessment structure and the course readings have changed since the last offering of this unit.

Unit Schedule

Wk	Date	Lecture Topics	Lecturer
1	4 Mar	Introduction to <i>Developing Social Policy</i>	AS

2	11 Mar	Poverty and Inequality: Key social policy concepts	AS
3	18Mar	The Great Risk Shift? Risk, markets and new social policies	AS
4	25 Mar	Developing Social Policy: From policy cycles to 'muddling through'	TF
5	1 Apr	Developing Social Policy II: Welfare, markets and the state	BSB
6	8 Apr	Analysing Social Policy: Frameworks for understanding	AS
7	29 Apr	An Australian Story: The wage-earners model and beyond	AS
8	6 May	The US Model vs. the Swedish <i>folkshemmet</i>	AS
9	13 May	Closing the Gap? Recent developments in Indigenous social policy	AS
10	20 May	Reforming Income Support: Dependency, deservingness & surveillance	AS
11	27 May	Population Ageing, Retirement and Social Policy	AS
12	3 Jun	Health Policy in Australia and Around the World	AS
13	10 Jun	Course Conclusion	AS

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.