



SOCI704

Developing Social Policy

S2 Evening 2015

Dept of Sociology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Co-convenor

Dr. Adam Stebbing

adam.stebbing@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

W6A 824

Tuesdays at 4pm to 5pm, Other Times by Appointment

Co-convenor

Dr. Jean Parker

jean.parker@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

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:

1. Critically assess, use and synthesise information

2. Discuss key social theories and frameworks used to understand the development of social policies
3. Further develop research skills by completing an annotated bibliography
4. Further develop research skills by completing an individual research project
5. Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy debates and reflecting on international developments
6. Challenge your preconceptions about welfare and other areas
7. Applying social theory and research findings to 'real world' social problems
8. Respectfully engage with others in policy debates and discussions

General Assessment Information

Important assessment information is available at:

- Learn more about how to submit assignments online - http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/assignments.htm
- Become familiar with the academic honesty policy - http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Annotated Bibliography	15%	31st August
Critical Review	25%	5th October
Research Essay	50%	6th November
Seminar Participation	10%	Ongoing

Annotated Bibliography

Due: **31st August**

Weighting: **15%**

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

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 essay question 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 write an annotation for each source in the reference list.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 2. Discuss key social theories and frameworks used to understand the development of social policies
- 3. Further develop research skills by completing an annotated bibliography

Critical Review

Due: **5th October**

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.

Keep in mind that 'being critical' 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 of readings. 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:

- 1. Critically assess, use and synthesise information
- 2. Discuss key social theories and frameworks used to understand the development of social policies
- 6. Challenge your preconceptions about welfare and other areas

Research Essay

Due: **6th November**

Weighting: **50%**

This individual research task tests your ability to apply concepts taught in the unit to the essay question, your ability to find and use good evidence, and your skills and efforts 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 (watch this space). These questions will relate to the broad themes of social inequality and social policy that are central to this course.

This assignment 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.

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

More information will be provided on the course **iLearn** page over the semester.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Critically assess, use and synthesise information
- 2. Discuss key social theories and frameworks used to understand the development of social policies
- 4. Further develop research skills by completing an individual research project
- 5. Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy debates and reflecting on international developments
- 6. Challenge your preconceptions about welfare and other areas
- 7. Applying social theory and research findings to 'real world' social problems

Seminar Participation

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:

- 2. Discuss key social theories and frameworks used to understand the development of social policies
- 5. Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy debates and reflecting on international developments
- 6. Challenge your preconceptions about welfare and other areas
- 7. Applying social theory and research findings to 'real world' social problems
- 8. 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 the 'Unit Readings' tab of the university library webpage. 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 (2014) *Social Policy in Australia: Understanding for Action*, 3rd

edition, 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.

Unit Schedule

Wk	Date	Seminar Topics	Lecturer
1	28 Jul	Introduction to <i>Developing Social Policy</i>	AS
2	4 Aug	Poverty and Inequality: Key social policy concepts	AS
3	11 Aug	The Great Risk Shift? Risk, markets and new social policies	JP
4	18 Aug	Developing Social Policy: Welfare, markets and the state	BSB

5	25 Aug	Developing Social Policy II: From policy cycles to 'muddling through'	JP
6	1 Sep	Analysing Social Policy: Frameworks for understanding	AS
7	8 Sep	An Australian Story: The wage-earners model and beyond	AS
Mid-semester study period			
8	29 Sep	The US Model vs. the Swedish <i>folkshemmet</i>	AS
9	6 Oct	Reforming Income Support: Dependency, deservingness & surveillance	JP
10	13 Oct	Closing the Gap? Recent developments in Indigenous social policy	EM
11	20 Oct	Population Ageing, Retirement and Social Policy	JP
12	27 Oct	Health Policy in Australia and Around the World	JP
13	3 Nov	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/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

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.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Critically assess, use and synthesise information
- 4. Further develop research skills by completing an individual research project
- 6. Challenge your preconceptions about welfare and other areas
- 7. Applying social theory and research findings to 'real world' social problems
- 8. Respectfully engage with others in policy debates and discussions

Assessment tasks

- Critical Review
- Research Essay
- Seminar Participation

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 2. Discuss key social theories and frameworks used to understand the development of social policies
- 4. Further develop research skills by completing an individual research project

Assessment tasks

- Annotated Bibliography
- Critical Review
- Research Essay
- Seminar Participation

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Critically assess, use and synthesise information
- 2. Discuss key social theories and frameworks used to understand the development of social policies
- 4. Further develop research skills by completing an individual research project
- 5. Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy debates and reflecting on international developments
- 6. Challenge your preconceptions about welfare and other areas
- 7. Applying social theory and research findings to 'real world' social problems

Assessment tasks

- Annotated Bibliography
- Critical Review
- Research Essay
- Seminar Participation

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Critically assess, use and synthesise information
- 3. Further develop research skills by completing an annotated bibliography
- 4. Further develop research skills by completing an individual research project

Assessment tasks

- Annotated Bibliography

- Critical Review
- Research Essay

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 3. Further develop research skills by completing an annotated bibliography
- 4. Further develop research skills by completing an individual research project
- 5. Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy debates and reflecting on international developments
- 8. Respectfully engage with others in policy debates and discussions

Assessment tasks

- Annotated Bibliography
- Research Essay
- Seminar Participation

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 5. Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy debates and reflecting on international developments
- 6. Challenge your preconceptions about welfare and other areas
- 7. Applying social theory and research findings to 'real world' social problems
- 8. Respectfully engage with others in policy debates and discussions

Assessment tasks

- Critical Review

- Research Essay
- Seminar Participation