SOCI704

Developing Social Policy

S2 Evening 2017

Dept of Sociology

Contents

General Information 2

Learning Outcomes 2

General Assessment Information 3

Assessment Tasks 4

Delivery and Resources 6

Unit Schedule 8

Policies and Procedures 8

Graduate Capabilities 10

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit convenor
Dr. Adam Stebbing
adam.stebbing@mq.edu.au
Contact via Email
By appointment

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status
SOC810 Developing Social Policy

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 individual research project
4. Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy

debates and reflecting on international developments

5. Applying social theory and research findings to 'real world' social problems
6. Challenge your preconceptions about welfare and other areas
7. 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.htm

Submission and return of assessments

Written assessments need to be submitted online using the Turnitin link on the SOCI704 iLearn page. Assignments will be marked using Grademark. Where possible, feedback and results will be made available online within 3 weeks of the assessment being submitted (excluding assignments submitted before the due date) via Turnitin.

Late submissions - penalties and disruption to studies

Assessment tasks worth 10% or less of the overall grade for the unit. Students who have not submitted the task prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task, except for cases in which an application for Disruption to Studies is made and approved. No extensions will be granted.

Assessment tasks worth more than 10% of the overall grade for the unit. Students who submit late work without an extension will receive a penalty (5 per cent for the first day or weekend, 1 per cent for each day thereafter). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Disruption to Studies is made and approved. No extensions will be granted.

Assessment Grades

GRADE	RANGE	STATUS	DESCRIPTION

HD	85-100	Pass	Provides consistent evidence of deep and critical understanding in relation to the learning outcomes. There is substantial originality, insight or creativity in identifying, generating and communicating competing arguments, perspectives or problem solving approaches; critical evaluation of problems, their solutions and their implications; creativity in application as appropriate to the program.
D	75-84	Pass	Provides evidence of integration and evaluation of critical ideas, principles and theories, distinctive insight and ability in applying relevant skills and concepts in relation to learning outcomes. There is demonstration of frequent originality or creativity in defining and analysing issues or problems and providing solutions; and the use of means of communication appropriate to the program and the audience.
CR	65-74	Pass	Provides evidence of learning that goes beyond replication of content knowledge or skills relevant to the learning outcomes. There is demonstration of substantial understanding of fundamental concepts in the field of study and the ability to apply these concepts in a variety of contexts; convincing argumentation with appropriate coherent justification; communication of ideas fluently and clearly in terms of the conventions of the program.
P	50-64	Pass	Provides sufficient evidence of the achievement of learning outcomes. There is demonstration of understanding and application of fundamental concepts of the program; routine argumentation with acceptable justification; communication of information and ideas adequately in terms of the conventions of the program. The learning attainment is considered satisfactory or adequate or competent or capable in relation to the specified outcomes.
F	0-49	Fail	Does not provide evidence of attainment of learning outcomes. There is missing or partial or superficial or faulty understanding and application of the fundamental concepts in the field of study; missing, undeveloped, inappropriate or confusing argumentation; incomplete, confusing or lacking communication of ideas in ways that give little attention to the conventions of the program.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Critical Review	30%	No	18th September
Research Essay	60%	No	11th November
Seminar Participation	10%	No	Ongoing

Critical Review

Due: **18th September**
Weighting: **30%**

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 as well as sources you find yourself. The aim of this assessment is to examine one argument in detail, but you are required to situate it within broader social policy and sociological debates (so it is important you do independent research).

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, as well as considering its limitations and strengths more broadly.

You should organise your critical review with an introduction, body and conclusion. It should be written in paragraphs and double-spaced. 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).

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: **11th November**
Weighting: **60%**

The major assignment for SOCI704 is a research essay. This individual research task is designed to assess your ability to apply concepts taught in the unit to the essay question, your ability to find and use good evidence when discussing policy details, 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 6. These questions will relate to broad themes that are central to this course and a specific social policy domain(s) that you will be required to undertake research on.

This assignment should be written in the format of an academic essay, which require an 'argument' (a direct response to the research essay question) that is coherent and supported by evidence. We will assess how your essay balances theoretical explanation with policy description when presenting the argument. Academic essays should have a clearly defined introduction, body and conclusion. You should write in paragraphs and double-space your work. You also need to write clearly and use formal language. Take care to use jargon and headings 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).

N.B. *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
- 3. Further develop research skills by completing an individual research project
- 4. Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy debates and reflecting on international developments
- 5. Applying social theory and research findings to 'real world' social problems
- 6. Challenge your preconceptions about welfare and other areas

Seminar Participation

Due: **Ongoing**
Weighting: **10%**

The weekly seminars are compulsory. To meet the requirements of this course, you are required to attend at least 80 per cent of seminars. 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, are active in class discussions and group work as well as 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
- 4. Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy debates and reflecting on international developments
- 5. Applying social theory and research findings to 'real world' social problems
- 6. Challenge your preconceptions about welfare and other areas
- 7. Respectfully engage with others in policy debates and discussions

Delivery and Resources

Delivery

This course is delivered as a two-hour seminar on Thursday evenings from 6pm in E6A 109 during semester.

Required and recommended resources

There is no required textbook for SOCI704. The following text is recommended, particularly if

you are finding the course difficult.

McClelland, A. and P. Smyth (eds.) (2014) *Social Policy in Australia: Understanding for Action*, 3rd Edition, Cambridge University Press: Melbourne.

Other required readings will be available via the 'unit reading' tab on the Library webpage, online thru the Library webpage or on the world wide web. Most are already available.

Before contacting teaching staff, make sure that you try searching for the course code 'SOC810', 'SOCI 704' and the author's surname of the relevant reading in Unit Readings (search for each separately) on the library website.

Other 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.

Marston, G., Macdonald, C. and L. Bryson (2013) *The Australian Welfare State: Who Benefits Now?* Palgrave Macmillan: South Yarra.

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

Technology used

The following technologies are used in this course...

Email

Make sure that you regularly check your student email for correspondence with teaching staff and course announcements.

iLearn

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.

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). 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	Seminar Topics	Date
1	Introduction to *Developing Social Policy*	3 Aug
2	An Australian Story: From the wage-earner's welfare state to beyond	11 Aug
3	Alleviating Poverty? The 'functions' of poverty and welfare	18 Aug
4	On Work & Welfare: Social policy for full employment?	25 Aug
5	Social Policy for Social Citizenship? Rights, obligations and solidarity	2 Sep
6	Managing Social Risk? Dealing with state and market failures	8 Sep
7	Understanding Social Policy Developments: From structural functionalism to historical institutionalism	15 Sep
	Mid-semester study period	
8	The Macro Dynamics of Welfare State Change: Contesting welfare, markets & the state	5 Oct
9	The Micro Dynamics of Welfare State Change: Policy cycles or 'muddling through'?	12 Oct
10	The Rise of Conditionality: 'Workfare' vs. the 'new paternalism'	19 Oct
11	The Shift to Markets: Neoliberalism, marketisation and financialisation	26 Oct
12	Closing the Gap? Persistent inequalities and Indigenous social policy	2 Nov
13	Course Conclusion	9 Nov

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_2016.html

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

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.a

u/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration

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

Macquarie University provides a range of health and wellbeing services for students. For details, visit:

http://students.mq.edu.au/support/health_and_wellbeing/

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://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources 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
- 3. Further develop research skills by completing an individual research project
- 5. Applying social theory and research findings to ‘real world’ social problems
- 6. Challenge your preconceptions about welfare and other areas
- 7. 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
- 3. Further develop research skills by completing an individual research project

Assessment tasks

- 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
- 3. Further develop research skills by completing an individual research project
- 4. Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy debates and reflecting on international developments
- 5. Applying social theory and research findings to ‘real world’ social problems
- 6. Challenge your preconceptions about welfare and other areas

Assessment tasks

- 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 individual research project

Assessment tasks

- 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 individual research project
- 4. Appreciate the complexities of Australian social policy by engaging in social policy debates and reflecting on international developments
- 7. Respectfully engage with others in policy debates and discussions

Assessment tasks

- 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

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

Assessment tasks

- Critical Review
- Research Essay

- Seminar Participation