



School of Health Education and Human Services  
Bachelor of Social Work

SW469

Social Policy

Term: Fall 2024

Number of Credits: 3 Credit Course

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## Course Outline

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Kate Mechan, MSW

**METHOD:** In Person Face-to-Face

**E-MAIL:** [kate.mechan@yukonu.ca](mailto:kate.mechan@yukonu.ca)

**TELEPHONE:**

**OFFICE HOURS:** By Request

**TIME:** Mondays 9am – 11:50pm

**DATES:** September 9 to December 10

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the dimensions and practical implications of social policy in the lives of Canadians. Political, economic, and cultural influences over social policy are explored, as well as the skills needed to develop social policy and its relationship with the profession of social work.

This course considers social policy as a field of study and practice for social workers; the development of social policy, as well as characteristics, functions and processes common to human service organisations and delivery systems are covered in the course. The course will present a foundation for concepts and paradigms in social policy and examine how these impacts are felt by a practicing Social Worker. A base for understanding the interaction of the values, structures, purposes, services, and policies will be provided through student reading and research as well as by resources provided by the instructor. This course explores the socio-historical, economic, ideological and institutional contexts for the development of social policy in Canada. The policy-making process as well as the role of social policy in processes of inclusion, exclusion, marginalization, and oppression will be discussed. The critical analysis of selected social policies will be emphasized.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): Admission to the BSW Program

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of the course the student shall:

- understand the relationship between social values, social policy, social programs and how they shape the delivery of social services to the community and the clients.
- develop core knowledge, skills, and values of social work policy practitioners.
- be able to critically analyse a social policy relevant to the Yukon Territory.
- understand the political process and the role power plays in policy development, approval, implementation, and evaluation at the First Nation, community, territorial, and national levels.
- help students develop their critical analytic skill through an exploration of theories and concepts utilized in the study of social policy.

- recognize how social policy can either reflect or guide social change.
- understand how the jurisdictional responsibilities of the federal, territorial and First Nations governments interact and influence financing and programming at the territorial and community level.
- recognize the importance of social policy for the implementation of the Umbrella Final Agreement and self-government agreements between the Yukon First Nations, the Federal and Territorial Governments.

## COURSE FORMAT

### Delivery Format

This course blends synchronous and asynchronous delivery of content. First, students will be required to prepare for class by watching pre-recorded video lectures that have been uploaded to Moodle by the instructor. Next, students will attend weekly class meetings via Zoom that will focus on discussion of content and learning activities.

### Weekly Breakdown of Hours

Activity	Estimated Time
<b>Synchronous Class Activities &amp; Discussion</b>	170 minutes
<b>Weekly Readings (2 to 3 per week)</b>	100 minutes
<b>Assignments (varies week to week)</b>	120 minutes
<b>Total</b>	390 minutes (approx. 7 hours)

It is important to note that the time required will vary by individual.

## EVALUATION

3 Assignments	90%
Participation and Self-Evaluation	10%
Total	100%

## TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

### Textbook

McKenzie, B., & Wharf, B. (2023). *Connecting policy to practice in the human services* (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.), Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press

Available at the Yukon University bookstore

Also available as an e-text or physical text through Oxford University Press or VitalSource.

Other Readings will be made available through the course Moodle

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by

others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when a student submits work for credit that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, without citing the source from which the material is taken. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of work, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Students may use sources which are public domain or licensed under Creative Commons; however, academic documentation standards must still be followed. Except with explicit permission of the instructor, resubmitting work which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the University.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures for further details about academic standing and student rights and responsibilities.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations by contacting the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): [LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca](mailto:LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca).

## **PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, PREPARATION, PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE**

Social workers are expected to behave in courteous, mature and respectful ways towards others. This is also the expectation of social work students. Appropriate behaviour is required between students in the classroom, with the instructor and at any time when students are approaching others in relation to projects originating from this class.

Part of professional conduct involves being punctual, prepared and self-aware. Being present in class, prepared for class (by completing the readings and assignments on the dates due) and fully participating in class activities is expected.

Regular and punctual attendance is expected. Students who are persistently tardy (this includes arriving late, leaving early, taking extended breaks) or absent or who neglect academic work may be asked to withdraw from the class, or be excluded from the final examination. Students who miss more than 2 classes will have 5% of their final grade deducted for each additional class missed.

If a student misses more than two classes, they may choose to speak with the instructor and ask for an additional assignment to complete in lieu of this missed class, thereby avoiding a deduction in your term grade. The instructor has discretion over a) whether to grant this option to the student and b) the content and format of the assignment. Without exception, this additional assignment must be completed prior to the end of term.

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

University of Regina grading criteria will be followed. Final grade approval rests with the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Regina.

**90-99 An outstanding performance with very strong evidence of:**

- an insightful and comprehensive grasp of the subject matter;
- a clear ability to make sound and original critical evaluation of the material given;
- outstanding capacity for original creative and/or logical thought;
- an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts both in speech and in writing.

**80-89 Very good performance with strong evidence of:**

- a comprehensive grasp of the subject matter;
- an ability to make sound critical evaluation of the material given;
- a good capacity for original, creative, and/or logical thinking;
- a very good ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts both in speech and in writing.

**70-79 Above average performance with evidence of:**

- a substantial knowledge of the subject matter;
- a good understanding of the relevant issues and a good familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- some capacity for original, creative, and/or logical thinking;
- an above-average ability to organize, to analyze and to examine the subject material in a critical and constructive manner, and to express thoughts both in speech and in writing.

**60-69 A generally satisfactory and intellectually adequate performance with evidence of:**

- an acceptable basic grasp of the subject material;
- a fair understanding of the relevant issues;
- a general familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- an ability to develop solutions to moderately difficult problems related to the subject material;
- a moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner, and to express thoughts in writing.

**50-59 A barely acceptable performance with evidence of:**

- a familiarity with the subject material;
- some evidence that analytical skills have been developed;
- some understanding of relevant issues;
- some familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- partially successful attempts to solve moderately difficult problems related to the subject material and to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner;
- basic competence in writing.

**0-49 An unacceptable performance.**