

York University
School of Public Policy and Administration
AP/PPAS 3761 3.00 Section A
CANADA'S SOCIAL POLICY
Fall 2022

Professor: Thomas R. Klassen

Course Website: <https://eclass.yorku.ca/course/view.php?id=68814>

Additional web sites: www.tklassen.blog.yorku.ca and www.thomasklassen.net

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Course description: This course introduces students to social policy with specific reference to Canada but also in a comparative context. The course outlines the historical trajectory of social policy in Western nations and highlights significant social, ideological, political and economic factors that have shaped social policy in Canada. Selected policy areas such as student financial aid, old age pensions, unemployment insurance, and welfare assistance will be analyzed. The final section of the course assesses the pattern of social policy reforms and the impacts that these have had both in Canada, selected other nations, and globally.

The course involves extensive use of case studies, scenarios, role playing and related activities. These assist students in learning and applying knowledge acquired from readings and lectures to other aspects of their studies and to their lives. There will be group work required in assignments for this course. The course meets in person with all activities, including the mid-term, taking place on campus.

Learning Outcomes: The course is designed to stimulate critical thinking on public policy and to provide an introduction to the fundamental debates on, and knowledge about, public policy. The course will be particularly useful for future professionals in the public and private sectors, as well as in further studies.

This course develops the analytical skills of students using a comparative perspective, along with teamwork and collaboration skills. Students in the course will have to opportunity to engage and work with students in a social policy course being taught concurrently at the Department of Social Welfare, **Chung-Ang University**, in South Korea by Professor Sophia Seung-yoon Lee.

At the completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate key aspects of public policy.
2. Analyze key debates in Canadian and comparative public policy.

3. Express themselves clearly and concisely in discussions of public administration and public policy.

Required readings (both books are available for purchase at the York Bookstore):

States and Markets: Sociology of Public Policy in Canada by Susan A. McDaniel, Seong-gee Um. Toronto: Oxford University Press. 2015

How to Succeed at University (and Get a Great Job!): Mastering the Critical Skills You Need for School, Work and Life by Thomas R. Klassen and John A. Dwyer. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. 2015. You may download the book for FREE at:

http://www.ubcpres.ca/asset/20105/1/9780774838993_Web.pdf

Recommended reference books: There are many books on social policy at the York Libraries and in public/community libraries, as well as online. The large number of books and publications reflects the importance that social policy play in the lives of citizens. Students are not required to purchase any of the books below but might find these to be helpful sources of supplementary information. All books are the Scott Library with the call numbers indicated. Most are also available as ebooks.

Universality and Social Policy in Canada. Béland, Daniel, Gregory Marchildon and Michael J. Prince, eds. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 2019. **HN 107 U55 2019**

The Routledge Handbook of Global Public Policy and Administration. Thomas R. Klassen, Denita Cepiku and T. J. Lah, eds. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. 2017. **JF 1351 R59**

Social Policy in Canada. Ernie Lightman and Naomi Lightman. Don Mills, Ontario, Canada: Oxford University Press. 2017. **HN 103.5 L54 2017**

Canadian Social Policy: Issues and Perspectives. Anne Westhues and Brian Wharf. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press. 2012. **HN 107 C354 2012**

Social Policy and Practice in Canada: A History. Alvin Finkel. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press. 2006. **HV 108 F56 2006**

Policy Change, Courts, and the Canadian Constitution. Emmett Macfarlane. University of Toronto Press. 2018. **KE 3098 P65 2018**

Changing Politics of Canadian Social Policy. James J. Rice and Michael J. Prince. Toronto; Buffalo: University of Toronto Press. 2013. **HN 107 R53 2013**

Caring for Children: Social Movements and Public Policy in Canada. Rachel Langford, Susan Prentice and Patrizia Albanese. Vancouver: UBC Press. 2017. HQ 778.7 C2 C37 2017

There are two public policy journals that might be of interest: Canadian Public Policy, and Policy Options.

Evaluation

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Worth (%)</i>	<i>due date</i>
LinkedIn profile	5	September 16
Policy case - COVID-19	10	September 30
Creation of groups	-	October 7
Groups select first choice, second choice and third choice of topics from list provided, and identify a coordinator	-	October 21
Mid-term test (1 hr) and guest lecture	20	October 21
Group project due	20	November 11
Critique of group project completed in Korea	7.5	November 18
Response to critique of own group project	7.5	November 25
Joint video project with students in Korea	20	December 2
Participation	10	ongoing

Please note

1. Late assignments will **not** be accepted. Late assignments will be assigned a grade of zero. It is strongly recommended that you submit assignments before the due date and time.
2. Assignments must be submitted via eClass. Assignments submitted via other means will not be accepted.
3. Save your draft assignments and rough notes in case intellectual property problems arise.

Grading

Percentage grades will be provided for each assignment. The final letter grade will be determined as illustrated:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Per Cent Range</i>	<i>Description</i>
A+	90-100	Exceptional
A	80-89	Excellent
B+	75-79	Very Good

B	70-74	Good
C+	65-69	Competent
C	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	55-59	Passing
D	50-54	Marginally Passing
E	(marginally below 50%)	Marginally Failing
F	(below 50%)	Failing

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. Information on the **Pass/Fail Grading Option**.

Please note that students who wish to designate a course as Pass/Fail must do so within the first two weeks of the term in which the course begins.

Assignment Submission: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Students are encouraged to submit drafts of assignments for review and feedback prior to the due dates.

Late assignments: Assignments received later than the due date and time will not be graded. Exceptions to this policy might be granted only in extraordinary situations, which require supporting written documentation deemed adequate by the instructor, and advance notification by the student. Requests, even with supporting written documentation, made after the due date will not be accepted.

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

Academic Honesty and Integrity

York students are required to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and they are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. The Policy affirms the responsibility of faculty members to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of the student to abide by such standards.

There is also an academic integrity website with comprehensive information about academic honesty and how to find resources at York to help improve students' research and writing skills, and cope with university life. Students are expected to review the materials on the **Academic Integrity website**.

Cheating and plagiarism are extremely serious academic offenses that will result in **severe sanctions**.

Access/Disability/Counselling

York University is committed to principles of respect, inclusion and equality of all persons with disabilities across campus. The University provides services for students with disabilities (including physical, medical, learning and psychiatric disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials. These services are made available to students in all Faculties and programs at York University.

Students in need of these services are asked to register with disability services as early as possible to ensure that appropriate academic accommodation can be provided with advance notice. You are encouraged to schedule a time early in the term to meet with each professor to discuss your accommodation needs. Please note that registering with disabilities services and discussing your needs with your professor is necessary to avoid any impediment to receiving the necessary academic accommodations to meet your needs. Additional information is available at the following websites, including services for students who require counselling:

Student Counselling & Development

Student Accessibility Services

Counselling & Disability Services at Glendon

Ethics Review Process

York students are subject to the York University *Policy for the Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants*. In particular, students proposing to undertake research involving human participants (e.g., interviewing the director of a company or government agency, having students complete a questionnaire, etc.) are required to submit an *Application for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants* at least one month before you plan to begin the research. If you are in doubt as to whether this requirement applies to you, speak with your professor immediately.

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the professor within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the professor immediately.

Use of Course Materials

The materials posted and made available to students are designed for use only in this course. Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a charge of misconduct under York's *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities* and the *Senate Policy on Academic Honesty* and/or legal consequences if copyright law has been violated.

Student Conduct in Academic Situations

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom and other academic settings, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class.

Use of Technology

Several platforms may be used in this course (e.g., eClass, YouTube, Zoom, social media, etc.) through which students will interact with the course materials, the professor, and with one another.

University Resources

The Writing Centre: One-to-one help with a writing instructor on any writing assignment. You will need to enroll to set up your appointment, although the Centre also offers some drop-in sessions: <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/writing-centre/>.

York University Libraries: Links to the main catalogue, e-resources, online help chat line with librarian, and many other research aids: <http://www.library.yorku.ca/web/>

WEEKLY LECTURE SCHEDULE, REQUIRED READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Week 1 (September 9)

Welcome, introductions and course overview
Introduction to social policy

If you need an introduction to, or refresher of, Canadian politics, social policy and government, there is an easy to read and short (51 pages) book available free of charge

from The Library of The Parliament of Canada. You will be expected to know **this information**.

PART II: HISTORY, STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

Week 2 (September 16)

The Canadian context and social policy

REQUIRED:

Chapter 1 in McDaniel and Um
Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 1

Podcast of *What Is Government Good At? A Canadian Answer*:
<http://policyoptions.irpp.org/2016/05/17/policy-options-podcast-11-what-is-government-good-at/>

Linkedin profile due

Week 3 (September 23):

Theoretical perspectives on social policy
Social policy and the rise of the welfare state

REQUIRED:

Chapter 2 in McDaniel and Um
Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 2

Podcast of *Public policy and young Canadians* -
<http://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/september-2016/public-policy-and-young-canadians-a-policy-options-podcast/>

SUPPLEMENTARY

Prince, Michael J. 2008. *The Evolution of Social Policy in Canada and the Expression of Canada in Social Policy*. <https://www.uvic.ca/hsd/assets/docs/faculty/prince-michael/nanaimoelders.pdf>

Rice, James J. and Prince, Michael J. 2013. *Changing Politics of Canadian Social Policy*, Second Edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Available at the Scott Library at **HN 107 R53 2013** and as an ebook <https://books-scholarsportal->

info.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/en/read?id=/ebooks/ebooks3/utpress/2013-08-29/1/9781442696655

Week 4 (September 30)

Policy tools and instruments
Security through policy

REQUIRED

Chapter 3 in McDaniel and Um
Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 3

Policy case study due

Week 5 (October 7)

Understanding the policy processes
States and Markets

REQUIRED

Chapter 4 in McDaniel and Um
Klassen and Dwyer – chapter 4

SUPPLEMENTARY

Moscoe, Adam. 2014. Executive Decision-Making: Challenges, Strategies, and Resources. *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. 37.3
http://www.revparl.ca/37/3/37n3e_14_Moscoe.pdf

Watch this clip (of two civil servants talking) from Yes, Minister:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmOvEwtDycs>

Creation of groups

Reading week - October 8-14 [no class on October 14]

PART II: CASE STUDIES AND APPLICATIONS

Week 6 (October 21)

Special guest lecture Prof. Sophia Lee: *Issues on Korean Social Protection Policy*

Mid-term test (1 hour)
REQUIRED

Chapter 5 in McDaniel and Um
Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 5

SUPPLEMENTARY

Schmidt, Ron. 2007. Comparing Federal Government Immigrant Settlement Policies in Canada and the United States. *The American Review of Canadian Studies*; 37, 1: 103-123
http://journals2.scholarsportal.info.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/search?q=Comparing+Federal+Government+Immigrant+Settlement+Policies+in+Canada+and+the+United+States&search_in=anywhere&date_from=&date_to=&sort=relevance&op=AND&q=American+Review+of+Canadian+Stu

Group selection of topics and coordinator

Week 7 (October 28)

*Case study: Labour Market Policy
Equity, Inclusion, and Policy Retrenchment*

REQUIRED

Chapter 6 in McDaniel and Um
Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 6

SUPPLEMENTARY

Pardo, Ramon Pacheco. 2022. *Shrimp to whale: South Korea from the forgotten war to K-Pop*. London: Hurst Publishers. [will be available as an ebook and hard copy book at the Scott Library]

Week 8 (November 4)

Creating a New Policy Agenda: Topic to be announced

Time for groups to work on their projects, and communicate with Korean groups

REQUIRED

Chapter 7 in McDaniel and Um
Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 7

SUPPLEMENTARY

Tudor, Daniel. 2018 (revised edition). [*Korea: The impossible country*](#). North Clarendon, Vt.: Tuttle Publishers. DS 916.27 T84 2012 and [here](#).

SECTION III: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES, GLOBALIZATION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Week 9 (November 11)

Social policy in a comparative perspective: Youth unemployment

Group project due

REQUIRED

Chapter 8 in McDaniel and Um

Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 8

November 11 is the last date to withdraw from this course without receiving a grade.

You may withdraw from the course between November 12 and December 7, which will result in a grade of “W” on your transcript. You cannot withdraw from the course after December 7.

Week 10 (November 18)

Social policy in a comparative perspective: Ageing

REQUIRED

Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 9
Additional readings to be assigned

Critique of group project completed in Korea is due

Week 11 (November 25)

*The role of globalization in social policy
Creating a New Policy Agenda*

REQUIRED

Chapter 8 in McDaniel and Um (if not already read)
Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 10

Podcast of “Public policy and administration in an era of globalization” Chapter one in Klassen, T. R., D. Cepiku and T. F. Lah, eds, *The Routledge Handbook of Global Public Policy and Administration*. Video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpAot9vbz9M>

Response to critique of your own group project is due

Week 12 (December 2)

Future directions for social policy

REQUIRED:

Klassen and Dwyer – Chapter 11

Joint group team presentations with students in Korea

Course Web Resources

There is considerable information available on the Web on public policy and public administration. Some of the web sites below may be of assistance in your research and of interest in exploring issues related to public policy.

Canada School of Public Service: information about the latest news and trends in executive learning, including information about executive education and development programs and services and to documents

The Innovation Journal: independent, peer-reviewed, Internet-based journal devoted to sharing ideas and discussing public sector policy and administration innovation

Institute of Public Administration of Canada: national non-profit organization, concerned with the theory and practice of public management, with 17 regional groups across Canada

Office of the Auditor General of Canada: publications, including searchable full text of the Reports of the Auditor General

Parliamentary Internet Parlementaire: access to the House of Commons, Senate and the Library of Parliament, including debates, committee proceedings, and status of legislation

Privacy Commissioner of Canada: includes annual reports

Privy Council Office: includes annual reports to the Prime Minister

Public Service Commission of Canada: responsible for promoting and safeguarding a merit-based, representative and non-partisan public service that serves all Canadians.

United Nations Online Network in Public Administration and Finance: forum for knowledge, experiences and best practices worldwide of sound public policies, effective public administration and efficient civil services

There are also many web sites related to public policy that might be useful for our course.

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD)

CD Howe Institute

Conference Board of Canada

Fraser Institute

International Labour Organization

Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP)

Maytree

Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD)

Vanier Institute

JOINT GROUP ASSIGNMENT PROCESS AND DEADLINES

October 7 - Students in the course will be organized into groups.

October 21 - Each group will select a coordinator. Each group will draw a topic (first, second and third choices) from the list below, subject to the topic also having been drawn by students at Chung-Ang University.

Student financial assistance policy

Old age income security (pension) policy
Immigration policy
Health care policy
Income support policy
Mental health policy
Social housing policy
Employment insurance policy
Maternity/parental leave policy
Child abuse and neglect policy
Gender equality policy
LGBTI+ inclusion policy
Violence against women policy
Education policy
Poverty policy
Disability policy
Homelessness policy
Childcare policy

Each group will decide what aspect of the Canadian policy to examine. It will not be possible, for example, to examine all of health care policy in Canada. But it might be possible, for example, to study health care policy in Arctic Canada.

November 11 - Each group will submit a report analyzing the topic.

The report will be sent to the group of students at Chung Ang University who are analyzing the same policy in the Korean context.

Your group will receive a report written by the Chung Ang University students.

November 18 - Your group will critique the Korean report (that is, provide comments on how to improve it). These comments will be a combination of written edits, such as using track changes, as well as communication via social media with the Korean students. Your comments will also be shared with Professor Lee and Professor Klassen.

November 18 - Your group will receive a critique from the Chung Ang students on your paper, both written and via social media.

November 25 - Your group will write a response and revise the report to incorporate comments received. These will be shared with Professor Lee and Professor Klassen.

December 2 - Your group and the Chung Ang group will collaborate to create a video or similar audio-visual presentation that will be posted online for all students in the two courses to view.