

**University of Guelph
Department of Family Relations & Applied Nutrition
FRHD*4260 Social Policy and Gerontology
Winter 2014**

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: Kimberley Wilson
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Class meetings: Wednesday 7:00 – 9:50 p.m. MINS Room 103

Office Hours: By appointment

Calendar description: An examination of aging and adult development in relation to social policy with special reference to families.

Course objectives:

In your future careers as gerontologists and specialists in human and family development, it will be beneficial to have an understanding of how social and health policies influence the lives of older adults and families. This course, then, has four purposes:

1. To increase knowledge about social policy and aging and an understanding of application of policy in 'real life' contexts.
2. To critically explore social policy from a social determinants of health perspective.
3. To become familiar with the current key local, provincial, and federal social policies and their impact on aging.
4. To develop policy analysis skills and the ability to critique and offer solutions to policy dilemmas.

Prerequisites: FRHD 2060

Required Textbook: There is no required textbook for this course. Readings will be posted (or hyperlinked) on Courselink. Although there is no text it is essential you complete the readings online and stay abreast of relevant policy issues in the news.

Appeals Procedure: Please consult the undergraduate Calendar pages 28-30

Drop & Add Procedure: Please consult the undergraduate Calendar pages 32/37. The last date to drop this course without penalty is March 7th 2014. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Course, please review the undergraduate calendar.
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/2013-2014/pdf/c08.pdf>

Email and classroom etiquette: As per university regulations, all students are required to check their uoguelph.ca email account regularly; email is the official route of communication between the University and Students.

Please use discretion when emailing. You will receive a response within 48 hours (not including weekends) if your email is sent from a uoguelph email address. You will not receive a response if your email is sent from a Hotmail, Gmail, or similar web-based account. Please do not email questions related to the course content; these questions are more appropriate for Courselink.

Given the nature of the class, participation is an expectation. Our goal together should be to create an open environment that promotes discussion and fosters critical thinking. Respectful debate is encouraged. Please offer your colleagues the same respect and maturity you hope to be given when sharing your thoughts both in the classroom and in online discussions.

Learning and Writing Services are there to help

Specially trained Peer Helpers and professional staff in Learning and Writing Services can help you achieve your academic goals. Get personalized assistance in appointments or walk-in sessions, or stop by the Learning Commons (1st Floor Library) for free handouts and workshop information. Visit online at www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca or call ext. 53632.

When you cannot meet course requirements: When you find yourself unable to meet in-course or online requirements due to illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing with your name, id # and e-mail contact. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, but otherwise, just as soon as possible after the due date, and certainly no longer than one week later. **Note:** if appropriate documentation of your inability to meet that in course requirement is necessary, the course instructor, or delegate, will request it of you. Such documentation will rarely be required for course components representing less than 10% of the course grade. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

Academic Integrity & Misconduct:

It is the responsibility of every student to review the Academic Integrity policy at the University of Guelph found at the following link: <http://www.academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca/>

Please also review the Academic Misconduct Policy detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Course format:

This course is made up of weekly lectures that are seminar-style. Seminars are intended to foster debate, analytic thinking about the research literature and policies, and to provide a preparatory forum for graduate work. Class discussions will build on required readings, current events, lectures and guest speaker presentations. Students will be expected to be active participants in the course and demonstrate critical thinking expected of senior undergraduate students.

The course is founded on the principle that a combination of theoretical perspectives and an understanding of applications of policy are vital aspects for understanding the impact of policy

decision at the individual and system levels. Students will be challenged to show independent and creative thought throughout the duration of the course. A keen awareness of current events will be important for success.

Methods of Evaluation:

***Please note: detailed grading information is available on Courselink. Reviewing these in advance of your assignments is crucial for success.*

Seminar participation: 15%

Students are expected to be conscientious contributors to all seminars. This includes an expectation that students will do the assigned readings, and actively engage in classroom discussion. As a fourth year students, there is an expectation of independent learning and students will be challenged to put forward for debate answers/commentary and ask questions/commentary on their own initiative.

In Class Quizzes: 15%

Throughout the duration of the semester there will be 3 brief quizzes (approx. 20-25 questions) based on the readings for the week's prior. These are scheduled on January 22nd, February 5th, and March 26th. You will be notified in advance where to focus your efforts for preparation. Please come prepared with a pencil for Scantrons. **Note:** Some students write exams in the Centre for Students with Disabilities to best meet their learning needs. Should this apply to you, please note lectures will start at 7:30 p.m. on the evenings when quizzes are scheduled. Students will have a maximum of 30 minutes to write their quizzes (7:00 – 7:30 p.m.)

Policy Task Force Group Project: 35% (30% instructor assigned; 5% peer assigned)

Intended to simulate the experience of a working on a policy task force, students will be required to work in a group of approximately 4-6 students throughout the semester. This will be a phased project, again simulating expectations of a task force in a work environment. Detailed expectations and timelines are outlined on Courselink and below.

Briefing Notes: 35% (2 briefing notes)

Students will be required to write two briefing notes throughout the course of the semester. Given the learning curve involved in writing briefing notes the first will be worth 15% and the second will be worth 20%. Briefing notes will be discussed in greater length during the first week of classes and throughout the semester. Briefing notes will be due at the start of indicated classes. Late papers will be deducted 5% per day including weekends, unless explicit accommodations are granted.

Briefing notes are tools that are used in government and organizations to help inform leaders on a variety of topics. Given the large portfolios of Ministers and administrators policy analysts are required to write brief memos to highlight the current issues around a particular topic. Briefing notes must be short in length with clear succinct messages. They should have an introduction, a summary of the key historical points, the context and current landscape, a discussion of the key 'issue', recommendations for moving forward, a final conclusion with your preferred recommendation. In your first briefing note you will be given up to 6 pages; by your final briefing note you should be able to write your summary in 5 pages. These should be based on a scan of current literature and should also show independent thought in your recommendations. Emphasis should be placed on proper spelling, grammar and APA style referencing.

Note: Students are expected to fulfill the course requirements in accordance with University policies on Academic Misconduct. See Undergraduate Calendar for details.

APPROXIMATE SCHEDULING OF CLASS TIME

Note: this is subject to change given the current policy environment, student input, and guest lecture availability. Any changes will be provided in writing on Courselink.

Week	Date	Topics	Action Items
1	January 8 th	Welcome & Introductions What is social policy Why social policy and gerontology? Who is responsible for what?	
2	January 15 th	Guest speaker: Frank Valeriote, Member of Parliament, Guelph <i>Social Policy & Federal Politics: Considering an aging population in policy decisions.</i> Models & Theories of Social Policy A brief history of social policy	Sign up for task force
3	January 22 nd	Human rights – focus on late life Age and social inequality	Quiz #1 Submit task force topics
4	January 29 th	Guest speaker: Siobhan Frank <i>Gender and social policy – considering older women in policy.</i> Using social determinants of health approach to policy in Canada. Do policy lenses work?	Briefing note #1 distributed
5	February 5 th	History of health policy in Canada Current health policy and the impact on an aging population	Quiz #2
6	February 12 th	Mental health policy – who, what, why? How does it affect for older adults?	Briefing note #1 due
February 19th – Reading Week			
7	February 26 th	Provincial & municipal policies - Ontario Seniors Strategy - Guelph Older Adult Strategy	Project Charter due
8	March 5 th	Guest speaker: Jacqueline de Guzman <i>Caregiving and the impact of family policies</i>	Briefing note distributed
9	March 12 th	Work & Retirement Policy Roundtable	Policy Roundtable
10	March 19 th	Financial Security in late life Pensions reforms & debates	Briefing note #2 due
11	March 26 th	Hot topics & international perspectives	Quiz #3
12	April 2 nd	Policy implementation Summary & Integration	Final Task Force Report due

Weeks 1 & 2 Readings

Graham J.R., Swift K.J., & Delaney R. (2012). Introduction to Canadian Social Policy. In *Canadian Social Policy: An Introduction. 4th Edition.* (pp.1-20). Toronto, ON: Pearson.

McPherson B.D. & Wister A. (2008). Public Policy for An Aging Population. In *Aging as a Social Process. Canadian Perspectives. 5th Edition.* (pp.391-396). Toronto, ON: Oxford University Press.

Chappell R. (2014). Social Welfare Policy. In *Social Welfare in Canadian Society. 5th Edition.* (pp. 29-52). Toronto, ON: Nelson Education.

Week 3 Readings

Carstairs, S & Keon W.J. (2009). Countering Ageism. In *Special Senate Committee Report on Aging Final Report. Canada's Aging Population: Seizing the Opportunity.* (pp. 11-32). Ottawa: The Senate.

Division of Aging and Seniors. (1998). *Principles of the National Framework on Aging: A Policy Guide.* Ottawa: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada.

McMullin J. (2010). Age and Inequality. In *Understanding Social Inequality. Intersections of Class, Age, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race in Canada. 2nd Edition.* (pp.86-102). Toronto ON: Oxford University Press.

Week 4 Readings:

Halfon, N., Larson K., & Russ S. (2010). Why Social Determinants? *Healthcare Quarterly*, 14(Sp), 8-20.doi:10.12927/hcq.2010.21979

World Health Organization (2007). *Women, Ageing and Health: A Framework for Action.* Geneva: WHO.

Chappell R. (2014). Analysis Through Lenses. In *Social Welfare in Canadian Society. 5th Edition.* (pp. 55-57). Toronto, ON: Nelson Education.

Bulter-Jones, D. (2012). Sex, Gender, and Public Health. *The Chief Public Health Officer's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada, 2012. Influencing Health - The Importance of Sex and Gender.* (pp.35-40). Ottawa, ON: Public Health Agency of Canada.

Week 5 Readings

Strohschein L, & Weitz R. (2014). A history of healthcare in Canada. In *The Sociology of Health, Illness & Health Care in Canada. A Critical Approach.* (pp.230-255). Toronto, ON: Nelson Education.

Novak M., Campbell L. & Northcott HC. (2014). Healthcare. In *Aging and Society. Canadian Perspectives. 7th Edition.* (pp.161-189). Toronto, ON: Nelson Education.

Sinha SK. (2012). *Living Longer, Living Well*. Report Submitted to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Minister Responsible for Seniors on recommendations to Inform a Seniors Strategy for Ontario. Toronto, ON: MOHLTC.

Waterloo Wellington.LHIN. (2013). *Better Health – Better Futures. The Local Health Integrated Health Service Plan for Our Community. 2013-2016*. Waterloo, ON: WWLHIN.

Week 6 Readings

MacCourt P., Wilson K., & Tourigny-Rivard MF. (2011). *Guidelines for Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Older Adults in Canada*. Calgary, AB: Mental Health Commission of

Alzheimer Society of Canada. (2010). *Rising Tide: The impact of dementia on Canadian Society*. Toronto, ON: ASC.

Alzheimer's Disease International. (2013). *Policy Brief for Heads of Government: The Global Impact of Dementia 2013–2050*. London, UK: ADI.

Week 7 Readings

Ontario Seniors Secretariat. (2013). *Independence, Activity and Good Health. Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors*. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario.

The Osborne Group (2012). *Older Adult Strategy for the City of Guelph*. Guelph, ON: City of Guelph.

Steed J. (2007). *Boomer Tsunami: Ready or Not. A Special Report*. Toronto, ON: Atkinson Foundation.

Week 8 Readings

Duxbury, L., Higgins, C., & Schroeder, B. (2009). *Balancing paid work and caregiving responsibilities: A closer look at family caregivers in Canada*.

Torjman S. (2013). *Throne Speech Signals on Caregiving*. Toronto, ON: Caldeon Institute of Social Policy.

Sinha M. (2012). *Spotlight on Canadians. Results from the 2012 General Social Survey: Portrait of Caregivers*. Ottawa: ON, Statistics Canada.

Carstairs, S & Keon W.J. (2009). Supporting Caregivers. In *Special Senate Committee Report on Aging Final Report. Canada's Aging Population: Seizing the Opportunity*. (pp. 117-130). Ottawa: The Senate.

Week 9 Readings

Newbold, B. & Meredith T. (2012). *Where Will You Retire? Seniors' Migration within Canada and Implications for Policy*. IRPP Study 36. Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy.

National Seniors Council. (2011). *Report on the Labour Force Participation of Seniors and*

Near Seniors, and Intergenerational Relations. Ottawa, ON: HRSDC.

National Seniors Council. (2013). *Older Workers At Risk of Withdrawing from the Labour Force or Becoming Unemployed: Employers' views on how to retain and attract older workers.* Ottawa, ON: HRSDC.

MacEwen, A. (2012). *ALTERNATIVE FEDERAL BUDGET 2012 TECHNICAL PAPER: Working After Age 65 What is at Stake?* Ottawa, ON: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Week 10 Readings

Carstairs, S & Keon W.J. (2009). Eliminating Poverty. In *Special Senate Committee Report on Aging Final Report. Canada's Aging Population: Seizing the Opportunity.* (pp.93-116). Ottawa: The Senate.

Wolfson, M. (2013). *Not-So-Modest Options for Expanding the CPP/QPP. IRPP Study 41.* Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy.

Battle K., Torjman S. & Mendelson M. (2013). *Strengthening the Canada Pension Plan: Take it to the public.* Toronto, ON: Caledon Institute of Social Policy.

Battle K., Torjman S. & Mendelson M. (2012). *Old Age Insecurity?* Toronto, ON: Caledon Institute of Social Policy

CARP (2013). Province eyes new Ontario Pension Plan as CPP reform stalls.
<http://www.carp.ca/2013/10/18/province-eyes-new-ontario-pension-plan-as-cpp-reform-stalls/>

Fraser Institute (2013). Reforming Old Age Security: A Good Start but Incomplete.
<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/publicationdisplay.aspx?id=20458&terms=seniors>

Week 11 Readings

Hutton, D. (2008). *Older people in emergencies: considerations for action and policy development.* Geneva: World Health Press.

World Health Organization (2008). *Older persons in emergencies: An active aging approach.* Geneva: World Health Press.

Division of Aging and Seniors, Public Health Agency of Canada. (2008). *Building a global framework to address the needs and contributions of older people in emergencies.* Ottawa: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada.