

**University of Guelph**  
**Department of Family Relations & Applied Nutrition**  
**FRAN 6270: Family-Related Social Policy**  
**Winter 2018**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Instructor:** Dr. Kimberley Wilson  
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**Class meetings:** Wednesday 1:00 – 3:50 p.m. MACS 331

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**Calendar description:** This course investigates definitions of social policy, comparative family-related social policy, selected issues in Canadian family policy and frameworks for analysis of social policy. Issues in policy-related research are also explored.

**About this course:** Within this course we explore concepts of 'family policy' – what are policies that are relevant to families? Who defines what is 'family policy'? And is 'family policy' truly a subset of social and public policies or are all social policies relevant for families? Our approach to answering these questions will be in a non-traditional, highly interactive learning environment where all views and expressions are respected. Although there will be suggested readings, real-time exploration of policy issues will enhance the learning environment for all participants.

The first class of this course is a design exercise. The idea of the seminar is to meet the needs and interests of students to the greatest extent possible. It is therefore difficult to provide, in advance, a detailed outline and timetable for the course. This will be produced after the first class.

**My Role:** I see my role as your guide to learning about social policies, as a co-learner, and as a resource to you. Social policy is a vast, ever-changing area. I will do my best to create and maintain a positive, open learning environment that facilitates open discussion and different points of view. All of us have a role to play in being respectful of each other. One of my goals for all students in this course is that they will finish the semester with marketable skills that are relevant to fields outside of academia.

**Design of this course:** Together we will design the content and methods of evaluation for this course. While there are personalized and flexible methods of evaluation there are several that are required for all students:

- Classroom Engagement – it is expected you attend regularly and engage in discussion and learning.
- Policy Brief on a Topic Related to your thesis/area of research using the 1:3:25 Method
  - It is suggested we schedule time for in-class presentations mid-way through the semester for feedback.

Additional options for your consideration:

1. Weekly seminar facilitation
  - Each student will be responsible for preparing and leading one week of seminar. This would include curating a reading list for all participants and facilitating discussion and learning.

2. Complete an Online Training Course through the National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy – A Framework for Analyzing Public Policies.
  - This course is free of charge and takes approximately 6-8 hours to complete.
  - You will receive a certificate approximately 8 weeks after completion).
  - In addition to completing the training you should write a summary of your learning.
3. Prepare and deliver a guest lecture in either FRHD 4260: Social Policy & Gerontology or FRHD 4320: Social Policies for Children, Youth, & Families.
  - Both of these courses run on Wednesday from 7pm – 9:50 p.m.
  - Your presentation would be peer evaluated (by other grad students presenting) and with instructor feedback.
  - You would have 20-30 minutes to present on a relevant policy topic (suggested scheduling depends on the course but likely week 11).
4. Help answer a ‘real life’ policy question for our broader Guelph community about community-based withdrawal services.
  - Research what models exist, where the withdrawal services may fit on a continuum of services that are offered by the same organization or in collaboration with other service providers.
  - Explore policies (organizational, municipal and provincial) that have been developed for, guided or informed these models.
5. Develop your Policy Op-Ed Writing Skills.
  - Watch a webinar hosted by the Institute for Research on Public Policy and develop an op-ed that could be submitted to Policy Options.

You may select any/all of these activities and/or we can create a new listing of ideas/activities. It is suggested that at least 50% of your grade is made up of the ‘required’ activities.

### **Content / Weekly Discussions:**

This will be determined in our design day, however topics to get you thinking/started may include:

- The Rise & Decline of the Welfare State in Canada
- Defining Social Policy
- Allocation of Benefits
- Income Security (e.g. Income security – policies, programs, population-specific approaches (e.g. child benefits, pensions, income supports for people with disabilities); federal and provincial jurisdiction; poverty reduction strategies
- Reconciling work and family responsibilities: - Gender, work and care across the life course. Public policies (e.g. parental/caregiving leave, caregiver credits/allowances); employer supports / private responsibility
- Child care; new policy developments, directions and processes
- Preparing for and enabling an aging society -- pensions, caregiving, health and home care services
- Disability and different abilities -- policies, services, funding approaches, employment equity
- Immigration policies and supports
- Current efforts to reform Canada's social programs
- The relationship between economic and social goals

- Truth & Reconciliation and indigenous policies
- Human Rights (ageism, LGBTQ+ rights, etc.)
- Hot topics in mental health policy, health policy, etc. (e.g. Medical Aid in Dying, safe consumption sites, etc.)

**Course Website:** There is a course website at <http://courselink.uoguelph.ca>. All components of this course will be housed on the CourseLink site including this course outline, links to further resources, and discussion forums. Your assignments will be submitted through the Dropbox function. Marks and feedback will also be released on the site. Please familiarize yourself with this website as soon as possible and visit it regularly throughout the semester.

**Email Communication:** As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

**When You Cannot Meet A Course Requirement:** When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Graduate Calendar for regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

[http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec\\_d0e1400.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1400.shtml)

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will be accepted up to 5 days following the due date and will receive a penalty of 10% per day EXCEPT under documented grounds for compassionate consideration. Assignments submitted more than one week late without documented grounds will receive a grade of zero.

**Turnitin Software:** Course instructors are allowed to use software to help in detecting plagiarism or unauthorized copying of student assignments. Plagiarism is one of the most common types of academic misconduct on our campus. Plagiarism involves students using the work, ideas and/or the exact wording of other people or sources without giving proper credit to others for the work, ideas and/or words in their papers. Students can unintentionally commit misconduct because they do not know how to reference outside sources properly or because they don't check their work carefully enough before handing it in.

In this course, your instructors will be using Turnitin.com to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to prevent plagiarism in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.

**Drop Date:** One-semester courses must be dropped by the 40th class day of the semester. Refer to the Graduate Calendar for the schedule of dates:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/sched/sched-dates-f10.shtml>

**Academic Misconduct:** The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Graduate Calendar:

[http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec\\_d0e1687.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1687.shtml)

**Recording Of Materials:** Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter (instructor, classmate, guest lecturer).

**Resources:** The Graduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to graduate programs:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/>

**Your Mental Health Matters to Me!**

If you need support please visit <https://uoguelph.morefeetontheground.ca/resources> for information about resources and supports available in our community.