

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
Division of International Programs
Sydney Internship Program

COURSE OUTLINE
SO 308 AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL POLICY

Co-ordinator

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COURSE OVERVIEW

There are varying opinions on the 'what is social policy?' question and a logical view is that Social Policy is a subject area, not a discipline, borrowing from other social science disciplines in order that the study area may be developed. Those 'other' social science disciplines include law, social work, sociology, psychology, economics, political science, management, history and philosophy. Although this course focuses primarily on Australia, knowledge of the 'Australian system' is not assumed.

Because the subject area is so broad, the course will concentrate on the study of specific social policy areas such as for example, issues affecting Indigenous Australians and their families, refugees/asylum seekers, migrants, women and, social policy reflecting ageing populations (eg health).

The course will look at the relationship between law, social and economic policy in specific areas in Australia, France and the US.

Methodology

The course will consist of lectures, seminars, and group discussion. There will also be guest lecturers. Students are expected to **actively participate** in class discussions and to be able to follow current issues, give a class

seminar, write a short and a major essay, then sit for an exam. The long essay will be on the subject chosen for the seminar presentation. A kit of selected readings will be distributed.

The short essay will be 800-1000 words on public policy and/or social policy in general. The major essay will be 2500-3000 words. Students can either select their major essay topic from the distributed list or devise their own question in consultation with the course co-ordinator, and will nominate their question in class for approval at the end of the fourth week. An all-day social policy conference will be held in the fourth week, when all students will present 10 to 15 minute papers on aspects of their major essay topic.

Grading criteria

Presentations and participation:	20 per cent
Short essay:	15 per cent
Major essay:	45 per cent
Exam:	20 per cent

Terms & Conditions

All students are responsible for reading the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students in a Boston University program for cheating on examinations or for plagiarism may be “expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the dean”. Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Essays must not have been presented for any other course, must be presented on time, and they must comply with standard academic conventions for citing references and include a bibliography. A penalty of 5 per cent per day will apply to missed attendance and late essays, although this may be waived if there are clear and acceptable written reasons (such as a medical certificate for illness).

REQUIRED READING

Students making presentations and preparing essays will be expected to develop their own bibliographies. Specifically selected readings that support the lectures will be distributed in the study kit, but these will not in any sense be interpreted as exhaustive. Additionally, handouts will also be given to students. Any reading(s) not in the kit will be handed to students a week prior to the relevant class.

Newspapers

All students are required to follow current social policy issues in the Australian media for the duration of the course. **This means reading at least one quality newspaper prior to all classes** (*The Australian*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Australian Financial Review*).

Monographs

A list of suggested monographs is supplied at the end of this Course Outline, Note that it is intended to be a guide only and you are encouraged to do your own research.

Journals and Reports

There are many relevant academic journals, some of which are the *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, the *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Sociology*.

Reports are useful research tools containing valuable factual information and statistical data. *Australian Social Trends 2007* published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and, *Little Children are Sacred: Report of the Northern Territory Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse 2007* are two such publications. These reports will be made available to students.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS: LECTURE PROGRAM

Week One:

Lecture 1:

Introduction and Overview: What is Social Policy?

Discussion

A widely held view is that “social policy, in one sense, is concerned with social services and the welfare state. In a broader sense, social policy stands for a range of issues which extend beyond the actions of government – the means by which welfare is promoted and, the social and economic conditions which shape the development of welfare” (from UK Gov Public Policy).

Some key words in relation to values which are applied to Social Policy:

Solidarity, rights, justice, freedom, democracy, the state, welfare and equality.

Reading:

Definitions of Social Policy in *Making Social Policy in Australia: An Introduction*, Allen & Unwin 1996, pp 5-8.

Chapters 1, 3 and 9 in Brennan, Frank, *Legislating for Liberty: A Bill of Rights for Australia*, University of Queensland Press 1998, pp.21-55 and 170-188.

Lecture 2: Australia, History, Framework and Current Position

Discussion

“To Understand the policy process in relation to a particular issue, we need to understand all the many influences which form the context of that process”.

(from *Making Social Policy in Australia: An Introduction*, p. 23)

Reading:

‘Why the Historical and Current Context Matters’, in *Making Social Policy in Australia: An Introduction*, pp. 23-39.

‘The History and Values of Australian Social Security’, in Carney, Terry, *Social Security: Law and Policy*, The Federation Press 2006, pp. 19-43.

Week Two: Indigenous Australians: Overview of Government Policy

Discussion

“The goals of Aboriginal people themselves have been just as important as policy in determining the direction of change.Aboriginal resistance affected the implementation of government policies. The local conflicts which arose when Aborigines refused to accept discrimination generated new policies in turn...” (from ‘Government Policies and Practices Since 1788’ in McRae, Heather et al *Indigenous Legal Issues: Commentary and Materials* Third Edition, Lawbook Co. 2003, p. 18)

During these two lectures, we will be discussing the Australian Government’s current policies toward Indigenous Australians, particularly in light of the *Little Children are Sacred* : Report of the Northern Territory Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse 2007.

Reading:

‘Histories and Government Policies’ in McRae, Heather et al *Indigenous Legal Issues: Commentary and Materials* Third Edition, Lawbook Co. 2003, pp. 9-53.

‘Pathways to Excellence: Developing Aboriginal Education Policy’ in Dalton, Tony et al *Making Social Policy in Australia: An Introduction*, Allen & Unwin 1996, pp. 129-140.

Week Three: An Ageing Population

Discussion

Some thoughts: “Between 1991 and 2031, the total population is expected to increase by 50 per cent. During the same period the 80-plus population is expected to increase by nearly four times. However, while the oldest age group grew the most rapidly toward the close of the last century, the ‘young old’ (those in their mid-60’s to mid-70’s) will become the fastest growing group in the first decade of the 21st century as the baby boom generation starts to reach retirement age.” (most of the information was quoted from *Crime Prevention for Older Australians*, Australian Institute of Criminology, 1993, pp. 4-11)

Week Four: Women, Work, Health, Children and Domestic Violence: The View from France, US and Australia.

Discussion

“Employment patterns of men and women (in Australia) have changed over the last 25 years. Significantly, the proportion of women who were employed has increased over the period. Changing social attitudes and smaller families have contributed to these changes in women’s employment. Greater proportions of women now have higher education qualifications. Education appears to draw women into the workforce by instilling in them more career oriented attitudes and by enhancing their potential wages in the labour market.....However it is women who continue to carry the greater responsibility for caring and other unpaid work, effectively placing them under increased time pressures....” (Taken from *Australian Social Trends 2006*, Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006, p. 121.

Reading: 'How Violence Against Women became an Issue on the National Agenda', in *Making Social Policy in Australia: An Introduction*, Allen & Unwin 1996, pp. 141-153.

Week Five: The Lot of Asylum Seekers and Refugees: Fearful Governments and their Policies

Discussion

The former Minister for Immigration signalled that Australia intended to cut its intake of refugees from Africa, referring specifically to Sudanese refugees, because 'they don't easily integrate'. (see reports in newspapers eg Sydney Morning Herald)

Week Six: Reflections

Let's ask the question again: What is Social Policy?

Discussion: This course has taken a pragmatic look at the results of government social policy, in general terms however, do you agree with the following? Social Policy is a highly multi-disciplinary subject that combines elements from sociology, politics, law, international studies, economic and social history, economics, philosophy, psychology, development administration and cultural studies.

LIST OF USEFUL BOOKS

Specially selected readings will be distributed in the course study kit. Note that the following list is not in any sense intended to be exhaustive. Extensive Internet addresses are provided in two of the textbooks, all the books listed in the required reading section contain excellent bibliographies, and students are expected to develop their own reading and bibliographies.

Australian Centre for Industrial Relations Research and Training (ACIRRT), *Australia at Work: Just Managing?* Prentice Hall, Sydney, 1999.

Alford, John & O'Neill, Deidre (eds), *The Contract State: Public Management and the Kennett Government*, Deakin University Press, Melbourne, 1994.

Argy, Fred, *Where to from Here? Australian Egalitarianism under Threat*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2003.

Beresford, Quentin & Omaji, Paul, *Our State of Mind: Racial Planning and the Stolen Generations*, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle, 1998.

Beresford, Quentin & Omaji, Paul, *Rites of Passage: Aboriginal Youth, Crime and Justice*, Fremantle Arts centre Press, Fremantle, 1996.

Bittman, Michael, & Pixley, Jocelyn, *The Double Life of the Family*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1997.

Botsman, Peter & Latham, Mark (eds), *The Enabling State: People before*

- Bureaucracy*, Pluto Press, 2001.
- Brennan, Deborah, *The Politics of Australian Child Care: From Philanthropy to Feminism*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 1994.
- Brennan, Frank, *Legislating Liberty: A Bill of Rights for Australia?* University of Queensland Press 1998.
- Carney, Terry, *Social Security: Law and Policy*, The Federation Press 2006.
- Castles, Francis, Gerritson, Rolf, & Vowles, Jack, *The Great Experiment: Labour Parties and Public Policy Transformation in Australia and New Zealand*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1996.
- Colbatch, H.K., *Policy*, second edition 2002. Open University Press 2006 reprint.
- Considine, Mark & Painter, Martin (eds), *Managerialism: The Great Debate*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1997.
- Coombs, H. C., *Aboriginal Autonomy: Issues and Strategies*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1994.
- Coote, Anna (ed.), *The Welfare of Citizens: Developing New Social Rights*, London, IPPR, 1992.
- Dalton, T., Draper, M., Weeks, W & Wiseman, J, *Making Social Policy in Australia: An Introduction*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1996.
- Davis, Glyn, & Keating, Michael (eds), *The Future of Governance: Policy Choices*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2000.
- Drake, R., *Understanding Disability Policies*, Macamillan, London, 1999.
- Edwards, Anne & Magarey, Susan, *Women in a Restructuring Australia: Work and Welfare*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney 1995.
- Encel, Sol, *Equality and Authority: A Study of Class, Status and Power in Australia*, Cheshire, Melbourne, 1970.
- Esping-Anderson, Gosta, *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*, Polity, Cambridge, 1996.
- Esping-Anderson, Gosta, *Welfare States in Transition: National Adaptations in Global Economies*, Sage, London, 1996.
- Faludi, Susan, *Backlash: The Undeclared War Against Women*, Vintage, London, 1992.
- Giddens, Anthony, *The Third Way: The Renewal of Social Democracy*, Polity Press, Cambridge, 1998.
- Giddens, Anthony, *Runaway World: How Globalisation is Reshaping our Lives*, Profile Books, London, 1999.
- Giddens, Anthony, *The Third Way and its Critics*, Polity Press, Cambridge, 2000.
- Goodwin, R. E., Headley, B., Muffels, R. & Dirven, H-K., *The Real Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 1999.
- Hayek, F. A., *New Studies in Philosophy, Economics and the History of Ideas*,

- Routledge, London 1982.
- Henderson, Ronald (ed.), *The Welfare Stakes: Strategies for Australian Social Policy*, IAESR, Parkville, 1981.
- Hill, Michael, *Understanding Social Policy*, Blackwell, Oxford, 2000.
- Hirst, Paul & Thompson, Graham, *Globalisation in Question: the International Economy and the Possibilities of Governance*, Polity Press, Cambridge, 1997.
- Inglis, Jane & Rogan, Lyla, (eds), *Beyond Swings and Roundabouts: Shaping the Future of Community Services in Australia*, Pluto Press, Sydney, 1993.
- Jones, M. A., *The Australian Welfare State: Origins, Control and Choices*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1990
- Kelly, Paul, *The End of Certainty: The Story of the 1980s*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1990.
- Krieken, Robert Van, *Children and the State: Social Control and the Formation of Australian Child Welfare*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1991.
- Latham, Mark, *Civilising Global Capitalism: New Thinking For Australian Labor*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1998.
- Manne, Robert (ed.), *Whitewash: On Keith Windschuttle's Fabrication of Aboriginal History*, Black.Inc. Agenda, Melbourne, 2003.
- McMahon, Anthony, Thompson, Jane & Williams, Christopher (eds), *Understanding the Australian Welfare State: Key Documents and Themes*, Macmillan, Sydney, 2000.
- Milliss, Roger, *Waterloo Creek: The Australia Day Massacre of 1838, George Gipps and the British Conquest of New South Wales*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 1994.
- Osborne, David & Gaebler, Ted, *Reinventing Government: How the Entrepreneurial Spirit is Transforming the Public Sector*, Addison-Wesley, Reading, MA, 1992.
- Page, Benjamin & Simmons, James, *What Government Can Do: Dealing with Poverty and Inequality*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 2000.
- Pinker, Robert, *Social Theory & Social Policy*, Heinemann, London, 1973.
- Pocock, Barbara, *The Work/Life Collision: What work is doing to Australians and what to do about it*, Federation Press, Sydney, 2003.
- Pritchard, Bill & McManus (eds), Phil, *Land of Discontent: The Dynamics of Change in Rural and Regional Australia*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2000.
- Pusey, Michael, *The Experience of Middle Australia: The Dark Side of Economic Reform*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 2003.
- Quiggin, John, *Great Expectations: Microeconomic Reform and Australia*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1996.
- Raper, Michael (ed) *The Independent Social Security Handbook*, Pluto Press, Sydney, 2000.
- Rees, Stuart & Rodley, Gordon, *The Human Costs of Managerialism*, Pluto

Press, Sydney, 1995.

Reynolds, Henry, *The Other Side of the Frontier: Aboriginal Resistance to the European Invasion of Australia*, rev. ed. Ringwood, Penguin, 1990.

Reynolds, Henry, *Why Weren't we Told? A Personal Search for the Truth of Our History*, Ringwood, Penguin, 1999.

Saunders, Peter, *Towards a Balanced Vision: The Role of Social Goals, Social Policies and Social Benchmarks*, Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW, Sydney, 1994.

Saunders, Peter, *Welfare and Inequality: National and International Perspectives on the Australian Welfare State*, Cambridge, Melbourne 1994.

Sheil, Christopher (ed), *Turning Point: The State of Australia*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1997.

Sheil, Christopher, *Water's Fall: Running the Risks with Economic Rationalism*, Pluto Press, Sydney, 2000.

Sheil, Christopher (ed), *Globalisation: Australian Impacts*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2001

Smyth, Paul & Cass, Bettina (ed), *Contesting the Australian Way: States, Markets and Civil Society*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 1998.

Steering Committee for the Review of Government Services, *Report on Government Services*, Ausinfo, Canberra, 1996-2000 (10 Vols).

Stillwell, Frank, *Changing Track: A New Political Direction for Australia*, Pluto Press, Sydney, 2000.

Tanner, Lindsay, *Open Australia*, Pluto Press, Sydney, 1999.

Theophanous, Andrew C., *Understanding Social Justice: An Australian Perspective*, Elikia Books, Melbourne, 1994.

Walker, Bob & Walker, Betty Con, *Privatisation: Sell-Off or Sell-Out? The Australian Experience*, ABC Books, Sydney, 2000.

Weller, Patrick & Davis, Glyn, *New Ideas, Better Government*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1996.

Wilenski, Peter, *Public Power & Public Administration*, Hale & Iremonger, Sydney, 1986.

Williams, Joan, *Unbending Gender: Why Family and Work Conflict and What to do About It*, Oxford University Press, London, 2000.

Wilson, Ronald, et al., *Bringing them Home, Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, 1997.

Wiseman, John, *Global Nation? Australia and the Politics of Globalisation*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 1998.

Wright, John, *The Ethics of Economic Rationalism*, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2003

Yeatman, Anna, *Postmodern Revisionings of the Political*, Routledge, London,

1994.

Zifcak, Spencer, *New Managerialism: Administrative Reform in Whitehall and Canberra*, Open University Press, Buckingham, 1994.
