SOCIAL WORK 544: Social Work, State and Citizenship

THIS IS A SAMPLE OUTLINE. ACTUAL COURSE OUTLINE MAY VARY IN STRUCTURE, REQUIRED READINGS, TEXTS AND ASSIGNMENTS.

Calendar Description: Taking the perspective of 'citizenship as social', this course explores the lived realities and experiences of citizenship as it is configured on the basis of geography, class, race, gender, and other identity locations. Using citizenship theories it explores the nature of social inclusion and exclusion that mark citizens’ lives in the Canadian Welfare state and examines the emancipatory potential of citizenship-based social work that is grounded in a vision of social justice.

Course objectives and outcomes:

Goals:
1. To comprehend critical feminist and decolonizing notions of social citizenship.
2. Use citizenship theory to critique the neo-liberal Canadian welfare state.
3. To consider the relationship between social citizenship and justice-based social work.
4. To analyze the intersectional nature of social exclusions and inclusions that citizens experience as a result of their ascribed identities, for example; race, class, gender, sexuality, etc.

Key Understandings desired:

Goal 1:
1. Recasting the ‘social’ in citizenship by undertaking a theoretical discussion on theories of social citizenship.
2. Understanding how the meaning of the ‘social’ has shifted within the Canadian context.

Goal 2:
1. Analyze the shift in responsibility of care and welfare from state to the individual citizen.
2. To critique Canadian Welfare state practices using emancipatory notions of social citizenship.

Goal 3:
1. Understand the emancipatory potential of citizenship-based social work

Goal 4:
1. Examine the lived realities of citizens of color, dis-Ability, women, children and others in relation to their lived experiences of social citizenship.

2. Understand limitations and alternatives to neo-liberal practices of social citizenship as a result of the above analysis.

Course Texts:


Weekly Topics with readings:

Week 1 Sept. 15 - Recasting Social Citizenship

Question of the Week: How can we characterize different notions of social citizenship?
Week 2  Sept. 22 - Shifting meanings of the ‘social’ within the neo-liberal Canadian context.

Question of the Week: How has the meaning of social shifted with the Canadian Welfare State regime?

Week 3  Sept. 29 - The emancipatory potential of citizenship-based social work

What can make citizenship-based social work a practice of social justice?

Week 4  Oct. 6 - The sexualized citizen: queering citizenship

Question of the Week: How does citizenship theory essentialize gender?
Week 5  Oct. 13 - Immigrants and the welfare state: the non-citizen
- Rupaleem, B & Tracy, S-C. (2012). Constructions of migrant rights in Canada: is subnational citizenship possible? Citizenship Studies, 16(2), 203-221

Question of the week: How does normative citizenship emphasize the static over movement?

Extra resource: [https://noii-van.resist.ca/](https://noii-van.resist.ca/)

Week 6  Oct. 20 - Children and their rights of citizenship: the Not-Yet-Citizens

Question of the week: How does normative citizenship understand participation?

- Week 7  Oct. 27 - Social Rights of Indigenous Peoples: challenging state based citizenship rights

Question of the week: Why do we need citizenship as a concept/right at all?
Week 8  Nov. 3 - Disability and Citizenship: dis-abling citizenship


Question of the Week: What is embodied citizenship?

Week 9  Nov. 10 - Reading Break

Week 10  Nov. 17 - Women and Social citizenship: engendering social citizenship


Question of the Week: How does normative citizenship re-insert the category ‘woman’?

Week 11  Nov. 24 - Social Citizenship and poverty: the non-productive citizen


**Question of the week:** How does normative citizenship have its basis in capitalism?

**Week 12** Dec. 1 - Closure/evaluations.

**Assignments & Due Dates:**

**Assignment 1:**

**Class participation:**
Class participation will be assessed in the following ways:
- (a) Facilitation of class x2 @ 15% each
- (b) Participation in class discussions – not graded.
Total mark for participation = 15%

**Assignment 1 a & b:** Class facilitation:
You will each be assigned to a group of four to five people. At the beginning of the course all groups will be asked to identify two weeks in which they wish to facilitate class. Facilitating activity consists of picking any of the weekly topics from week 4 to week 12 inclusive and facilitating the class for the week. A week before you are due to facilitate, you will recommend one extra reading, could be textual or audio-visual, for the week with an explanation of why it was recommended. You will facilitate class by focusing on the question of the week. Your group will have an hour and twenty minutes to discuss: (1) the theoretical challenge that is being posed to normative notions of citizenship by the readings; (2) what an alternative notion of citizenship is being suggested: and (3) its implications to social work.

**Class facilitation is worth 30 % of your marks in total.**

**Criteria for class facilitation:**
1. Ability to respond articulately to the question of the week
2. Ability to analyze alternative notions of social citizenship.
3. Clarity and depth of presentation topic as evidenced by: a clear introduction, good flow of presentation, critical and in-depth analysis as well as creativity in engaging other students to participate.
4. Ability to participate in-group activity responsibly and equally.

**1 c: Participation in class discussions:**
Eighty percent of class attendance is mandatory. You will come prepared to class by undertaking a critical analysis of at least two of the readings. You will actively participate in class discussions. – Not graded.

**Due Date:** Week One - Week Eleven (September 15th – November 24th). The total worth of this assignment is 30%
Assignment 2: Reflection Papers

Reflection papers are worth 10% each x3 for a total of 30%

Each of you will submit three reflection papers on any three topics of the course from week 1 to 12 inclusive. You will structure your reflections by taking up the question of the week to reflect on with reference to the readings of the week. You may also choose to include my lectures as well as group discussions if you wish. (1) Undertake critical textual analysis of one or more readings/discussions assigned for the unit; (2) identify the readings you are choosing to critic and summarize them briefly; (3) critique it/them in relation to the question of the week. Do this three times for a total of three submissions of your reflection on the readings.

Length of Paper: 750-1000 words about three to four pages long, double spaced and twelve point sized font. Each reflection is worth ten percent. The weeks you choose can include those that you facilitated as a group.

Due Date: Week 5- Week 9 and Week 12 (October 13th, Nov. 10th and December 1st)

Criteria for Assignment 2:
1. Ability to comprehend readings in depth
2. Ability to write clearly and succinctly
3. Ability to critique and reflect on the ideas offered in the readings
4. Ability to relate your reflections to the question of the week

Assignment 3: Research Paper

Alternative notions of social citizenship and its implication to social work practice:
(1) Choose a particular sector of society (e.g. children, children with mental health issues, queer adult community, racialized or immigrant population, etc.) and articulate a non-normative notion of social citizenship for the relevant group based on readings/discussions of the course. (2) Examine implications to social work practice on the basis of your analysis.

Assignment Length: No more than 10 pages or 2,500 words, excluding bibliography. Double spaced, twelve point fonts. This assignment is worth 40% of your overall mark.

Due Date: December 11th

Criteria for Assignment 3:
1. Comprehensive research
2. Critical and in-depth grasp of ideas and concepts
3. Relevance to social work practice
4. Grammar and spelling
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<td>One: September 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Recasting Social Citizenship</td>
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<td>Two: September 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Shifting meanings of the ‘social’ within the neo-liberal Canadian context.</td>
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<td>Three: September 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Assignment 2a: reflection Paper due October 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Nine: November 10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Reading Break</td>
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<td>December 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>Assignment 2c: Reflection Paper due: December 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;  Assignment 3: Research paper due: December 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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