

**Grande Prairie Regional College
Department of Arts, Commerce and Education**

**Social Work 2020
Winter 2009**

Time: 6:00 – 8:50 Thursdays

Instructor: Connie Miller MSW, RSW

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Social Welfare and Social Security Programs

Course Outline

Overview

This is a systems course that provides a historical context for the welfare state and gives a detailed overview the contemporary workings of different income security programs in Canada. It addresses the political influences and the policies that shape the different programs in our welfare state. The course also describes the relationship between social work practice, income security and a variety of social delivery models. Students will critically examine different income security programs and the implications for future generations of Canadians.

Description:

This course is designed to create an inquiry-based approach to the critical examination of income security programs. The purpose of the course is to enable the students to develop an understanding of different income security programs, their utility and worth in a civilized society, and form their own views about the nature and value of social welfare in Canada. Content, assignments and class process will provide an opportunity for students to examine dominant influences and inadequacies to social security programs in modern Canada.

Learning Objectives:

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

1. Demonstrate an understanding of income security programs in Canada.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical and modern trends of these programs and their connection to political and policy perspectives.

3. Actively engage in advocacy/actions that challenge aspects of the current delivery of these programs.
4. Apply different theoretical perspectives to income security programs.

Required Text:

Hick, Steven. (2007). Social Welfare in Canada: Understanding Income Security. ON: Thompson Educational Publishing.

- Additional readings may be given in class

Relationship to Other Courses:

SW 2020 will provide a beginning understanding of Income Security Programs in CANADA. While this course compliments SW 2010, Introduction to Social Welfare it is not an arts and science transfer course. It will not count toward the 60 credits required to apply for admission to the BSW programs with the University of Calgary.

Assignments/Marks

Assignments have been designed to utilize the many skills required of a social worker and a concerned citizen in Canada. The ability to write and communicate to an audience is important in all social work roles. The assignments reflect this.

- Due Dates:
1. Chapter Summary January 29 – 20%
 2. Chapter Summary February 26 -20%
 3. Teaching Presentations March 19 & 26, April 2 – 40%
 4. Focus group discussion assigned class throughout semester – 10%
 5. Participation self assessment April 9 – 10%