GLOBAL SOCIAL POLICY

Professor : Emanuele Ferragina
Academic year 2020/2021 : Common core curriculum – Fall semester (IFCO 2265)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

All countries and regions increasingly share social problems and challenges. The actions and policies of one country not only affect the well-being of its own citizens but that of other countries, either directly or indirectly. Students need to gain knowledge about these global social problems and policies and develop competencies to respond to human needs emerging from interdependence between countries and societies. The course aims to make students knowledgeable about the broad field of global social policy by analyzing theory, social policy change, and social policy outcomes.

Structurally, the course is divided in four parts. The first introduces classic social policy, discussing the main concepts and theories developed in the Western world during the 19th and 20th century. We will also illustrate the main explanations proposed in the literature to investigate welfare state development and Esping-Andersen’s welfare regime typologies (and the main critiques to his comparative framework). The second introduces social policy in Latin America, Eastern Europe and East Asia. We will mix a general understanding of welfare regimes in these continents with a more specific appraisal of some national case. The third highlights the main challenges (namely new social risks, family changes, economic crises) for welfare states in the Post-Fordist era and analyses how different countries are coping with social change. The fourth and last part of the course considers welfare states as an independent variable: alternative welfare state configurations have different effects on redistribution and the economic competitive advantage of countries.

At the end of the course, students will be able to understand the most important issues surrounding social protection from a global perspective and also get a sense of more practical issues, i.e. how much do countries diverge in protecting individuals from social risks? How much do countries diverge in supporting families and gender equality through cash benefits and service provisions? How much do countries diverge in the allocation of spending for different policies? How do different welfare states impact on people's real lives? How do welfare states enact redistribution?

PREREQUISITES

The course is listed under the rubric deepening (‘approfondissement’) offered by the formation commune and follows a decentralization related to specific detailed questionings around class, gender and more broadly critical political economy (‘logique de décentrement problématique’). The course aims to bring forward and complete previous classes the students might have followed in sociology, political science and economics. Social policy is an interdisciplinary field and the correct understanding of this course would require previous basic knowledge of
the main political families and rudimenent of economics. The course has a critical take, questioning traditional assumptions around the functioning of economics (as for example the use of public and private debt, the idea of austerity in the public discourse), rediscussing the concept of gender in relation to family policy, and being broadly based on the notion that political economies in most developed countries have transitioned from a Fordist to a neoliberal mode of functioning. Students who have studied politics and economics mostly according to mainstream literature are particularly invited to join in, as this course will challenge some of their assumptions.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

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<th>Topic</th>
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<td>Course overview, What is Comparative and Global Social Policy?</td>
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<td>Explaining Welfare State Development</td>
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<td><strong>Part III: Welfare State Change</strong></td>
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<td>From the Keynesian Welfare State to the Schumpeterian Workfare State: Introducing the advent of New Social Risks</td>
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<td>Summary and Critique Assignment (to be submitted by 12AM, see details in the assignment section)</td>
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<td>Family Policy and Welfare State Change</td>
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<td><strong>Autumn Break</strong></td>
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<td>The Economic Crisis and the Welfare State</td>
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**MAIN READINGS**


Additional articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, reports, and other readings will be assigned for each week.

**SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS**


Additional articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, reports, and other readings will be assigned for each week.

**WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS**

*Part I: The Foundations of Global and Comparative Social Policy*

Week 1, Course overview, what is comparative and global social policy?

**Required readings:**

- The website [http://www.spicker.uk](http://www.spicker.uk) offers a lot of interesting material about social policy across the world.


Recommended readings:

Week 2, Explaining Welfare State Development

Required readings:

General Readings

Industrialisation and Modernisation

Power Resources, Social Democracy and the Influence of Party Politics
COURSE OUTLINE


**Political Institutions**

**Political Culture and the Role of Ideas**

**Recommended readings:**

**General Readings**

**Industrialisation and Modernisation**

**Power Resources, Social Democracy and the Influence of Party Politics**

**Political Institutions**

**Political Culture and the Role of Ideas**

06.07.20
Week 3, Welfare Regimes: Esping-Andersen’s and Beyond

Required readings:

Recommended readings:
Palier, B. “Continental Western Europe”, in Castles et al. 601-615.

**Part II: Social Policy Outside the Western World**

**Week 4, Latin America**

**Required readings:**

**Recommended readings:**


**Week 5, Eastern Europe**


Cook, J.L. “Eastern Europe and Russia” in Castles et al. (eds)


**Recommended readings:**


**Week 6, East Asia**

**Required readings:**


**Recommended readings:**

Agarwal, S. (2011) “The state of urban health in India; comparing the poorest quartile to the rest of the urban population in selected states and cities”, *Environment & Urbanization*, 23, 13-28


**Part III: Welfare State Change**

**Week 7, From the Keynesian Welfare State to the Schumpeterian Workfare State: Introducing the Advent of New Social Risks**

**Required readings:**


Recommended readings:

Week 8, Family Policy and Welfare State Change

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

Week 9, The Economic Crisis and the Welfare State

Required readings:

Recommended Readings
Part IV: The Welfare State as an Independent Variable

Week 10, The Welfare State and Redistribution

Required readings:


Recommended readings:


**Week 11, The Welfare State and the Competitive Advantage**

**Required readings:**


**Recommended readings:**


**Week 12, Final Exam**