Welfare States in the Current Era: origins, issues and challenges

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Credits: 4 Credits (8 ECTS)

Semester: Fall 2019

Course Level: 1 and 2 Year MA

Course Schedule: Tuesdays 17:20-19:00 and Wednesdays 11:00-12:40

Office Hours: Wednesdays 15:30-17:30 and by appointment

Course Objectives

The course aims to examine welfare states and current welfare policies in a comparative perspective. In order to achieve this, different approaches on the relationship between welfare, market and state are analyzed. In the first part of the course fundamental concepts, origins and typologies of welfare state are reviewed. This part tries to answer the questions of what a welfare state is, why it exists and how they differ across countries. The second part covers a variety of issues such as active and passive labor market policies, pensions, health care, work and life balance, and redistribution. Given the complexity of welfare state, we are not able to cover all of the policies but the course captures the highly relevant areas and provides a comparative perspective. In the final part of the course, welfare state challenges are examined to understand the impact of globalization, migration and post-industrialization on social policy. At the end of this part we will be able to understand the extent and reasons of retrenchment, liberalization and privatization of social expenditures. Throughout the class both theoretical and empirical material are covered.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course, the students are expected to;

- understand the basic terms in welfare state research
- have sufficient knowledge to apply these concepts in their research
- formulate researchable questions
- to be able to follow and understand the literature related to the subject matter
- be able to follow theoretical and empirical debates about social policy
- acquire knowledge of methodologies and assumptions in the study of globalization and the welfare state.
- gain skills for presenting and critically discussing scholarly work by others

**Class structure**

Most meetings consists of a 15-minute critical presentation by a discussant, followed by an instructor-led structured discussion of key concepts; key arguments; key theoretical and methodological approaches; puzzles and questions; the relevance of the subject matter. Meetings with a different structure will be announced in due course.

**Grading and Assessment**

All of the students are expected to attend and actively participate in the class discussion. The participation counts for 10% while the presentations make up 20% of your grade for the course. There is also midterm and final paper, which counts for 30% and 40% respectively. The grades won’t be based on a curve.

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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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The grades will be marked down in case of late submissions, and in case of plagiarism departmental rules apply.

**Note on Citing and Referencing**

You will be expected to use Harvard style referencing. Please find an extensive citation and referencing guide on the course website: [http://ceulearning.ceu.edu/course/view.php?id=4862](http://ceulearning.ceu.edu/course/view.php?id=4862). At the same time, you are strongly encouraged to use a citation manager software for all your written assignments, in which case you can use Chicago style referencing.

**Useful Textbooks**


**Week 1: Definitions and Typologies (September 24-25)**

This session introduces the fundamental concepts and indicators to understand what a welfare state is, how we can measure its generosity, and what type of rights welfare states give to their citizens. It also looks at the criteria marking different welfare state regimes and whether it is possible to reach meaningful typologies. It also identifies the winners and losers of welfare state across the highly accepted regimes.

**Key Readings:**


**Additional Readings:**


**Week 2: Origins (October 1-2)**

This session discusses a number of theoretical approaches that try to clarify why welfare states came into existence. Power resources, business oriented and other alternative explanations are covered.

**Key Readings:**

Additional Readings:


Week 3: Labor Markets (October 8-9)

This session examines the impact of welfare state policies on labor market outcomes, and how varied these across countries. Active and passive labor market policies as well as policies related to specific groups are considered.

Key Readings:


Additional Readings:

**Week 4: Pensions (October 15-16)**

This session examines how policies related to old age are shaped by different welfare states and how they evolved over time. Given that pensioners have high electoral power in certain countries, it also looks at whether these policies are economically optimal or politically driven.

Key Readings:


Additional Readings:


**Week 5: Health Care (Oct 22-23)**

This session inspects models of health care across countries and the reasons why nations adopted various policies. Both policy making processes and outcomes of these policies are studied.

Key Readings:

Week 6: Housing (Oct 29-30)

This section examines the relationship between housing policies and welfare state, and whether housing policies differ across countries systematically.

Key Readings:


Additional Readings:

Week 7: Redistribution (Nov 5-6)

This section covers one of the most important policy outcomes of welfare state, namely redistribution. It answers the distinctive distributive effects of different regime types, generosity of these regimes, and how effective they are in correcting market failures with regards to income distribution.

Key Readings:


Additional Readings:


Week 8: Globalization (Nov 12-13)

This section inspects the effect of globalization on welfare state and identifies the specific challenges raised as a result of international integration. Both political and economic constraints are evaluated with respect to the different welfare regimes.

Key Readings:

Additional Readings:


Week 9: Post-Industrialization (Nov 19-20)

This section continues to examine the challenges for welfare states, and highlights the characteristics of post-industrial societies. The political mechanisms through which post-industrialization affect social policies and the end results are studied.

Key Readings:


Additional Readings:

Week 10: Immigration (Nov 26-27)

This section looks at the that the settlement of immigrant populations poses to social protection systems of the host societies, and how welfare states respond to flows of skilled and unskilled labor.

Key Readings:


Additional Readings:


Week 11: Future (Dec 3-4)

This section offers concluding remarks on the topics covered before and outlines how future of welfare states might be shaped.

Key Readings:

Additional Readings: