

# **THE WELFARE STATE, GLOBALIZATION, AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**

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## **1. Name and introduction to the subject**

A lot has been written about the European social model. What is it? Does it exist? Is it a single European social model? How many social models exist in the European Union? Are they affected by European integration? And if so, how? And what about globalization? (What is globalization anyway?) Does it affect the European social model or social models? Is the social model a handicap to economic efficiency and competitiveness? Is the European Union more or less efficient than the U.S. liberal model? And what impact does the welfare state have on the quality of life of populations?

These and other questions are addressed in this course. The course objectives are:

1. to analyze some of the major issues involved in the questions raised above; i.e., to analyze public and social policies from a political economy perspective, focusing on the political, economic, and social determinants of social and public policies
2. to stimulate critical thinking so as to help students understand the interests that lie behind different political traditions
3. to analyze the impact of different public and social policies on the quality of life of populations

## **2. Prerequisites**

Students should have an undergraduate or bachelor's degree in one of the social sciences (e.g., political science, sociology, economics, human geography, anthropology), or in public administration (e.g., law, public health and social administration), or in history and humanities.

Any of these areas of knowledge, as well as a motivation to engage in critical thinking and scientific inquiry, are prerequisites for taking and enjoying this course.

## **3. Competencies to be achieved in the subject**

The course aims to develop the following competencies:

1. an understanding of the political, economic, and social contexts of public policy in the European context
2. a better comprehension of the political and social agents in public policy formation in the European context
3. an ability to study how European institutions critical to the functioning of the European Union (e.g., the European Central Bank) operate and the interests behind them
4. an ability to think analytically and critically on political narratives
5. an ability to evaluate public policies
6. an understanding of the relationship between economic and political phenomena
7. an opportunity to develop the ability to debate and participate in classroom discussions, in response to active incentives designed to stimulate students' participation in the course

## **4. Assessment**

The course has three components:

- Formal lectures (12 hours)
- Seminars, with active student participation (10 hours)
- Tutorials, with the faculty meeting with students individually or in small groups (8 hours)

Formal lectures. There will be 12 hours of formal lecture time, with lectures every Monday, followed by seminars designed as discussions of the subjects presented in the lectures and covered by the assigned readings. In the seminars, some of the major issues presented in the lectures and in the readings will be discussed through students' presentations and debates (following the Oxford debate format) simulating real-life situations.

The evaluation of students will be based on:

1. The quality of a final paper (25 pages) on a subject related to the topics of the course, chosen by the student with the approval of the faculty (60% of the grade): evaluated on the student's knowledge of the subject; the way the paper is presented (with arguments well articulated within a proper conceptual framework); and the ability to present a critical, rigorous, and scholarly analysis.
2. Participation in the seminars, showing the student's mastery and comprehension of the subject and ability to think in a scholarly and critical way (40% of the grade)

The tutorials will not be graded, since their primary objective is to help students prepare their presentations for the seminar and final papers.

## **5. Contents of the course and class schedule**

## **Session 1. September 27, 2010**

### **General Introduction**

#### **Theme: *The Political Traditions and Their Public Social Policies***

This session analyzes the major political traditions in existence in Europe during the post World War II period and the social and economic policies that have characterized them. The analysis is from a political economy and political science perspective.

### **Required Reading**

Huber, E., and J. D. Stephens. (2001). Welfare State and Productive Regimes in the Era of Retrenchment. In *The New Politics of Welfare State*, edited by P. Pierson. London: Oxford University Press.

Korpi, W. (2006). Power Resources and Employer Centered Approaches in Explanations of Welfare State and Varieties of Capitalism. Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

## **Session 2. October 4, 2010**

#### **Theme: *The Impact of European Integration on the Social Models***

This session analyzes the impact of E.U. integration on the welfare states of the European countries.

### **Required Reading**

Korpi, W. (2003). Welfare-State Regress in Western Europe: Politics, Institutions, Globalization, and Europeanization. *Annual Review of Sociology* 29:589-609.

Korpi, W., and J. Palme. (2003). New Politics and Class Politics in the Context of Austerity and Globalization: Welfare State Regress in 18 Countries, 1975-95. *American Political Science Review* 97(3):425-446.

### **Session 3. October 11, 2010**

#### **Theme: *The Impact of Globalization on the European Social Models***

This session describes the meaning of globalization and regionalization and their impact on the social models in the countries of the European Union.

#### **Required Reading**

Navarro, V. (2002). Globalization, Unemployment, Inequalities and the Welfare State. In *The Political Economy of Social Inequalities*, edited by V. Navarro. Amityville, NY: Baywood Publishing.

### **Session 4. October 18, 2010**

#### **Theme: *Globalization, Inequality, and Poverty***

This session analyzes the different types of inequalities that appear in different “social models.”

#### **Required Reading**

Korpi, W. (2000). Faces of Inequality: Gender, Class and Patterns of Inequalities in Different Types of Welfare States. Luxemburg Income. Study Working Paper No. 224.

Wade, R. H. (2006). Should We Worry about Income Inequality?  
*International Journal of Health Services* 36(2):271-294.

### **Session 5. October 25, 2010**

#### **Theme: *Analysis of the U.S. Democracy and its Implications for Quality of Life.***

This session analyses the U.S. Presidential Elections and the Social Policies of the candidates.

## **Session 6. November 8, 2010**

### **Theme: *The Consequences of Inequality for Health and Quality of Life. Part I***

This session analyzes how public and social policies affect the quality of life of populations.

#### **Required Reading**

Vagero, D. (2006). Do Health Inequalities Persist in the New Global Order? A European Perspective. In *Inequalities of the World*, edited by G. Therborn. London: Verso.

Therborn, G. (2006). Inequality: Meanings, Mechanisms, Patterns, and Forces: An Introduction. In *Inequalities of the World*, edited by G. Therborn. London: Verso.

## **Session 7. November 15, 2010**

### **Theme: *The Financial Crisis. Part I.***

This session will discuss the world situation before the crisis.

#### **Required Reading**

Mark Weisbrot, Dean Baker and David (??) “*The Score Card on Development 25 years of Diminished Progress*” in IJHS VM 36. No.2. pp 211-234. 2006

Robert Hunter Wade. “Is Globalization Reducing Poverty and Inequality”. In IJHS. VM 34. No3. pp 381-414

## **Session 8. November 22, 2010**

### **Theme: *What Is Social Liberalism: The Third Way?***

This session analyzes the impact of liberalism on the social democratic and Christian democratic traditions and on the social models in the E.U.

### **Required Reading**

Le Grand, J. (2005). Inequality, Choice and Public Services. In *The New Egalitarianism*, edited by A. Giddens and P. Diamond. London: Polity Press.

Navarro, V. (2001). Is There a Third Way? In *The Political Economy of Social Inequalities: Consequences for Health and Quality of Life*, edited by V. Navarro. Amityville, NY: Baywood Publishing.

## **Session 9. November 29, 2010**

### **Theme: *The Political Context of the Spanish Social Situation***

This session discusses the effects of the Spanish dictatorship (1939-1978), the transition to democracy, and E.U. integration on the underdevelopment of the Spanish welfare state.

### **Required Reading**

TBA

## **Session 10. December 13, 2010**

### **Theme: *The Transition to a Federal State: The Case of Spain***

### **Required Reading**

Obinger, H., S. Leibfried, and F. G. Castles. (2005). Conclusion. In *Federalism and the Welfare State*, edited by London: Oxford University Press.

Obinger, H., A. Stephan, et al. (2005). Bypasses to a Social Europe? Lessons from Federal Experience. *Journal of European Public Policy* 12(3):545-571.

## **6. Methodology**

This course requires students (and thus it is compulsory) (1) to attend the classes, (2) to participate in the discussions and debates, and (3) to write a final paper.

Each session will last from 6 pm to 9 pm. The final session will be dedicated to an overall summary of the course and discussion of the preparation of the final paper, which is due no later than one month after the end of the course.

## **7. Sources of information and didactic resources**

Besides the required readings, students are encouraged to expand their knowledge with other suggested readings, if they have a particular interest in any of the subjects presented in the class.

### **Recommended Overall Reading**

Glyn, A. (2006). *Capitalism Unleashed: Finance Globalization and Welfare*. London: Oxford University Press.

Korpi, W. (1983). *The Democratic Class Struggle*. London: Routledge Kegan Paul.

Navarro, V. (ed.) (2001). *The Political Economy of Social Inequalities: Consequences for Health and Quality of Life*. Amityville, NY: Baywood Publishing.

Navarro, V., et al. (2004) *The Political and Economic Determinants of Population Health and Well-Being: Controversies and Developments*. Amityville, NY: Baywood Publishing.

Navarro, V, et al. (2007) *Globalization, Neoliberalism and Inequalities. Consequences for Health and Quality of Life*. Baywood.