

COURSE DETAIL

EUROPEAN WELFARE STATE: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Maastricht University - Center for European Studies

Program(s)

Maastricht Summer

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Sociology Political Science European Studies

UCEAP Course Number

106

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

EUROPEAN WELFARE STATE: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

UCEAP Transcript Title

EUR WELFARE STATE

UCEAP Quarter Units

5.00

UCEAP Semester Units

Course Description

This course introduces students to the social policy that is characteristic of European welfare states. In light of the recent economic crisis and developments in the European Union (EU), characterized by rise in poverty and unemployment (among youth in particular) along with the rise of popularities of the right-wing parties, the framework for policy has become quite challenging for policy makers and citizens alike. Throughout the course, the students learn about various ways and degrees to which citizens get involved in social problems (e.g. poverty, unemployment, exclusion on various grounds) in their communities and country. The course begins with students brainstorming on social policy concepts they have heard and are or familiar with. The aim of this class is to bring to a common learning ground the diverse backgrounds (geographical and knowledge wise) students have. The course covers welfare state regimes, classification of the European welfare states, Esping-Andersen typology of welfare state, US social security system, and China's social policy regime. The course provides an historical perspective of European social policy, beginning with the time period before the First World War when poverty was on rise in Europe. Students discuss the first attempts of creating social policy, the case of Beveridge and Law of the Poor in the United Kingdom and the case of Bismarck and unemployment insurance of miners in Germany. The shift from incipient forms of social policy to advanced forms of welfare state is the focus of this class. Students are introduced to the stages of welfare state development. The course then covers an historical perspective of social policy practices across the world including examples from the US, Australia, China, Latin America, and Russia. Students learn how to distinguish between the systems and to analyze the governmental approach in this area. The course then turns to the social policy focused on the following topics: the alleviation of poverty, unemployment, insurance and pension, and gender discrimination and other dimensions. The course ends with a review of the current challenges and trends in social security systems across the world. The course is best suited for economics, political science, sociology, or social work majors, but it can also be attended by students with other background

who are interested in the topic.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

POL2005

Host Institution Course Title

EUROPEAN WELFARE STATE: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

Host Institution Course Details**Host Institution Campus**

Maastricht University

Host Institution Faculty**Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

Center for European Studies

Course Last Reviewed

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