COURSE DETAIL

HEALTH VS. ECONOMY? A HISTORY OF THE GERMAN WELFARE STATE

Country
Germany

Host Institution
Free University of Berlin

Program(s)
Free University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Political Science Economics

UCEAP Course Number
138

UCEAP Course Suffix
E

UCEAP Official Title
HEALTH VS. ECONOMY? A HISTORY OF THE GERMAN WELFARE STATE

UCEAP Transcript Title
GERMN WELFARE STATE

UCEAP Quarter Units
4.50

UCEAP Semester Units
3.00

Course Description

Since the mid twentieth century the German welfare state has seen public health outcomes improve with sustained economic growth. But when the pandemic forced governments round the world to consider imposing lockdowns, journalists portrayed the choice in stark terms: either protect the population or the “health” of the economy. Lockdowns were feasible, however, only where governments increased welfare spending substantially, and as the pandemic unfolded other significant links between health and the economy—in Germany, the importance of the biomedical industry, for instance—became patent. Each week, the course focuses on an aspect of the complex interplay between health and “economy” in the history of the German welfare state, arguably the oldest in the world. Topics include the establishment of social insurance; the German coal and chemical industries; the therapeutic revolution during the so-called golden age of the welfare state; population politics, including abortion law, in East and West Germany; surprising trends in public health outcomes in east and west Germany since reunification; and the challenges posed by population ageing and immigration. Along the way, the class discusses questions which the study of the welfare state raises and to which the pandemic has given renewed significance: How should governments act to improve public health outcomes? To what extent should they intervene in people's lives in pursuing such objectives?

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
16919

Host Institution Course Title
HEALTH VS ECONOMY? A HISTORY OF THE GERMAN WELFARE STATE

Host Institution Course Details

https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/900453?query=welfare%20state&sm=851413&id=900...

Host Institution Campus
Free University of Berlin

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Deutsche Philologie

Course Last Reviewed
2024-2025

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