

# Syllabus

## *Kursbeschreibung*

<b>Titel der Lehrveranstaltung</b>	Welfare und Sozialpolitik in einer sich wandelnden Wirtschaft: Akteure, Institutionen und Transformationen
<b>Code der Lehrveranstaltung</b>	27301
<b>Zusätzlicher Titel der Lehrveranstaltung</b>	
<b>Wissenschaftlich-disziplinärer Bereich</b>	SPS/09
<b>Sprache</b>	Englisch
<b>Studiengang</b>	Bachelor in Ökonomie, Politik und Ethik
<b>Andere Studiengänge (gem. Lehrveranstaltung)</b>	
<b>Dozenten/Dozentinnen</b>	dr. Michela Giovannini, Michela.Giovannini@unibz.it
<b>Wissensch. Mitarbeiter/Mitarbeiterin</b>	
<b>Semester</b>	Zweites Semester
<b>Studienjahr/e</b>	Free choice
<b>KP</b>	6
<b>Vorlesungsstunden</b>	36
<b>Laboratoriumsstunden</b>	6
<b>Stunden für individuelles Studium</b>	-
<b>Vorgesehene Sprechzeiten</b>	18
<b>Inhaltsangabe</b>	This course explores the evolution, structure, and challenges of welfare systems in contemporary capitalist societies, with a specific focus on the interplay between economic dynamics, political institutions, and civil society. Drawing from economic sociology and comparative welfare studies, it analyzes how social policies respond to old and new social risks, how welfare is produced by a plurality of actors (state, market, third sector), and how these processes shape—and are shaped by—economic and social

	<p>transformations.</p> <p>Special attention is given to European welfare regimes, social investment strategies, and the growing role of social enterprises and hybrid organizations in the provision of welfare. Students will be encouraged to critically assess the changing configurations of the welfare state and to connect theoretical concepts with real-world case studies and policy debates.</p>
<b>Themen der Lehrveranstaltung</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Welfare and Social Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions, scope, and relevance in economic and political systems</li> <li>• The role of social policies in addressing inequalities and market failures</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Historical Evolution of Welfare States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From industrial welfare to the post-war European welfare state</li> <li>• The golden age and the restructuring of welfare under globalization</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Theories of Welfare and Welfare Regimes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Esping-Andersen and beyond: varieties of capitalism and welfare production</li> <li>• Institutional and economic sociology approaches</li> <li>• Measuring welfare: from GDP to Human Development Index (HDI), social determinants of health and well-being indicators</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Social Risks and Policy Responses in the 21st Century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old and new social risks: ageing, migration, precarization, climate change</li> <li>• Policy trends: activation, social investment, conditionality</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. The Changing Architecture of Welfare Production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welfare mix: public, private, non-profit, and informal actors</li> <li>• From government to governance: networks, partnerships, and co-production</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. The Role of Third Sector and Social Economy Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social enterprises, cooperatives, NGOs: economic actors with social missions</li> <li>• Hybridization, accountability, and sustainability challenges</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. Contemporary Challenges and Future Directions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal constraints, digitalization, environmental transitions</li> <li>• Debates on universal basic income, care economy, and post-growth welfare</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Stichwörter</b>	welfare systems, social justice, health systems, gender studies,

	social economy organizations
<b>Empfohlene Voraussetzungen</b>	None
<b>Propädeutische Lehrveranstaltungen</b>	None
<b>Unterrichtsform</b>	Lectures, group work, guided discussions
<b>Anwesenheitspflicht</b>	Recommended, but not mandatory
<b>Spezifische Bildungsziele und erwartete Lernergebnisse</b>	<p>Applying knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Ability to interact fluently and spontaneously with native speakers on economic topics;</p> <p>Ability to understand the role of the state in relation to different political and economic issues and to weigh up possible political and economic solutions;</p> <p>Ability to establish goals, objectives, expectations and decisions in public administration;</p> <p>Ability to understand, analyse and identify political decision-making processes;</p> <p>ability to analyse labour markets and the effects of policies aimed at these markets, considering the general institutional conditions;</p> <p>Autonomy of judgement</p> <p>Acquisition of the ability to judge and the methodological tools useful for the critical analysis of data, sources, assumptions and implications of scientific practice, and the political, ethical and legal context within which economic phenomena occur and interact.</p> <p>Communication skills</p> <p>Contribution to the mastery (oral and written) of Italian, German and English, including translation between these languages.</p> <p>Intercultural competence. Conceptual clarity, ability to synthesise and write, particularly with regard to the preparation of scientific or science-based documents.</p> <p>Learning skills</p> <p>Promotion of critical thinking and analytical skills that enable complex problems to be focused on in terms of their long-term dynamics and the variety of their implications, including ethical ones.</p>

<b>Spezifisches Bildungsziel und erwartete Lernergebnisse (zusätzliche Informationen)</b>	<p>This course explores the evolution, structure, and challenges of welfare systems in contemporary capitalist societies, with a specific focus on the interplay between economic dynamics, political institutions, and civil society. Drawing from economic sociology and comparative welfare studies, it analyzes how social policies respond to old and new social risks, how welfare is produced by a plurality of actors (state, market, third sector), and how these processes shape—and are shaped by—economic and social transformations.</p> <p>Special attention is given to European welfare regimes, social investment strategies, and the growing role of social enterprises and hybrid organizations in the provision of welfare. Students will be encouraged to critically assess the changing configurations of the welfare state and to connect theoretical concepts with real-world case studies and policy debates.</p>
<b>Art der Prüfung</b>	<p>The final grade will be based on two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written exam (70%) with open questions</li> <li>• Group presentation (30%)</li> </ul> <p>Students will work in small groups to prepare a presentation on a topic related to the course.</p>
<b>Bewertungskriterien</b>	<p>The written exam evaluates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Personal understanding and re-elaboration of course content</li> <li>o The ability to construct coherent and well-argued responses</li> <li>o Critical reflection and clarity of written expression</li> </ul> <p>Presentations will be assessed based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Relevance and depth of content</li> <li>o Ability to apply theoretical concepts to real-world cases or data</li> <li>o Clarity, structure, and teamwork in delivery</li> </ul>
<b>Pfichtliteratur</b>	<p>Selected chapters from: Daniel, B., Morgan, K. J., Obinger, H., &amp; Pierson, C. (Eds.). (2021). <i>The Oxford handbook of the welfare state</i>. Oxford University Press.</p>
<b>Weiterführende Literatur</b>	<p>Additional readings will be handed out during the course</p>
<b>Weitere Informationen</b>	
<b>Ziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung (SDGs)</b>	<p>Keine Armut, Partnerschaften zur Erreichung der Ziele, Gesundheit und Wohlergehen, Hochwertige Bildung, Geschlechter-Gleichheit, Sauberes Wasser und Sanitär-Einrichtungen, Bezahlbare und saubere Energie, Menschenwürdige Arbeit und</p>

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	Wirtschaftswachstum, Industrie, Innovation und Infrastruktur, Weniger Ungleichheiten, Nachhaltige Städte und Gemeinden, Nachhaltiger Konsum und Produktion, Maßnahmen zum Klimaschutz, Leben unter Wasser, Leben an Land, Frieden, Gerechtigkeit und starke Institutionen, Kein Hunger
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