

Syllabus

Kursbeschreibung

Titel der Lehrveranstaltung	Welfare und Sozialpolitik in einer sich wandelnden Wirtschaft: Akteure, Institutionen und Transformationen
Code der Lehrveranstaltung	27301
Zusätzlicher Titel der Lehrveranstaltung	
Wissenschaftlich-disziplinärer Bereich	GSPS-08/A
Sprache	Englisch
Studiengang	Bachelor in Ökonomie, Politik und Ethik
Andere Studiengänge (gem. Lehrveranstaltung)	
Dozenten/Dozentinnen	dr. Michela Giovannini, Michela.Giovannini@unibz.it
Wissensch. Mitarbeiter/Mitarbeiterin	
Semester	Zweites Semester
Studienjahr/e	Free choice
KP	6
Vorlesungsstunden	36
Laboratoriumsstunden	6
Stunden für individuelles Studium	-
Vorgesehene Sprechzeiten	18
Inhaltsangabe	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>
Themen der Lehrveranstaltung	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Welfare and Social Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions, scope, and relevance in economic and political systems • The role of social policies in addressing inequalities and market failures 2. Historical Evolution of Welfare States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From industrial welfare to the post-war European welfare state • The golden age and the restructuring of welfare under globalization 3. Theories of Welfare and Welfare Regimes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esping-Andersen and beyond: varieties of capitalism and welfare production • Institutional and economic sociology approaches • Measuring welfare: from GDP to Human Development Index (HDI), social determinants of health and well-being indicators 4. Social Risks and Policy Responses in the 21st Century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old and new social risks: ageing, migration, precarization, climate change • Policy trends: activation, social investment, conditionality 5. The Changing Architecture of Welfare Production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare mix: public, private, non-profit, and informal actors • From government to governance: networks, partnerships, and co-production 6. The Role of Third Sector and Social Economy Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social enterprises, cooperatives, NGOs: economic actors with social missions • Hybridization, accountability, and sustainability challenges 7. Contemporary Challenges and Future Directions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal constraints, digitalization, environmental transitions • Debates on universal basic income, care economy, and post-growth welfare
Stichwörter	welfare systems, social justice, health systems, gender studies,

	social economy organizations
Empfohlene Voraussetzungen	None
Propädeutische Lehrveranstaltungen	None
Unterrichtsform	Lectures, group work, guided discussions
Anwesenheitspflicht	Recommended, but not mandatory
Spezifische Bildungsziele und erwartete Lernergebnisse	<p>ILO (Intended Learning Outcomes)</p> <p>ILO 1 Applying knowledge and understanding ILO 1.1 ability to understand the role of governments in market economies; ILO 1.2 ability to historically contextualise economic thinking and assess the role of technology and social change on the evolution of economic thinking; ILO 1.3 ability to understand how policy choices are formulated and how these decisions affect the economy</p> <p>ILO 2 Ability to apply knowledge and understanding 2.1 ability to understand the role of the state in relation to different political-economic issues and to weigh up possible solutions in the political-economic field</p> <p>ILO 3 Making judgements ILO 3.1 Acquisition of the capacity for judgement and methodological tools useful for the critical analysis of data, sources, assumptions and implications of scientific practice, of the political, ethical and legal context within which economic phenomena are set and with which they interact</p> <p>ILO 4 Communication skills ILO 4.1 Fluency (oral and written) in Italian, German and English, including translation between these languages. Intercultural competence. Conceptual awareness, ability to summarise and express oneself in writing, particularly in the drafting of scientific or science-based documents</p>

	<p>ILO 5 Learning skills</p> <p>ILO 5.1 Promotion of critical thinking and analytical skills to focus on complex problems in their long-term dynamics and the variety of their implications, including ethical ones</p>
Spezifisches Bildungsziel und erwartete Lernergebnisse (zusätzliche Informationen)	<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>
Art der Prüfung	<p>The final grade will be based on two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam (70%) with open questions (ILO 1,2,3,4,5) • Group presentation (30%) (ILO 1,2,3,4,5) <p>Students will work in small groups to prepare a presentation on a topic related to the course.</p>
Bewertungskriterien	<p>The written exam evaluates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Personal understanding and re-elaboration of course content o The ability to construct coherent and well-argued responses o Critical reflection and clarity of written expression <p>Presentations will be assessed based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Relevance and depth of content o Ability to apply theoretical concepts to real-world cases or data o Clarity, structure, and teamwork in delivery
Pfichtliteratur	<p>Selected chapters from: Daniel, B., Morgan, K. J., Obinger, H., & Pierson, C. (Eds.). (2021). <i>The Oxford handbook of the welfare state</i>. Oxford University Press.</p>
Weiterführende Literatur	<p>Additional readings will be handed out during the course</p>

Weitere Informationen	
Ziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung (SDGs)	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 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