

Syllabus

Descrizione corso

Titolo insegnamento	Welfare e politica sociale in un'economia in evoluzione: attori, istituzioni e trasformazioni
Codice insegnamento	27301
Titolo aggiuntivo	
Settore Scientifico-Disciplinare	GSPS-08/A
Lingua	Inglese
Corso di Studio	Corso di laurea in Economia, Politica ed Etica
Altri Corsi di Studio (mutuati)	
Docenti	dr. Michela Giovannini, Michela.Giovannini@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/home/research/competence-centre-management-cooperatives/team/person//50283
Assistente	
Semestre	Secondo semestre
Anno/i di corso	Free choice
CFU	6
Ore didattica frontale	36
Ore di laboratorio	6
Ore di studio individuale	-
Ore di ricevimento previste	18
Sintesi contenuti	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>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>
Argomenti dell'insegnamento	<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
Parole chiave	<p>welfare systems, social justice, health systems, gender studies, social economy organizations</p>

Prerequisiti	None
Insegnamenti propedeutici	None
Modalità di insegnamento	Lectures, group work, guided discussions
Obbligo di frequenza	Recommended, but not mandatory
Obiettivi formativi specifici e risultati di apprendimento attesi	<p>ILO (Intended Learning Outcomes)</p> <p>ILO 1 Applying knowledge and understanding</p> <p>ILO 1.1 ability to understand the role of governments in market economies;</p> <p>ILO 1.2 ability to historically contextualise economic thinking and assess the role of technology and social change on the evolution of economic thinking;</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>

	on complex problems in their long-term dynamics and the variety of their implications, including ethical ones
Obiettivi formativi specifici e risultati di apprendimento attesi (ulteriori info.)	<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>
Modalità di esame	<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>
Criteri di valutazione	<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
Bibliografia obbligatoria	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.
Bibliografia facoltativa	Additional readings will be handed out during the course
Altre informazioni	
Obiettivi di Sviluppo Sostenibile (SDGs)	Sconfiggere la povertà, Partnership per gli obiettivi, Buona salute, Istruzione di qualità, Parità di genere, Acqua pulita e servizi

	igenico-sanitari, Energia rinnovabile e accessibile, Buona occupazione e crescita economica, Innovazione e infrastrutture, Ridurre le disuguaglianze, Città e comunità sostenibili, Utilizzo responsabile delle risorse, Lotta contro il cambiamento climatico, Utilizzo sostenibile del mare, Utilizzo sostenibile della terra, Pace e giustizia, Sconfiggere la fame
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