Redistribution Policies and Comparative Welfare States

Code: 42717
ECTS Credits: 6

Contact

Name: José Antonio Noguera Ferrer
Email: Jose.Noguera@uab.cat

Teachers

Lluís Flaquer Vilardebó

Prerequisites

None.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The module focuses on the analysis and evaluation of different income redistribution mechanisms in contemporary welfare states. Specifically, the module allows the theoretical and empirical study of current social-scientific knowledge on four key issues:

1) The normative foundations and principles of distributive justice that welfare states aim to implement, as well as their social perception and valuation.
2) The role of income guarantee policies in satisfying the redistributive function of welfare states, and the different alternatives to existing policies.
3) The role of family policies and the protection of children in the redistribution of opportunities and resources throughout the individual life cycle.
4) The place of these principles and policies in different welfare regimes, in connection with the social-scientific debate on their socio-historical configuration.

For this purpose, the module is structured in two different parts: A first part entitled "Income guarantee policies and distributive justice", and a second part entitled "Family policies and welfare regimes".

Competences

- Design, implement and evaluate social policies and processes for resource redistribution and improvement of citizens' welfare, in different contexts and from a European perspective.
- Put forward innovative proposals for the relevant field of study.
- Recognise the main economic, political, social and cultural transformations of complex societies in order to analyse the fundamental challenges they pose to equality and welfare.
- Use and manage bibliography and IT resources in the field of study.
Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse the main dilemmas or trade-offs implied by the application of various distributive principles to guide social welfare policies in different social and historical contexts.
2. Apply methodologies to evaluate the redistributive effect of the above policies.
3. Construct well-reasoned arguments on the main challenges to the redistributive policies of advanced societies in the current economic crisis.
4. Identify the factors conditioning income policies and family policies in different economic, political, social and cultural contexts.
5. Identify the principal findings from the debate on welfare regimes conducted in the social science literature that deals with contemporary welfare states and use these findings to evaluate several redistributive policies.
6. Identify the principal problems of institutional design and implementation of income guarantee policies and family policies in contemporary welfare states.
7. Put forward innovative proposals for the relevant field of study.
8. Use and manage bibliography and IT resources in the field of study.

Content

Sessions schedule

Part 1. Income guarantee policies and distributive justice
Professor José A. Noguera

Session 1. Distributive justice and redistribution policies
Theories of distributive justice and distributive criteria.
Normative and positive social science.

Readings:


Session 2. Institutional analysis of redistributive policies.

Readings:


Session 3. Main proposals for reform and alternatives to existing policies
Reforms of redistributive and income guarantee policies. Classifications.
Workfare, welfare to work, and in-work benefits; tax credits and wage supplements.
Beyond conditionality: basic income, basic capital, participation income, negative income tax, and similar proposals.
Beyond ex-post redistribution: predistribution, proposals for market socialism and ex-ante regulation in the distribution of income.

Readings:


Session 4. Social perceptions of distributive justice and income policies
Our intuitive ideas about distributive justice.
Research on attitudes toward the welfare state. Main findings. Determinants of social support for income guarantee and redistributive policies.
Experimental research on pro-social motivations and support for redistribution. The framing of income policies.

Readings:


Part 2. Family policies and welfare regimes

Professor Lluís Flaquer

Session 5. Changes in family structure and the growth of family diversity.
Theoretical paradigms explaining family transformations: Postmaterialism. Individualization. The second demographic transition.
Cultural models of family in Europe. Relationship between family models and welfare regimes.

Readings:


Session 6. What are family policies and what are they for?
Justification of intervention through family policies. Concept, scope and purposes of family policies.
Foundations of family policies.
Classic family policies: Economic support for families and child protection. Early childhood care and education services.

Readings:

Session 7. Evaluation of the impact of family policies: some illustrations.
Regular and systematic evaluation through systems of indicators: the needs of families with dependent children. Social expenditure and use of family policy measures. The impact on families.

Readings:

Session 8. Family policies and redistribution at the early stages of the life cycle.
The relationship between child poverty and family structure: Patterns of homogamy and inequality.
Single-parent families, large families, and complex households.
Social investment in childhood.
The rights of the underaged.
Family policies and equality of opportunities.
From welfare to well-being.

Readings:

Methodology
The module will be structured along several types of teaching methodologies:
1. Lectures in the first part of the sessions.
2. Seminars on the analysis of readings and case studies in the second part of the sessions.
3. Follow-up tuitions.
4. Possibility of presentations by students (to be agreed with the professors).

Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type: Directed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities in the classroom</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>1, 5, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other training activities</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>2.72</td>
<td>1, 5, 3, 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Assessment

The evaluation of the module will be based on the following two aspects:

1) Attendance to the sessions (which is compulsory) and active participation in class, especially with regard to the discussion on compulsory readings (20% of the final grade).

2) An essay of 5000 words (80% of the final grade). This essay must conform to the following guidelines:

   1. In general, it will have to follow the structure of an academic paper.
   2. The topic must have been previously agreed with one of the professors of the module, who will assess the essay.
   3. The topic should be related to the module's contents and / or compulsory readings.
   4. The essay may consist, if applicable, on the theoretical part of the master's final thesis.
   5. The essay's main thesis should be supported with arguments and relevant evidence; "opinion" or impressionistic essays will not be accepted.
   6. Formal incorrectness in the presentation of the work (writing, spelling, bibliographic citations, etc.) may be a reason for fail.

Assessment Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance to sessions and active participation in class</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1, 5, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1, 5, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bibliography

Apart from the compulsory readings referenced in the contents section, students may use the following supplementary materials:

Part 1. Income guarantee policies and distributive justice

Gargarella, Roberto y Ovejero, Félix (comps.) (2001). Razones para el socialismo (Barcelona, Paidós).


Part 2. Family policies and welfare regimes.


