Redistribution Policies and Comparative Welfare States

Code: 42717
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree
Type
Year
Semester
4313228 Social Policy, Employment and Welfare
OT
0
2

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

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Use of Languages
Principal working language: spanish (spa)

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 three key issues:

1) The theoretical/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, its comparative study in different countries, and the different alternatives to existing policies.
3) The place of these principles and policies in different welfare regimes, in connection with the social-scientific debate on their socio-historical configuration.

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

Session 1. Distributive justice and redistribution policies

Reading:

Session 2. Equality and redistribution

Reading:

Session 3. Redistribution, predistribution, and the welfare state
Distributive justice and the welfare state. Typical problems of institutional design and redistributive policies. Income guarantee policies and the tax system. Predistribution and redistribution. Social investment.

Reading:

Session 4. Universalism vs targeting in redistributive policies
Universalism vs. targeting. Does (and should) the welfare state benefit the worst-off? Means-testing and other targeting methods. The debate on Korpi and Palme's "paradox of redistribution". Targeting within universalism.

Reading:

Session 5. Income guarantee policies against poverty
Readings:


Session 6. Recent reforms and alternative proposals in income guarantee policy.

Main reforms of income guarantee policies. Tax-benefit integration. Workfare and in-work benefits; tax credits and wage supplements. Beyond conditionality: guaranteed income, universal basic income, and negative income tax. The income guarantee policy responses to the Covid-19 pandemics.

Readings:


Session 7. Preferences for redistribution and social perceptions of distributive justice.

Our intuitive ideas about distributive justice. Strong reciprocity. Research on attitudes toward the welfare state. Main findings. Determinants of social support for income guarantee and redistributive policies.

Reading:


Session 8. Behavioural revolution in the social sciences and redistributive policies

Experimental research on heuristics and biases. Prosocial motivations and support for redistribution. The framing of income guarantee policies. Nudging applied to income guarantee policies. Deservingness heuristics.

Reading:


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 professor).

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.
Activities

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

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

1) Oral presentation, attendance to the sessions (which is compulsory) and active participation in class, especially with regard to the discussion on compulsory readings (50% of the final grade).

2) An essay of 5000 words (50% 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 the professors of the module.
   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>
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<td>Essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>active participation in class</td>
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Bibliography

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


Software

Provided by UAB