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Course Description

This course explores the origin and expansion of welfare in the developed and developing countries. The concept of welfare regime will go beyond the concept of ‘welfare state’ and a special focus will be given to how the politics of welfare expansion supplements the survival of political regimes.

To start, the course will introduce students to a broad understanding of the concepts, measurements and theoretical approaches and debates regarding welfare development. It will then move on to focusing on specific regions across the globe so that students can develop in-depth understanding of the politics of welfare with a comparative perspective. While the second half of the course is designed based on different regions, each reading is grounded in the theoretical framework introduced at the beginning of the course. As a result, the second half of the course will help students develop their own perspective on the application of welfare theories and how well they explain the country cases.

The main goals of the course are to provide important concepts and theoretical and empirical understanding about the politics of welfare so that students can address these questions:

- What are the important questions about welfare policy and why they are inescapable in anyone’s life?
- What is the role of the state and non-state actors for one’s access to welfare provision?
- Are democracies any better than autocracies in ensuring welfare provision and outcomes?
- How welfare policy should adapt to the post-industrial world and what are the challenges and trade-offs?

Grading and Assignments

Participation 15%

Every student is expected to read the assigned readings in advance and participate constructively during the online seminar. The online seminar will use Blackboard Collaborate platform on Quercus. I will consider if a student needs special accommodation due to unreliable access to internet. The students are not required to use a webcam during the online session.
Weekly Reading Summary 15%
Every student is expected to submit a total of three reading summaries (5% each) throughout the course. A student can choose the (bi-weekly) readings they are willing to summarize. The written summary should be one-page (single-spaced) maximum. It must be submitted through Quercus 24 hours before the class. The summary should outline the main arguments of the readings and provide three questions for discussion during the class. The class discussion will start with the student’s summary.

Essay Proposal 15%
Each student will submit a final paper proposal by the assigned due date. It will be an opportunity for the students to discuss and improve their research topic and approaches before the submission of the final paper. The proposal will include the research question, theoretical framework and rationales for selection of two comparative cases.

Case Study Presentation 20%
Each student is expected to present welfare policy developments of their chosen country cases starting from the end of 3rd week. Each presentation will last 15 minutes. The presentation will take place online using the Blackboard Collaborate platform. The students are not required to use a webcam during the online presentation.

Essay 35%
The students will submit the final essay which will be developed based on essay proposal and case study presentation. The essay will have 2500 word-limit.

Lecture Topics & Schedule

Week 1: Introduction, Concept & Measurement


Recommended:


**Week 1: Inequality & Welfare**


*Recommended:*


**Week 2: Theoretical Debates - Regime Type & Convergence**


*Recommended:*


**Week 2: Globalization & Welfare**


Recommended:


**Week 3: Power Resource Theory & Welfare**


Recommended:

Regional Focus + Presentations

Week 3: Latin America


*Recommended:*


Week 4: Post-Communist States


*Recommended:*

Jones Luong, Pauline. 2014. “Empowering Local Communities and Enervating the State? Foreign Oil Companies as Public Goods Providers in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.” In *The

**Week 4: East Asia**


*Recommended:*


**Week 5: South & Southeast Asia**


*Recommended:*

**Week 5: Europe & North America**


**Recommended:**


**Week 6: Middle East & Africa**


Harris, Kevan. 2013. Chapter 3: “A martyrs’ welfare state and its contradictions: regime resilience and limits through the lens of social policy in Iran” in Steven Heydemann and Reinoud


Recommended:

“How Africa is creating welfare states: Africa is stitching together social safety-nets even though it is still poor” in *The Economist*. Feb 21, 2019.

Week 6 Conclusion

