1. **Name of Course:** The Welfare State in a Comparative Perspective

2. **Lecturer:** Júlia Szalai

3. **No. of Credits:** 2

4. **Semester:** 2012/2013 Fall Semester (September 17, 2012 – December 7, 2012)

5. **Any other required elements of the department:**
The course is cross-listed by the Department of Public Policy, the Department of International Relations and European Studies, the Nationalism Studies Program, and the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology.

6. **Course Level:**

7. **Brief introduction to the course:**
The aim of the course is to provide an introduction to the conceptualization of the modern welfare state from the three distinct perspectives of citizenship, historicity, and institutional structure. The evolution of the major institutions of the welfare state will be considered in the context of the historically changing social class, ethnic, and gender relations, and the role of these, often intersecting, relations will be pointed out in informing contemporary struggles for recognition and redistribution. By applying a dynamic approach, the emergence of the three classic types of the liberal, corporatist-conservative, and social democratic welfare states will be introduced in a comparative perspective. Finally, by translating the developed analytical tools to the case of the post-communist welfare states, the issue of convergence vs. divergence toward/from the three classical welfare state formations will be brought up for discussion.

By considering the interplay among the state, the market, and the prevailing class, ethnic and gender relations in shaping the major institutions of welfare distribution, the course contributes to develop a political economy approach in understanding the forging of the modern welfare states. Further, with a focus on the encounters between the state and civil society, a broadened political science view is introduced for conceptualizing citizenship and for considering its far-reaching implications for the working of the democratic polity.

8. **The goals of the course:**
The aim of the course is to provide an introduction to the conceptualization of the modern welfare state from the three distinct perspectives of citizenship, historicity, and institutional structure. Departure will be taken from the founding values of equality, social justice, freedom and solidarity, and the embodiment of these values will be investigated by looking at the socio-political construct of (inclusive) citizenship as the cornerstone of rights and entitlements for access to social security and welfare redistribution in general. The evolution of the major institutions of the welfare state will be considered in the context of the historically changing social class, ethnic, and gender relations and the role of these relations will be pointed out in informing contemporary
struggles for recognition and redistribution. The outlining of the historical landscape of the varying contents of citizenship will lead us to understand in a comparative perspective the emergence of the three major types of the liberal, the conservative-corporatist and the social democratic welfare regimes. Combating poverty as one of the fundamental missions of the welfare state will be looked at through the lens of regime typology, and this way the distinctive institutional structures characteristic for the three ideal-type regimes will be scrutinized. Dilemmas of universalism, targeting, subsidiarity, cross-class solidarity, and certain issues of labor market participation will be discussed in this context. A different angle of comparison will be provided by looking at certain policy-areas (family policy, tackling unemployment, anti-poverty measures, etc.) and explore the potentials and limitations behind the departing choices as ones that are “captivated” by path dependency, the intersectionality of class, ethnicity, and gender as amalgamated into the prevailing power relations, and the givens of the existing institutional structure. In the last part of the course, the post-communist welfare states will be looked at from the above trinity of perspectives: citizenship, historicity, and institutional structure. Besides demonstrating some consequences of the conflicts of class, ethnicity, and gender on shaping the welfare states of the CEE region, certain challenges of globalization and the issue of convergence vs. divergence toward/from the three classical welfare state formations will be brought up for discussion.

9. The learning outcomes of the course:

Participants of the course will gain an insight into the historical, institutional and structural dimensions of comparative welfare state analysis. Further, they will acquire a set of methodological tools for comparatively analyzing and assessing certain policies and measures in light of their impact on inequalities, poverty, gender and racial/ethnic relations. By writing their short essays/reviews, students’ skills in critically examining different schools of thoughts will be enhanced and their ability in writing high-quality literary reviews will be developed. Through active participation in the weekly discussions in class, students will acquire skills in orally presenting given scholarly arguments and defending their own standpoints in debates. By accomplishing their final essay, they will demonstrate capabilities in translating theoretical values to policies and in assessing policy outcomes against their implications on social and institutional relations.

10. More detailed display of contents:

By taking its departure from the classic works of T. H. Marshall, Keith Banting, Will Kymlicka, Ann Orloff, Anne Phillips, and Bhikhu Parekh on citizenship (multicultural citizenship), and Richard Titmuss, Gosta Esping-Andersen, Theda Skocpol, Nancy Fraser, Ian Gough, and Amartya Sen on the history of the welfare states, this course intends to show how the modalities of the modern welfare state have emerged in result of the ongoing historical struggles for recognition and redistribution, on the one hand, and also as responses to the important shifts in the socio-economic and demographic conditions in the industrial and post-industrial societies, on the other. The course will discuss these developments by pointing to the gradual alterations of the content of citizenship as the key foundation of rights and entitlements for shares from the broadly understood welfare of society.
A discussion of the embodiments of the changes of the content of inclusive citizenship into the institutional structures of the varied welfare state formations will provide the ground for analyzing the role of path dependency in limiting institutional and policy-innovations. At the same time, by looking at the encounters between the state and civil society as forged by the intersectionality of the prevailing class, ethnic, and gender relations, the scope and the actual mechanisms of meaningful institutional reforms also will be introduced.

By combining the historical, structural, and institutional approaches, an analytical typology of the modern welfare states will be provided. In the last part of the course, the post-communist welfare states will be scrutinized in a historical perspective and also by pointing to their structural departures when compared to the classical formations.

After presenting the core theories and concepts, the course will introduce a multifaceted welfare state analysis through an in-depth discussion of certain key policy-areas. The actual choice of the areas will be made upon a discussion with students so that enough room will remain for individual preferences.

The course will combine lectures, seminars, and in-class topical workshops based on cooperative group-work. Following the instructor’s brief introduction of the topic and questions, certain core issues and dilemmas brought up by the weekly readings will be discussed in seminars in class. Further, a bundle of chosen policy-dilemmas will be processed and presented together with a set of supportive and counter-indicative arguments in workshops run by small groups of students.

**Week by week break-down:**

**Week 1**

**Introduction: What is the welfare state?**

On this first occasion, an introductory overview of the historically changing conceptualization of the welfare state is provided. Constituents like universal provision of social services and people’s democratic rights for access to state-provided benefits are examined in their historically and geographically changing actual formations. Conflicting conservative, liberal and socialist approaches to the concept of individual vs. collective responsibility are assessed in the context of shaping competing welfare state arrangements.

**Compulsory reading:**

Asa Briggs (1961), 'The Welfare State in Historical Perspective', *Archives Européennes de Sociologie*, II, 221-58

**Recommended reading:**

**Week 2**

Basic values and their conflicts in real-world welfare states

The value foundations of the welfare state are considered. Changing interpretations of the notions of individual freedom, equality (of opportunities and/or of outcomes), economic efficiency, basic needs, and social cohesion are discussed and their conflicting implications for actual welfare state regimes are explored.

**Compulsory readings:**


**Recommended readings:**


**Week 3**

The foundation of the welfare state: citizenship

The development from universally granted civil rights through political rights to social rights in their modern understanding is outlined. The discussion covers the most frequently occurring conflicts around multicultural citizenship as they manifest themselves in the contemporary welfare states – East and West.

**Compulsory readings:**


**Week 4**

*The rise of the welfare state: a historical account*

Key antecedences of the post-war welfare states are addressed in an outline of the historical factors behind the evolution from the old poor law-arrangements to the foundation of social security regimes. The welfare implications of the recurrent economic crises and the two world wars are shown in concluding in new philosophies and novel institutional arrangements for maintaining the prevailing power relations and social cohesion with one and the same momentum.

*Compulsory readings:*


**Week 5**

*Three worlds of welfare capitalism: approaches to a regime typology*

A critical discussion of Esping-Andersen’s famous threefold typology of the liberal, conservative-corporatist and social democratic welfare states reveals commonalities and historically informed key differences among the three ideal types of modern welfare states. A discussion of certain important, though initially omitted factors in testing the typology against empirical evidence reveals the strength and limitations of the original classification in meaningfully comprehending the variations of welfare state regimes in a global context.

*Compulsory readings:*


*Recommended reading:*

Week 6

Poverty and the welfare state: dilemmas, policies, measures

Competing conceptualizations of poverty are introduced together with their diverse implications on applied measures for poverty alleviation. A set of widely applied universal as opposed to means-tested programs are scrutinized from the perspectives of targeting, efficiency and social justice.

Compulsory readings:


Recommended readings:


Week 7

Issues of gender in the context of the welfare state

Gender relations in their embedding in the three classical types of welfare state are overviewed. Intersections of class and gender are introduced, and some consequences on social rights are explored. Trends of women’s extended labor market participation are discussed in the context of alternative family policies and also in their implications on income distribution.

Compulsory readings:


**Week 8**

**Issues of race and ethnicity in the context of the welfare state**

Racial and ethnic relations in their functions in shaping the modern welfare states are overviewed, with particular emphasis on the implications of widespread migration. Intersections of class and race/ethnicity are introduced, and some consequences on social rights are explored. Dilemmas that arise from the conflicts between the prevailing political order (the nation-state) and the racially/ethnically informed needs of a large part of European citizenry are discussed in the context of current welfare state reforms.

**Compulsory readings:**


**Recommended reading:**


**Week 9**

**Social movements: struggles for recognition and redistribution**

Issues of collective and individual identity, their relational aspects and the needs for identity recognition are discussed in the contexts of recognition struggles and identity politics, respectively. Some theoretical and empirical implications of the interrelatedness of struggles for recognition and redistribution are explored. Certain consequences as manifested in democratic discourse on multiculturalism are overviewed.

**Compulsory readings:**


Recommended reading:

**Week 10**

*On the post-communist welfare states: a rising new world of welfare capitalism?*

The long-term impact of state-socialism on the development of the post-communist welfare states is explored in the key areas of welfare state formation (implications on social stratification; characteristics of the labor market; institutional aspects). Certain fundamental features of the post-communist welfare state are assessed against Esping-Andersen’s classical threefold classification. Reasons behind the rise of bifurcated welfare regimes are overviewed.

Compulsory readings:


Recommended reading:

**Week 11**

*Globalization and Europeanization: toward a unifying model of the welfare state?*

Conflicts arising from the global character of economic development and the strong commitments of governments to provide welfare within the given framework of the nation-state are discussed and attempts at bridging the prevailing conflicts are overviewed. The role of supranational organizations in (re)shaping national welfare arrangements is introduced, and the complex nature of confronting/uniting interests is assessed.

Compulsory readings:
Claus Offe (2004): Social Protection in a Supranational Context. European Integration and the Fates of the „European Social Model“. Berlin: Humboldt University, mimeo


Recommended reading:

**Week 12**

**Summary of the course: open discussion and preparation for the final essays**

The closing session is devoted to an open discussion of the themes that the course has brought up. The discussion is open to the students’ interests and enquiries as earlier expressed either in writing or orally. It is also aimed to provide assistance to writing up the final essays.

11. **Assessment:**

Given the outstanding role of in-class discussions and workshop-type cooperative work in running the course, active participation in the discourses is a significant constituent of the final grading. In addition to their oral contributions, students will be expected to write three short (700-1000 words) discussion papers and/or review essays. On the basis of the short lectures, in-class discussions and the literature, these papers will elaborate on some key topics of the course and/or provide a summary of certain readings and develop critical comments to them. Terms of these papers will be provided in advance, and feedback will be given in class on the week after submission. As an alternative, students can opt for writing only one short essay and prepare a longer presentation on a chosen piece of the literature that will be offered for this particular purpose. Further, students will be expected to write a final essay of a length of 3000–3500 words. Optional topics and the detailed requirements of this essay will be distributed in advance. Feedback (together with the final grading) will be given individually through electronic communication.

Components of the final grading will be the following:

– Active participation in the weekly discussions and workshops: 25%
– Three short essays/reviews – or, alternatively, one short essay+individual presentation: 35%
– Final essay: 40%

12. **Other information:**
Office hour: By prior appointment, on Mondays between 16:00 and 17:00, in FT Room 2005.

Dates for submitting the short essays/reviews and for individual presentations will be fixed in advance in class. Submission deadline of the final essay: January 6, 2013. Feedback and final grading will be given individually, latest by January 20, 2013.