

Course Title: Welfare States In the Face of the Challenges of Globalization and Migration

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Target Audience: The course is a selective two modules course for first-year students of the Master Program on International Relations (European and Asian Studies) at the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs. It is taught in English.

Course Description (*no less than 200 words*)

- Aims

The course is aimed at providing a systematic understanding of the challenges facing by the welfare states in affluent and emerging economies, and of the directions of the transformation of the welfare states around the world in XXI century.

Based on comparative and dynamic perspectives, this course examines the key issues of social policy and challenges toward social development faced by developed and developing countries around the world. It begins with a look at the concept of social risks and the need of welfare as well as the emergence of the idea of welfare state. It briefly discusses the history of welfare states development and their diversity and analyzes that from different theoretical perspectives (functionalism, institutionalism, political economy theories). These analytical tools are then applied to the post-communist and late industrialized welfare states and to the explaining of the future of welfare states in the world in XXI century. The course examines the prospects of convergence of social models in the affluent and emerging economies.

A substantial part of the course is devoted to the analysis of different challenges facing by modern welfare states, including demographic (aging, migration), economic (post-industrial development, globalization) and social (social citizenship, new gender roles, new social risks and the problem of social exclusion) processes. The variety of national answers to these challenges is considered in the light of political and economic theories introduced earlier.

In addition to this macro-perspective of welfare state analysis the course offer a brief look at the micro-level analysis of social policy, including the issues of who pay for social programs, who provide social benefits and services, who benefit from it, and what are the distributional consequences of different social programs.

- Course as a part of the study programme, brief analysis of the course in comparison to Russian and foreign academic experience

- Prerequisites

Students should have a basic knowledge of at least one social science (economics, sociology, political science or demographics) and English. They should be able reading literature on social issues in English.

- Intended Learning Outcomes

The successful development of the course will enable students to improve their general skills

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of oral presentations and the ability to participate in a discussion on a given topic in English. They will improve their critical reading and critical thinking skills and develop abilities to analyze legal documents, as well as analyze and interpret statistical data.

The course program aims to give students a deeper knowledge of current theories of the emergence, transformation and diversity of welfare states in the developed and emerging economies of Europe, America and Asia. It will provide deeper understanding of the socio-political, institutional, economic and demographic factors that influence the formation and the dynamics of different models of social policy, and a subtle understanding of the role of global processes in the transformation of modern welfare states.

Upon completion of the course students will understand the economic and political arguments for and against of a particular social reform, will be able to critically analyze social policies in terms of their ability to solve social problems and meet the challenges of the future social and economic development, will acquire practical skills of analytical work on the study of social processes, the effectiveness of national social policies and the comparative analysis of models of social policy.

- The method of teaching

The course uses the following methods and forms of study: (a) lectures, (b) seminars, (c) written home assignments, and (d) self-study.

- Assessment/s

The grade is based on written home assignments and participation in the seminars (60% together), class participation (10%), and a final written examination in the form of test (30%).

Course Outline

№№	Topics	Course Hours	Academic/Contact Hours		Self-study Hours
			Lectures	Seminars	
	Social risks and social policies, the idea and concept of welfare state	5	2	0	3
	Welfare state outcomes, distributional impacts of different social policies	10	2	2	6
	Emergence and development of welfare states in early and late industrialized countries: theoretical explanations	12	4	2	6
	Welfare state regimes typology and diversity of welfare states	23	4	10	9

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	Demographic challenges to welfare states	14	4	4	6
	Post-industrial development, globalization and the future of welfare states in XXI century	14	4	4	6
	Is convergence between welfare states possible? New directions of social reforms and the role of international actors	9	4	2	3
	In sum:	86	24	24	38