

Department.: Political Science

Course number: 3214W

Title: Comparative Social Policy

Credits: 3

Contact Person: Oksan Bayulgen

Content Area : None

Competency Group : W only

Catalog Copy: POLS 3214. Comparative Social Policy Either semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: POLS 1202 or 1207 or consent of instructor. Open to sophomores or higher. Recommended preparation: coursework in economics and sociology is desirable but not required.

Institutional structures of modern welfare states, including systems of social insurance, healthcare, and education. Assessment of leading political explanations for their growth and cross-national differences among them.

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Course Information :

a)The course is designed to integrate descriptive and analytical elements of the study of social policy. Students learn about the diverse organizational details of the government's role in several major social policies—e.g., health care, social insurance, education and employment—in a selected group of countries. As they learning about these institutions, the course outlines the major explanations for why social policies have come to play large, yet diverse, roles around the world.

b)

c)National Health Care Systems, National Pension Systems, Unemployment INsruance, Modernization Theory, Effects of Political Constitutions on Policy

d) n/a

How Meets Goals of Gen Ed .:

W Criteria:

1. The W variant of the course will utilize the core thematic material of the course in combination with an analytical research paper. This will include an abbreviated amount of substantive material (e.g., fewer social policies examples or fewer countries investigated) combined with explicit instruction during class time (approximately one-third of the total) in the design and writing of an academic research paper, that evaluates a thesis based on data on at least two countries. Students are required to write their research papers on topics that either a) relate directly to themes addressed in the rest of the course, or b) address another important social policy.

2. The course devotes approximately 1/3 of the class time to writing instruction. Part of this is formal instruction on the elements of an empirical research paper, and strategies for selecting questions, conducting a literature review, developing a research design, and carrying out the analysis. (These steps are reinforced by the use of appropriate academic papers as substantive teaching material.) Students receive written commentary from peers and the instructor at three different stages of the paper-writing process, and submit revised papers based on those comments.

3. Students turn in three drafts over the course of the semester. Each draft is a more complete version of the final paper. Revisions to all previous sections of the paper are allowed at each stage. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor outside of class to discuss strategy and revisions.

4. The syllabus will inform students that they must pass the W component to pass the course.