



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

**WPMP01, Political Science: Welfare Regimes in Transition -
Comparative Perspectives on Policies, Management and
Reform, 15 credits**

*Political Science: Welfare Regimes in Transition - Comparative
Perspectives on Policies, Management and Reform, 15
högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2011-11-08 to be valid from 2011-11-17, spring semester 2012.

General Information

The course is the introductory course for programme Master of Science (Two Years) in Welfare Policies and Management.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Political Science

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student should be able to

Knowledge and understanding

identify, understand and reflect on problems related to the complexity of welfare systems

identify and evaluate major changes within welfare systems

Competence and skills

compare social policies, institutions and structures in welfare regimes

critically examine theories related to welfare regimes, the state and welfare rescaling, and welfare management

formulate and analyse links between theory and practice concerning social policy, inclusion and exclusion

formulate a research problem and carry out a minor scientific study in the field of welfare politics and management

communicate scientific issues and follow the development of knowledge in the field of welfare and management.

Course content

The aim of the course is to introduce analytical tools that will enhance students' ability to pursue advanced studies on the organization of welfare politics in a comparative perspective. This is an interdisciplinary course where theories and perspectives from social policy and social work, sociology, and political science contribute to give a wide-ranging understanding of welfare traditions and transitions in a global context. The interdisciplinary approach is used throughout the course; hence, the main themes are all problematised and reflected on from different theoretical perspectives. Although many of the empirical examples used in the course are from a European context, theories and patterns of institutionalization of welfare policy are continuously related to global transformations.

The course addresses three main issues related to welfare regimes and their transitions:

a) Welfare Regimes

During the first part of the course welfare regimes are discussed on an abstract level with the objective of giving a broad understanding of the research field. Different categorizations of welfare systems are discussed. Normative foundations of welfare politics, theories of rights, in particular duties and equality, are emphasized. Normative theories as well as organizing principles of social policies are related to theoretical models of democracy and citizenship.

b) State and Welfare Rescaling, Activation

The spatial dimension of state welfare regulation is portrayed as a delicate structure that is permanently subject to rescaling processes in the course of which new, multi-scalar structures of state organization, political authority and socio-economic regulation emerge. We currently observe an increased importance of scales of intervention and regulation other than at the national level, while new, non-national forms of statehood appear to correspond to increasingly open economies. These processes will be studied through the example of the European Monetary Union and the European Employment Strategy, due to which a great deal of state responsibilities that used to be carried out at the national level have been 'up-scaled' to the European level. At the same time, other formerly national state authorities have been 'down-scaled' towards local and regional levels. The concept of activation hints at the concomitant new definition of the contractual relationship between the state and the individual in the areas of welfare rights and employment regulation. In the new social contract, it is the individual's duty to look for work and to improve his or her adaptability to the demands of the labour market, while the state encourages and supports labour market activity of those economically 'inactive' persons willing and able to take up a job.

c) Welfare Management

This part of the course examines how local public are designed, managed and changing in different welfare systems. Principles of corporate governance and democratic accountability will be examined. Tendencies of privatization within public services through outsourcing both to private enterprises and the voluntary sector will be examined, as well as the commodification of services. The shaping and packaging of services into marketable items will be analyzed in relation to their impact on the management of public policy. Different areas of managing community care, where local authorities are primarily responsible for assessing need and coordinating care in the community, will be used to demonstrate welfare management difficulties and solutions.

Course design

Teaching is in the form of lectures and group discussions. Students are expected to attend lectures and to participate actively in seminar discussions. The language of instruction is English; lectures and seminars are conducted in English, and examinations and students' course papers are written in English.

Assessment

Assessment will be based on:

- oral presentations and active participation in seminars
- an individually written paper.

Examinations will be scheduled during the academic year only. Two opportunities for re-examination will be offered after the end of the course.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

This interdisciplinary course builds on previous studies in Social Sciences. To be eligible to apply for the course the student must have at least 150 credits, including three terms (1-90 credits) of studies in one discipline in Social Sciences, Economics and Management, social science-oriented disciplines in Humanities, or have another equivalent educational background.

A high level of proficiency in the English language is necessary. English language proficiency demonstrated in one of the following ways: IELTS score (Academic) of 6.0 or more (with none of the sections scoring less than 5.0), TOEFL score of 550 or more (computer based test 213, internet based 79), Cambridge/Oxford - Advanced or Proficiency level, O level/GCSE, or having a Bachelor's Degree from a university where English is the ONLY language of instruction, according to the latest edition of International Handbook of Universities, or having received a passing grade in English course B (Swedish secondary school).

Subcourses in WPMP01, Political Science: Welfare Regimes in Transition -
Comparative Perspectives on Policies, Management and Reform

Applies from V12

1101 Course Paper, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A