

COURSE OUTLINE

(1) GENERAL

SCHOOL	ECONOMICS, BUSINESS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES		
ACADEMIC UNIT	ECONOMICS		
LEVEL OF STUDIES	GRADUATE		
COURSE CODE		SEMESTER	
COURSE TITLE	Economic Aspects of Social Policy		
INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES <i>if credits are awarded for separate components of the course, e.g. lectures, laboratory exercises, etc. If the credits are awarded for the whole of the course, give the weekly teaching hours and the total credits</i>		WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS	CREDITS
lectures		30	6
Add rows if necessary. The organisation of teaching and the teaching methods used are described in detail at (d).			
COURSE TYPE general background, special background, specialised general knowledge, skills development	Special background		
PREREQUISITE COURSES:			
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS:	Greek		
IS THE COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	No		
COURSE WEBSITE (URL)			

(2) LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes

The course learning outcomes, specific knowledge, skills and competences of an appropriate level, which the students will acquire with the successful completion of the course are described.

Consult Appendix A

- Description of the level of learning outcomes for each qualifications cycle, according to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area
- Descriptors for Levels 6, 7 & 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and Appendix B
- Guidelines for writing Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will acquire knowledge, skills, and responsibility/autonomy as follows:

Knowledge

- Understanding of what the welfare state, the social protection system, and social policy are
- Awareness of the factors that contributed to and influenced the formation and

development of the welfare state

- Insight into the crisis and transformation of the welfare state
- Knowledge of new trends in social policy
- Understanding of how the subsystems of social protection operate (pensions, employment, migration, poverty and inequalities, health, and housing)
- Familiarity with the basic economic principles governing its operation of social policy

Skills

- Ability to analyze issues related to the financing and effectiveness of social programs using economic tools
- Ability to evaluate social policy programs
- Ability to assess the economic impact of different social protection policies
- Ability to compare different models of social policy at national and international levels
- Ability to use statistical and economic data to support social policy proposals

Responsibility & Autonomy

By attending the course, students are expected to propose solutions for improving the efficiency and sustainability of social policies based on economic criteria. They will develop critical thinking and autonomy in analyzing reforms within social protection subsystems. They will be able to formulate well-founded proposals for the reform of the welfare state and social policy based on economic and social data. In this way, they will be equipped to contribute to academic knowledge and practice, while also measuring performance in terms of outcomes.

General Competences

Taking into consideration the general competences that the degree-holder must acquire (as these appear in the Diploma Supplement and appear below), at which of the following does the course aim?

Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information, with the use of the necessary technology	Project planning and management
Adapting to new situations	Respect for difference and multiculturalism
Decision-making	Respect for the natural environment
Working independently	Showing social, professional and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues
Team work	Criticism and self-criticism
Working in an international environment	Production of free, creative and inductive thinking
Working in an interdisciplinary environment	
Production of new research ideas	Others...
	

- Analysis and synthesis of data and information, using the necessary technologies
- Independent work
- Teamwork
- Decision-making
- Adaptation to new situations

(3)SYLLABUS

Week 1: Theories on the Development of the Welfare State – Welfare State Models (USA, Australia, Europe)

- Key theories: functionalist, Marxist, neo-institutionalist
- Historical conditions that led to the development of the welfare state
- Welfare state models: liberal, conservative-corporatist, social-democratic
- Differences in the levels of social protection between the USA, Australia, and Europe
- Influence of economic development and social mobilization

Week 2: The Economic Impact of the Welfare State

- The impact of the welfare state on public spending and taxation
- Income redistribution and reduction of inequalities
- Incentives and disincentives for work and saving
- Effects on macroeconomic stability
- Long-term consequences for economic growth

Week 3: Welfare State and Economic Efficiency

- Cost–benefit analysis of social programs
- The concept of efficiency in social policy
- The trade-off between equality and efficiency
- The role of targeted versus universal social policies
- Factors influencing the sustainability of social expenditures

Week 4: The Crisis of the Welfare State and the Challenges It Creates – Transforming the Welfare State

- Demographic and economic pressures on social systems
- New social risks and changing protection needs
- From a “passive” to an “active” welfare state
- Privatization and decentralization of social services
- The challenge of balancing social justice with fiscal discipline

Week 5: Economic Analysis of the Pension System

- Pay-as-you-go and fully funded pension schemes
- Factors affecting pension sustainability
- Incentives for labor market participation or early exit
- Pension system reforms and their implications
- Population aging and macroeconomic consequences

Week 6: Economic Analysis of the Welfare System: Poverty, Inequality, and Income Redistribution

- Measuring poverty and social inequalities
- Anti-poverty policies (minimum guaranteed income, etc.)

- Evaluation of redistribution policies: effectiveness and efficiency
- Relationship between economic development and social cohesion
- Theoretical redistribution models (Rawls, Nozick, etc.)

Week 7: Economic Analysis of Unemployment and Employment Policies

- Types of unemployment and their economic impact
- Passive and active labor market policies
- The cost of unemployment to the state and society
- Relationship between the labor market and social protection
- Training programs and employment subsidies

Week 8: Migration and Social Policy

- Economic impact of migration on welfare states
- Migrants' access to social protection services
- Integration and exclusion in social policies
- Social inequalities and discrimination based on nationality
- Fiscal consequences and policy concerns

Week 9: Economic Analysis of the Health System – Reforming the Health System

- Health system financing structures (taxation, contributions, private funding)
- Efficiency and equity in the provision of health services
- Cost issues and the need for reforms
- The role of technology and innovation
- Comparative evaluation of different national health systems

Week 10: Welfare State and Housing Policy

- Housing as a social good and economic right
- Public housing policies: subsidies, social housing
- Housing access issues and social exclusion
- Tax policies and the real estate market
- Economic crises and their impact on housing security

(4)TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

DELIVERY <i>Face-to-face, Distance learning, etc.</i>	Distance Learning	
USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY <i>Use of ICT in teaching, laboratory education, communication with students</i>	• Use of ICT in teaching • Use of eClass for communication with students and provision of research material for the social policy assignment	
TEACHING METHODS <i>The manner and methods of teaching are described in detail. Lectures, seminars, laboratory practice, fieldwork, study and analysis of bibliography, tutorials, placements, clinical practice, art workshop, interactive teaching, educational visits, project, essay writing, artistic creativity, etc.</i> <i>The student's study hours for each learning activity are given as well as the hours of non-directed study according to the principles of the ECTS</i>	Activity	Semester workload
	Lectures	30 hours
	Case Study Responses	30 hours
	Study	55 hours
	Development of a Social Policy Proposal	65 hours
	Exams	3 hours
	Total Course Hours	183 hours
STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION <i>Description of the evaluation procedure</i> <i>Language of evaluation, methods of evaluation, summative or conclusive, multiple choice questionnaires, short-answer questions, open-ended questions, problem solving, written work, essay/report, oral examination, public presentation, laboratory work, clinical examination of patient, art interpretation, other</i> <i>Specifically-defined evaluation criteria are given, and if and where they are accessible to students.</i>	Student assessment is conducted in Greek and is based 50% on written examination and demonstrated critical thinking (40% written exam and 10% participation during lectures), and 50% on the completion of an individual or group assignment.	
	The written examination includes multiple-choice questions. During each teaching unit, students are prepared with similar topics so that they are familiar with the assessment method.	

	The assignments focus on topics related to social policy. On the first day of lectures, students will be informed in detail about the assessment method and the proposed social policy topics for the individual or group assignment.
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(5) ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Suggested Bibliography:

1. Chletsos, M. (2011). *The Economics of Social Protection*, Patakis Publications
2. Papatheodorou, Ch., & Sakellaropoulos, Th. (Eds.). (2020). *The Economics of Social Policy*. Athens: Dionikos
3. Barr, N. (2004). *Economics of the Welfare State*, Oxford University Press

Additional Textbooks:

1. Sakellaropoulos, Th., Oikonomou, Ch., Skamnakis, Ch., Angelaki, M. (Eds.). (2018). *Social Policy*. Athens: Dionikos
2. Barr, N. (2001). *The Welfare State as Piggy Bank: Information, Risk, Uncertainty and the Role of the State*
3. Atkinson, A.B. (1999). *The Economic Consequences of Rolling Back the Welfare State*, The MIT Press

Relevant Academic Journals:

1. *Journal of Social Policy*
2. *Social Policy & Administration*
3. *International Journal of Social Welfare*