

Progressive and Regressive Welfare States

TR 10:30-11:50

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Office Hours: Tuesday 9-10:20 EST

Course Objectives:

The welfare state, or the system of income transfers and social services supported by governments, is more than a collection of programs and policies. In this course, we'll learn that welfare states also define certain types of people as worthy or unworthy of full citizenship, and therefore produce patterns of racial and income inequality, shape people's life course, and structure the political imagination of beneficiaries. And states vary wildly in their capacity to translate politicians' rhetoric into such street-level outcomes. This makes the current moment of multiple crisis in the United States the perfect time to rethink the welfare state. This course will explore welfare states throughout the world in order to give you a better understanding of how public policies can both reduce inequities and sharpen divisions within society. And, since COVID-19 is sure to remain a pressing topic throughout the semester, we'll consider how differences in welfare states have led different nations to combat the virus and protect the economic and social wellbeing of citizens in different ways.

By the end of the course, you should have a clear sense of how public and private institutions in different nations interact to differentially protect and support particular types of citizens—and, by extension, be able to identify unique aspects of the American welfare state. We will achieve these learning objectives in three ways. We will begin by reading classics of political economy, political theory, and sociology that touch on the relationship between market, state, and social and racial inclusion and exclusion. We'll then read case studies of welfare policy and state capacity in the United States, social democratic Sweden, the conservative corporatist regimes of southern Europe, illiberal welfare states in Eastern Europe, corporatist regimes in Asia, South Africa's apartheid-era welfare state, and Brazil's welfare state. Finally, you'll work as part of a group to analyze a different nation of your choice, situate it vis-à-vis other welfare states, and identify how the capacity of the state has shaped the nation's response to COVID-19.

For the course, you will be expected to submit one response paragraph to the reading every two weeks (for 6 Total), write one traditional course paper, participate in three in-class presentations related to your group project, and write one final paper.

A note about remote learning:

Unfortunately, a traditional in-person semester is off the table—some of us can only participate in the course remotely, even classes held in hybrid format must hold some sessions remotely, and there's a chance that the university will need to transition to an all

remote format at some point during the semester. In that light, my approach to this semester has been to develop the best remote course possible. I hope to maximize interpersonal engagement by interspersing the lecture with remote in-class group exercises and via the sustained group. For this reason, you should try to attend the lectures synchronously, but I will also post recordings for those who are unable to make it to every lecture.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Response Paragraphs: 25% (5% each, dropping lowest grade)

First paper: 20%

In Class Presentations: 25%

Second Paper: 30%

The Assignments:

You will be expected to do four things for the course.

- 1) About halfway through the course on **October 19th**, you will turn in a paper (5-7 pages) that responds to one of two possible questions. The paper topics will focus on the degree to which the American welfare state is exceptional.
- 2) You will work with a group throughout the semester to analyze a single nation— first situating its welfare regime vis-à-vis those of other nations and next analyzing its strategy for protecting citizens in light of the COVID-19 crisis.
- 3) Every two weeks, you will write a response paragraph to the reading (6 total over the course of the semester). The aim of the paragraph is to identify a key point or issue in the reading and to make a debatable claim vis-à-vis the reading. Send the paragraph to me by 4pm the day before class (to pacewicz@brown.edu). I'll then group the paragraphs into themes and send them out to the class. Be prepared to raise similar issues in class discussion on the following day.
- 4) At the end of the course (**December 10th**), you will turn in a second paper (7-9) that synthesizes your research and those of other groups. The paper will focus on the degree to which typologies of welfare states are able to capture variety we have observed in the course.

I expect that you will spend 30 hours listening to the lectures, 10 hours weekly reading and preparing course materials, half an hour each of 6 response papers (3 total), 10 hours on the first paper, 6 hours preparing for the first in class presentation, and 15 on your final paper and presentation.

Bibliography:

All of the readings for the course are available on canvas as PDFs.

Schedule of Classes:

Week 1: Introductions

9/10: Introductions

Week 2: The Market

9/15: *Toxic Inequality* (Introduction, Chapters 1 & 4)

9/17: The Market

read Hayek (online) and Marx (online)

Week 3: Theories of the Welfare State

9/22: Polanyi

Read *The Great Transformation*

9/24: Typologies of the Welfare State

Read Esping-Anderson and Hall and Soskice

Week 4: The Limits of Social Citizenship

9/29: Race, Ethnicity, and the Welfare State

Read Dubois and Manza

10/1: Gender and the Welfare State

Read Skocpol, Orloff, and Pederson

Week 5: American Exceptionalism

10/6: The Three Great Wealth Transfers

Read Prasad's *The Land of Too Much*

10/8: Race and the Three World of Welfare

Read Fox's *Three Worlds of Welfare*

Week 6: Neoliberalism and State Retrenchment

10/13: Neoliberalism and Finance

Read Davis, Krippner, and Mudge

10/15: Case Study: Sweden

Read Schall's *The Rise and Fall of the Miraculous Welfare Machine*

10/19 Paper #1 Due by Email at 5pm. Email to pacewicz@brown.edu

Week 7: Case Studies

10/20 Discussion of Group Projects

10/22 Case Study: Germany

Read Articles on Canvas (4)

Week 9: Case Studies

10/27 Case Study: The Polish illiberal welfare state

Read Articles on canvas (5)

10/29 Japan

Read Articles on canvas (3)

Week 8: Case Studies

11/3 No Class

11/5 Sub-Saharan Africa (South Africa and Botswana)

Read Articles on canvas (3 on South Africa and 1 on Botswana)

Watch documentary “South African History: a Caste Divided,” which focuses on the history of the apartheid regime, especially part about “poor whites,” which starts an hour in: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvpg787SANG>

Week 10: In Class Presentations

11/10 In Class Presentations I

11/12 In Class Presentations II

Week 11: State Capacity

11/17: State Capacity

Read Scott, Weber, and McDonnell

11/19: State Capacity in the United States: the divided and delegated welfare state

Read Hacker on the *Divided Welfare State*; Campbell and Morgan on *the Delegated Welfare State*

Week 12: Public Health

11/24: Public Health

Read Nathanson on *Disease Prevention as Social Change*

11/26 No Class

Week 13: Final Presentations

12/2: final presentations I

12/4: final presentations II

12/10 Paper #2 Due at 5pm. Email to pacewicz@brown.edu