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

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***