

Course syllabus for ERASMUS+ incoming students

Course Title	
Social Issues and Social Policy	
Academic Teacher	Magdalena Kasperska PhD
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ECTS credits	5
Number of hours	120
Course code	INT-IP-SISP-26
Course description	
This interdisciplinary course introduces students to the main concepts, institutions, and challenges of contemporary social policy. The course examines the role of the welfare state in addressing major social issues such as poverty, social exclusion, inequality, unemployment, demographic change, migration, health care, education, and social security. Students will analyze social policies from comparative and international perspectives and evaluate their effectiveness in promoting social justice and social inclusion.	
Learning outcomes - course content	
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to: -explain the key concepts and objectives of social policy, -identify major social issues affecting contemporary societies, -understand the development and functions of welfare states, -analyze the causes and consequences of poverty and social exclusion, -discuss social inequalities related to income, gender, age, ethnicity, and disability, -examine labor market policies and unemployment issues, -evaluate family, education, health care, and social protection policies, -analyze the impact of demographic changes and migration on social policy, -compare different welfare state models and social policy systems, -critically assess contemporary social policy challenges and reforms.	
Student workload (self-study description)	
Student independent work includes: -reading and analyzing academic literature and policy documents,	

-preparing a presentation on a selected social policy issue,
-conducting a case study analysis,
-completing an individual or group project,
-participation in selected classes with a Polish-speaking group (if applicable),
-independent preparation for classes and examinations,
-reviewing and discussing current social policy developments and research findings.

Literature

1. Welfare stigma in a social democratic welfare regime during a decade of national public debate
(2024) – <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14616696.2024.2333526>
2. Countering Social Exclusion Through Inclusive Homecare Provision
(2024) – <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953624004477>
3. Agency, Institutions, and Welfare Chauvinism
(2024) – <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/09589287241229326>
4. Precarious Experiences: Citizens' Frustrations, Anxieties and Burdens of an Online Welfare Benefit System (2024) – <https://arxiv.org/abs/2405.08515>
5. Probabilistic Justice Against Status Defense: Inequality, Uncertainty, and the Future of the Welfare State
(2024) – <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11186-024-09547-6>