# Comparative Welfare Systems

## Prof. Luca Pesenti

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

*Course aims*

The aim of the course is to present and discuss the development of welfare systems in Europe. The convergence points which are marking the transformation of welfare systems in European countries will be highlighted using cross-national comparative analysis methodologies. In parallel, it will be shown that developments at national level retain original traits, which derive from the sociocultural, economic and political-institutional characteristics of the underlying models of capitalism, historically sedimented in each Country, with a special focus on the development of models of industrial relations.

*Intended learning outcomes*

At the end of the course, students will be capable of understanding welfare models, identifying their specific characteristics, in the context of a broader reflection on the models of capitalism in which they are inserted. At the same time, students will be capable of reading, analysing and interpreting the main indicators related to the broad policy areas which are analysed, being able to use comparative analysis methodologies adequately and of focusing in depth on specific key elements for the durability and development of welfare systems and industrial relations.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided in two modules and will cover the following topics:

first part: *Welfare systems in Europe between new and old social risks*

Social inequalities; brief history of welfare; the comparative study problem; theories, models and critique; new social risks; welfare systems as subsystems of models of capitalism; the structural factors of path dependence; pension policy; labour policies. There will be an in-depth focus on two specific policy areas: work-life balance and school-to-work transitions. Furthermore, students will be asked to carry out an in-depth study on strategic topics, arisen also as a result of the pandemic crisis.

Students will be requested to tackle the topics, applying their ability to update the information in the texts with their own specific further in-depth studies.

Second part: *Industrial relations*

What is meant by industrial relations: the actors, context, rules; the trade union actors; collective bargaining process and levels; social dialogue actors in the European perspective: characteristics and ongoing problems. There will be a special in-depth focus on “occupational welfare” within the framework of industrial relations in the European context.

***READING LIST***

for the first part

*single-subject*

M. Ferrera (edited by), *Le politiche sociali,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2019 (chap. 1,2,3)

C. Trigilia, C. Trigilia (edited by), *Capitalismi e diseguaglianze,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2020 (chap. I and from III to XI).

In addition, students will have to select two of the following articles (one in English and one in Italian) (available on Blackboard):

L. Lionello, *Le prospettive della politica sociale dell’Unione europea dopo la crisi pandemica,* in “Politiche Sociali”*, 3, september-december 2021*.

F. Tomatis, *Calo della fecondità in Europa: una questione di policy e di genere,* in “Autonomie locali e servizi sociali”*, 1, april 2021.*

K. Dadjivassiliou, A. Tassinari, W. Eichhorst, F. Wozny, *How does the perfomormance of school-to-work transition regimes vary in the European Union*, in AA.V.V, *Youth labor in transition*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2019.

T. Wiß & B. Greve, *A comparison of the Interplay of Public and Occupational Work-Family Policies in Austria, Denmark, Italy and the United Kingdom*, in “Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practices”, 22, 5, 2019.

for the second part:

L. Bordogna, R. Pedersini*, Relazioni industriali. L’esperienza italiana nel contesto internazionale,* Il Mulino, 2019 (except chapters VI and VII).

Guidance on the use of the texts will be provided to attending students at the beginning of the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will alternate frontal lessons and interactive lessons, in which students will be asked to participate directly, individually and in a group, with classroom presentations and the preparation of a brief paper covering specific topics in depth.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will have to take an oral exam which will be marked out of thirty. The passing of the exam will depend on students’ ability to grasp the conceptual tools for comparative analysis, as well as their understanding of the different approaches which characterise welfare models, with a specific focus on different policy areas. Students will also be assessed on the basis of their active participation in lessons: indeed, during lessons specific in-depth individual and group work will be suggested. An ad-hoc programme will be proposed to attending students: in this case, the assessment of the written test will count towards 60% of the final mark whereas the remaining 40% will be determined by the assessment of the presentation and of the assigned papers.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for students to attend the course.

Further information can be found on the lecturer’s webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENGor on the Faculty notice board.