# Comparative welfare systems

## Prof. Luca Pesenti

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

*Course Aims*

The course aims to present and discuss the most relevant classifications and models of welfare systems in Europe*.* By utilising cross-country comparativeanalysis methodology, the course will highlight convergence vectors which are changing social protection systems within European countries. The course will contextually show how the development of national cases preserves original elements, which are dependent on social-cultural, economic and political-institutional characteristics of the underlying models of capitalism historically sedimented in each country.

*Intended learning outcomes*

At the end of the course, students will be able to orientate themselves within welfare models, identifying peculiar characteristics in the context of broader reflection on models of capitalism in which they are inserted. At the same time students will be able to read, analyse and interpret the main indicators related to large areas of analysed policy and to understand how to adequately use methodological tools of comparison.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is organised into two modules and will explore the following issues:

Part 1: *Welfare systems and the comparison problem*

A sociology focused on needs and social inequalities; a short introduction on the history of welfare; the comparison problem; theories, models, and criticism; the new social risks; welfare systems as a sub-system of the different models of capitalism; the structural elements of path dependency.

Part two: *The main pillars of the welfare systems*

In this part, some policy areas will be addressed in a comparative way, with particular reference to the four pillars of the welfare systems: retirement, healthcare, work and assistance. Students will be asked to examine the topics actively and complement the information in the text with further research when necessary.

SINGLE-SUBJECT SECTION: *Health policies during the great crisis*

Considering the great reforms launched during the ‘90s, the course will focus on the evolutional trends of the different health system models identified by literature, in order to verify the presence of common features, the effects obtained, and the open issues and critical points raised by the impact with the pandemic.

***READING LIST***

For the first and second part:

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

M. Ferrera (ed. by), *Le politiche sociali,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2019.

For the single-subject section:

F. Toth, *Le politiche sanitarie. Modelli a confronto,* Laterza, Bari, 2011 (chapters 1,2,3,5).

G. Vicarelli, E. Spina, *Una catastrofe vitale? Le scelte di politica sanitaria per far fronte al Covid-19*, in “Politiche Sociali”, 2/2021 (available on Blackboard).

F. Toth, *L’universalismo sanitario sulla carta e nella realtà,* in “Politiche Sociali”, 3, september-december 2016 (available on Blackboard).

For attending students additional indications regarding the reading list will be provided at the beginning of the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will alternate traditional lectures with interactive lectures, where students will be asked to participate both individually and in groups with in-class presentations and the fulfilment of short papers to deepen into specific subject matters. Students will be asked, where necessary, to expand what is present in the texts, retrieving statistical data and regulatory innovations.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written examination. The final mark is expressed in thirtieths. In order to pass the examination students must demonstrate their command of conceptual tools of comparative analysis, as well as their ability to navigate different approaches characterising welfare models with specific emphasis on different policy areas. Active participation to lectures will constitute an additional element for assessment: during lectures students will carry out specific in-depth work, either individually or in groups. Attending students will be offered an *ad hoc* program: in this case the final mark will take into account 70% of the result of the written test, while the remaining 30% will be determined by class presentations and papers prepared at the end of the lectures.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

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