Comparative Welfare States and Social Policies

Winter 2011

Meeting Time: Friday 9:30-12:20
Location:

Professor: Cheol-Sung Lee
422 SS
Phone: 773-702-8640
Email: chslee@uchicago.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 3:30-4:30 pm
Course Webpage: http://chalk.uchicago.edu

Course Description

This course gives an overview of the political economy of social policy in advanced industrial democracies. The course explores how organized social forces, partisan politics, business interests, international pressures, and demographic changes have shaped and transformed the welfare state regimes.

Texts

Books:


Evaluation

Your overall evaluation will be based on (1) weekly reading notes with critical questions (20%); (2) a research proposal (preliminary proposal 20% + updated proposal 30% = 50%); (3) participation in class discussion, presentations and leading discussions (30%);
√ Weekly reading notes should include two parts: (1) one paragraph of summary for each reading assignment (so about one page in total for all reading assignments); (2) your own critical point or question for at least two readings. I hope you submit this weekly reading note the day before our class, by Thursday 5:00 pm. You should send your critical questions to other students in the class, too. We will utilize these questions for class discussion.

√ The term paper (research proposal) topic will be developed in consultation with the instructor and should be closely related to some area of scholarship covered in the syllabus. Submit the title and one paragraph (about a half page, 2-300 words) of the description of your research proposal on Jan 29. Then, you will be expected to submit three or four-page length preliminary research proposal on Feb 19, and present it to your group members on the same day (class 6 part II) in a roundtable format. This research proposal should consist of one paragraph of introduction including your research question, one page of overview of previous research, one paragraph of the implication of your research topic for the related field(s), one or two paragraphs for your hypothesis and theoretical framework, and one page of data, measurement and methods. As for methodological approach, you may utilize either quantitative or qualitative technique (or both), but you should use at least TWO or MORE cases for this project.

For the final research proposal, you will have to develop about 15-20 (12 point size font, double space, 1 inch margin on all four sides) page length research proposal with (at least) basic empirical evidence (based on comparative historical, descriptive statistics, or preliminary regression analysis). You are expected to present your research proposal on Mar 12 (I encourage power-point presentation) and then submit the final research paper no later than Mar 17 after digesting my and your colleagues’ comments.

√ Several students will be responsible for leading the discussion in each session. Each student will be required to help lead two or three discussions.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1. Introduction and Course Organization

Week 2. Theories of Welfare State/Welfare State Regimes

Huber and Stephens, Chs 1,2,3.

[Lecture on Data Sources]

Week 3. Varieties of Capitalism

Hall and Soskice, Ch 1 “An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism” in Hall and Soskice (ed.) Varieties of Capitalism
Estevez Abe, Iversen, and Soskice, “Social Protection and Formation of Skills.” In Hall and Soskice (ed.) Varieties of Capitalism
Week 4. Gender and Welfare Regimes


[Submit one paragraph of research idea]

Week 5. American Exceptionalism?: Institutional Politics and Welfare States

Amenta, Bold Relief, Chapters 1-4, 6


Week 6. The Postindustrial Challenges to Welfare States

Esping-Andersen, The Social Foundations of Postindustrial Economies. All chapters.


[Submit and present preliminary research proposal]

Week 7. Welfare State Institutions and Re-distribution


**Week 8. Globalization and the Retrenchment of Welfare States**

Huber and Stephens Chs 6-8.


**Week 9. Welfare States in non-Western Worlds**


**Week 10. [Proposal Presentations]**