

COURSE OUTLINE

(1) GENERAL

SCHOOL	Economics and Political Sciences		
ACADEMIC UNIT	Department of Economics		
LEVEL OF STUDIES	Undergraduate		
COURSE CODE	PEC312	SEMESTER	5th
COURSE TITLE	POLITICAL ECONOMY OF SOCIAL POLICY		
INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES <i>if credits are awarded for separate components of the course, e.g. lectures, laboratory exercises, etc. If the credits are awarded for the whole of the course, give the weekly teaching hours and the total credits</i>		WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS	CREDITS
Lectures		3	7
Add rows if necessary. The organisation of teaching and the teaching methods used are described in detail at (d).			
COURSE TYPE <i>general background, special background, specialised general knowledge, skills development</i>	General background		
PREREQUISITE COURSES:			
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS:	Greek		
IS THE COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	no		
COURSE WEBSITE (URL)	https://eclass.uoa.gr/courses/ECON248/		

(2) LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes <i>The course learning outcomes, specific knowledge, skills and competences of an appropriate level, which the students will acquire with the successful completion of the course are described.</i> <i>Consult Appendix A</i>	
● Description of the level of learning outcomes for each qualifications cycle, according to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area ● Descriptors for Levels 6, 7 & 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and Appendix B	
● Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to: ● Acquire a critical understanding of social theories from which alternative views of the role of the state are derived. ● Understand basic theories of moral philosophy and their relation to welfare economics ● Understand aspects of the economics of inequality at both global and national level ● Understand the reasons for, and the methods of, state intervention through social policy ● Develop arguments for and against specific social policies (e.g., alternative social security systems — funded vs. pay-as-you-go — approaches to addressing poverty and inequality, etc.) ● Combine their understanding of the theoretical framework with its application to key issues of social policy in practice ● Evaluate the social policies implemented by the state at any given time ● Become familiar with and able to use the relevant international statistical databases	

General Competences	
<i>Taking into consideration the general competences that the degree-holder must acquire (as these appear in the Diploma Supplement and appear below), at which of the following does the course aim?</i>	
<i>Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information, with the use of the necessary technology</i>	<i>Project planning and management</i>
<i>Adapting to new situations</i>	<i>Respect for difference and multiculturalism</i>
<i>Decision-making</i>	<i>Respect for the natural environment</i>
<i>Working independently</i>	<i>Showing social, professional and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues</i>
<i>Team work</i>	<i>Criticism and self-criticism</i>
<i>Working in an international environment</i>	<i>Production of free, creative and inductive thinking</i>
<i>Working in an interdisciplinary environment</i>	<i>...</i>
<i>Production of new research ideas</i>	<i>...</i>
The course aims to develop:	<i>Others</i>
● Scientific reasoning and expression ● Search, analysis, and synthesis of data and information using appropriate technologies ● Working independently ● Teamwork ● Demonstration of social, professional, and ethical responsibility ● Promotion of free, creative, and critical thinking ● Development of critical capacity in relation to social, scientific and ethical issues ● Formation of active citizens ● Respect for diversity of opinions	<i>.....</i>
● Development of learning background necessary for potential continuation of studies at postgraduate level	

(3) SYLLABUS

The course provides an introduction to the basic concepts of social policy, its foundations in welfare economics, and its main objectives. Particular emphasis is placed on the principles of social welfare functions, the notion of equality as a potential goal of state policy, and the theories of social justice that constitute the ethical foundation of social policy. The course also offers the opportunity to analyze some of the most important fields of social policy, such as the economics of inequality, education, health, social security, and welfare (poverty, inequality, income protection). Special importance is given to the comparative assessment of these areas of social policy among OECD countries and to Greece's relative position. Teaching units: ● Introduction • What social policy means • Historical overview of the welfare state in European countries • Models of the welfare state ● Theoretical framework of welfare economics, concepts of efficiency and social justice ● Political theory: social justice and the state (how social policy is influenced by ideology; schools of political thought; Nozick, Hayek, Friedman, Rawls, Marx) ● Issues of definition and measurement: inequality and poverty ● Main fields of social policy • Social security • Education • Health • Inequality and social exclusion

(4) TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

DELIVERY <i>Face-to-face, Distance learning, etc.</i>	Face-to-face lectures	
USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY <i>Use of ICT in teaching, laboratory education, communication with students</i>	Use of projector for teaching presentations Use of the e-class online platform for posting material and announcements Use of email for communication with students Use of interactive electronic tools (e.g. opinion polls) on course topics	
TEACHING METHODS <i>The manner and methods of teaching are described in detail.</i> <i>Lectures, seminars, laboratory practice, fieldwork, study and analysis of bibliography, tutorials, placements, clinical practice, art workshop, interactive teaching, educational visits, project, essay writing, artistic creativity, etc.</i> <i>The student's study hours for each learning activity are given as well as the hours of non-directed study according to the principles of the ECTS</i>	Activity	Semester workload
	Lectures	39
	Study and analysis of bibliography	100
	Optional assignment	36
	Course total	175 hours
STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION <i>Description of the evaluation procedure</i> <i>Language of evaluation, methods of evaluation, summative or conclusive, multiple choice questionnaires, short-answer questions, open-ended questions, problem solving, written work, essay/report, oral examination, public presentation, laboratory work, clinical examination of patient, art interpretation, other</i> <i>Specifically-defined evaluation criteria are given, and if and where they are accessible to students.</i>	Evaluation is conducted in Greek. Evaluation is based on written examinations during the official exam periods and optionally on an individual or group assignment. The written exams include a mix of questions (short answer, synthesis, essay-type). The individual or group assignment involves a public presentation of a social policy issue as analyzed in the cutting-edge international literature. Students with special conditions may be examined orally or through a combination of oral and written assessment. Exam material, procedures and evaluation criteria are communicated to students during lectures and through announcements and material posted on e-class.	

(5) ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Suggested bibliography: Chletsos, M. (2011). <i>Economics of Social Protection</i>, Patakis Publishers. Atkinson, A. (2017). <i>Inequality: What Can Be Done?</i>, Patakis Publishers. Rosen, H., T. Gayer, V.Th. Rapanos, G. Kaplanoglou (2009). <i>Public Economics: Modern Theory and Greek Reality</i>, Kritiki — Chapters 7, 9, 10, 11, 12.
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Yfantopoulos, G., Balourdos, D., & Nikolopoulos, K. (2009). *Economic and Social Dimensions of the Welfare State*, Gutenberg.

Lecture notes on e-class

- Related academic journals:

Review of Income and Wealth Fiscal

Studies

Journal of Social Policy

Journal of European Social Policy

Journal of Public Economics

Economic Bulletin of the Bank of Greece

Annual OECD reports (e.g., *Education at a Glance*, *Health at a Glance*, *Pensions Outlook*) Reports

from other international organizations (United Nations, OXFAM, etc.)