Course Description

There is ample evidence to suggest that our decisions about marriage and divorce, the number of children we have, the choice between continuing paid work and staying at home as full time parent or caregiver, our career path and ambitions, the amount of time we spend at work, on house chores and on parenting, and even the type of parent we become are profoundly influenced by laws, regulations and policies that shape the labor market and taxation laws, education and health care systems as well as levels of economic inequality. The manner in which the relationship among markets, governments and individuals are structured affects not only our work life or income but also our ideals of romance and happiness, opinions on sexual orientation, how much value we attribute to work and education, how much effort we put into looking physically attractive, and our opinions on what and who makes a good parent.

In this course, we survey the world to compare and contrast how states with advanced industrial welfare states intervene in our family relationships and romantic lives, and shape gender roles. We examine the subtle nudges as well as the strict laws that aim to push us into making decisions that the government prefers. We also inquire the limits, blind spots and failures of gender and family related policies, their unintentional consequences and the social backlash they may set off. The course mainly focuses on advanced industrial countries.

Readings

Course reader (will be available online).

Academic Integrity

I expect you to maintain a high regard for academic integrity and engage in good academic practices. Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Human knowledge is enriched when we borrow other people’s ideas, findings and writing and expand on them, develop them and disseminate them. However, you should always give credit where it is due. When you make use of the work of someone, either directly cite the source, or rephrase and reference the original work. Plagiarism is theft of intellectual labor. If you are not certain whether something constitutes plagiarism, please consult me before you turn in the assignment.

The instances in which you fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.
Attendance
Attendance at ALL classes is expected. You will lose 10% of your participation grade for each of your absences after the first two absences (that is, absences from two sessions of 90 minutes).

Please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

Participation
Participation constitutes 20% of your grade. Your participation grade will be based on small assignments and the quality of your participation. That means you need to read the assigned readings in advance of the class and be ready to discuss them in class. You are expected to engage with your classmates in a respectful manner. Criticism is welcome, however offensive or demeaning language regarding any individuals or disadvantaged groups will not be tolerated. Please do not interrupt your classmates, and yield the floor after a reasonable amount of time during a discussion.

Writing Assignments
There will be a midterm and final writing assignment in this course. You will be provided detailed guidelines on these assignments.

Policy on Late Submission of Papers
Essays that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). If an essay is more than 24 hours late, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Grade Breakdown
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation (in-class and online)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Essay</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Essay</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class assignments*</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Each class will start with a short writing assignment in which you will discuss the assigned readings from your perspective.

Course Schedule
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Mon., 10:45-12:15</th>
<th>Wed., 10:45-12:15</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2-4</td>
<td>Block and Somers</td>
<td>Esping-Andersen</td>
<td>Gender and Welfare Regimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 9-11</td>
<td>Gordon</td>
<td>Orloff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 16-18</td>
<td>Leitner</td>
<td>Daly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 23-25</td>
<td>Kremer</td>
<td>Doepke, Sorrenti &amp; Zilibotti</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 30-2</td>
<td>Randles</td>
<td>Brandth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 7-9</td>
<td>Ray</td>
<td>Mahon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 14-16</td>
<td>Korpi, Ferrarini &amp; Englund.</td>
<td>Thevenon, O. &amp; Gauthier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 21-23</td>
<td>Hook</td>
<td>Usdansky</td>
<td>Midterm Writing Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 4-6</td>
<td>Bambra</td>
<td>Marmot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 11-13</td>
<td>Marr</td>
<td>Keck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 18-20</td>
<td>Mandel</td>
<td>Brady</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2-4</td>
<td>Kofman, Phizacklea Raghuram &amp; Sales,</td>
<td>Andreß, et al.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 9-11</td>
<td>Barnett</td>
<td>Lind</td>
<td>Final Writing Assignment (Dec. 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 16-20</td>
<td>COMPLETION</td>
<td>WEEK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I reserve the right to make changes to the reading assignments and dates. It is your responsibility to follow these changes.

The Welfare State: History and Regimes


**Gender and the Welfare State: A Framework**


**Family and Social Care**


**Parenting Practices and Social Policy**


**Parental Leave**


**Child Care**


**Fertility and Family Policies**


**Sharing Chores at Home**


**Healthcare Inequalities and Gender**


**Taxation as a Social Policy Tool**


**The Labor Market**


**Poverty and Inequality**


**Immigration**


**Divorce**


Queerness
