

PT288 Globalization, Welfare States, and Public Health

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Office Hours: by appointment

Tue & Thu 17:30-19:00

Course Description

At the present time, a significant negative effect of globalization is being experienced, with societies across the world exposed to a public health threat for which there is as yet no permanent and secure remedy. States have reacted at varying speeds and with different degrees (and ideological views of) “lockdown.” They have also seen the extent of their own preparedness in the form of public health infrastructure exposed and put to severe test. Some states have even responded with emergency nationalizations and approaches counter to a previous neoliberal or privatization agenda. At the same time, the economic impact of the crisis may radically undermine the capacity of states to remedy already-existing weaknesses in their health care systems. To understand this situation and its possible lessons for the future, the course addresses and combines three main areas of social-scientific literature: theories of power, key concepts from the theory of globalization, and the study of the welfare state as a structure and an ideal. Drawing specifically on examples from the North American context, we will examine the relation between global processes and local occurrences. We survey the rights- and racial-justice movements seeking to advance public health provision at a national level, as well as the resistance in governmental institutions and cultural discourse to their claims. We consider the need to develop an evidence-based policy in regard to the provision of health care, as well as the implications of the current crisis for the understanding of globalization as such.

Requirements and Assignments

The course will be assessed through a combination of assignments which are designed to achieve the overall goals and learning objectives of the course. All the written assignments

must be submitted in electronic format. The assessment is based on 1) class participation 2) individual presentations 3) two written assignments. Expect occasional short quizzes based on the readings or previous sessions.

- 1) Participation in class:** You are expected to attend all the classes, prepare the required reading for each class, and actively participate in class discussions. Students will be assessed on the quality and quantity of contributions. The highest grades for participation will be awarded to those who make valuable contributions to class discussions and demonstrate an understanding of and engagement with the readings. Attending without contributing to group work or class discussions will only earn you a minimum pass. Unexcused absences affect class dynamics, so please let me know in advance if you miss any classes.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPRING 2021: Students must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. Some students might need to begin the semester remotely due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic, which case you will join the class via zoom. Efforts will be made to offer alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options, as rules around in-person classes can change rapidly depending on public health regulations.

- 2) Individual presentation in class:** Presentations will be carried out individually. You should critically discuss the topic of the week (through the indicated reading material) Please feel free to reach out for me if you would like some clarification on the readings. If you use a PowerPoint/Prezi/Keynote presentation or handouts, please submit them to me after the class. Presentation will be evaluated on their quality, clarity and your ability to master the topic.

3) Two assignments (midterm and final paper)

- a) Position paper:** The mid-term assignment consists of a 2,000 word position paper or 'point of view' paper. This is a paper in which you present your expert opinion or insight on a specific problem or current political debate as it relates to welfare states, globalization, or health systems. Position papers are well-organized and clearly present an issue. The paper will be evaluated based on its structure, writing style, internal logic and richness of the argument. More detailed information and a grading rubric will be provided.
- b) Final paper:** The final assignment for this course is a 3-4,000 word final paper. For this paper, you will adhere to APA style guides and provide a research question

relating to elements of the welfare state, the health care system, and processes of globalization. Your topic should be narrow and specific rather than broad and generalizing. Detailed information and a grading rubric will be provided.

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

This course honours diversity and healthy debate centered around legitimate, critical, and respectful points of view. Inclusiveness, integrity, and responsibility are at the core of this course. Part of making this inclusive also means responsibility to give your fellow classmates time to speak and ask questions. Please participate and engage with your fellow students in order to make this course as successful as possible.

Grade Breakdown

Seminar preparation and participation	30%
Position paper (due Monday, March 15)	20%
Presentations (individually scheduled during Weeks 9-15)	20%
Final paper (due Friday, May 21)	30%

Policy on late submissions: students are expected to meet the deadline and marks will be docked for late submission barring pertinent reasons.

Readings

There is no required textbook to purchase for this course. The course draws heavily from a variety of articles and scanned readings that will be made available online through google drive. You are not required to purchase a course reader. Readings may be tweaked or modified from this syllabus; any changes to the syllabus will be communicated well in advance.

Course schedule

Spring classes start on Monday, February 1 and run until Friday, May 21 with spring break planned from Mar. 29 - Apr. 5, 2021. Completion week is from Mon, May 17 – Fri, May 21,

2021. Students are required to be on campus during completion week. Scheduled class times will be available online under the relevant course heading:

<https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/>

Section 1: Processes and theories	Week 1: Feb 1- Feb 5	Introduction
	Week 2: Feb 8-12	What is the welfare state?
	Week 3: Feb 15-19	Neoliberalism and the welfare state
	Week 4: Feb 22-26	Globalization and social policy
	Week 5: March 1- 5	Economic and social rights
	Week 6: March 8-12	Inclusion and Exclusion frameworks
	Week 7: March 15-19	Responses to current issues
	Week 8: March 22-26	Power and the role of the state
Break Week	Week 9: Mon, Mar. 29 - Mon, Apr. 5, 2021	
Section 2: Health policy, current issues, and empirical analysis	Week 10: April 5-9	Evidence-based policy
	Week 11: April 12-16	Public health
	Week 12: April 19-23	Social determinants of health
	Week 13: April 26-30	Political determinants of health
	Week 14: May 3-7	Governance in a digital era
	Week 15: May 10-14	What can we do?

Week 1 - Introduction

Weible, C., Nohrstedt, D., Cairney, P., Carter, D., Crow, D., Durnova, A., Heikkila, T., Ingold, K., McConnell, A., Stone, D. (2020). COVID-19 and the policy sciences: initial reactions and perspectives

Woodward, D., Drager, N., Beaglehole, R., Lipson, D. (2001). Globalization and health: a framework for analysis and action. Bulletin of the WHO

Week 2 – What is the welfare state?

Esping-Andersen, G. 1990. *The three worlds of welfare capitalism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton Univ. Press.

Week 3 – Neoliberalism and the welfare state

King, D., Ross, F. (2011). “Critics and Beyond”. Chapter 4, *Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State*.

Harvey, D. (2007). *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford University Press.

Week 4 – Globalization and social policy

Yeates, N. (2014). *Understanding Global Social Policy*, Second edition. (pp. 1-18

Deepak, A. (2011). Globalization, Power and Resistance: Postcolonial and transnational feminist perspectives for social work practice. *International Social Work* 55(6). 779-793
Sage Publications

Week 5 – Economic and social rights

Macnaughton, G. & Frey, D. (2018). *Economic and social rights in a Neoliberal World*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-40

Second reading: newspaper articles

Week 6 – Inclusion and Exclusion frameworks

Gingrich, L., & Kongeter, S. (2017). Social Exclusion and Social Welfare: Within, Across, and In-Between Nation-State Boundaries. P. 265-286. In: *Transnational social policy: Social Welfare in a World on the Move*.

Second reading: newspaper articles

Week 7 – Responses to current issues

De Silva, N. (2020). A Human Rights Approach to Emergency Response? The Advocacy of Canada’s Human Rights Commissions during the COVID-19 Crisis. *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 53(2):1-9

Ruger, J. 2020. Social justice as a foundation for democracy and health. BMJ 2020; 371:m4049

Week 8 – Power and the role of the state

Moon, S., (2018). Power in global governance: an expanded typology from global health. Globalization and Health 2019, 15(Suppl 1):74.

Second reading TBD

Week 10: Evidence-based policy

Parkhurst, J., Ettelt, S., & Hawkins, B. (2018). 'Studying Evidence Use for Health Policymaking from a Policy Perspective'. In *Evidence Use in Health Policy Making*, International Series on Public Policy, eds. Justin Parkhurst, Stefanie Ettelt, and Benjamin Hawkins. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 1–19.

Class assignment: discussion points on evidence-based policy

Week 10 - Public health

Labonte, R., 2011. The Growing Impact of Globalization for Health and Public Health Practice Ronald Labonte, Katia Mohindra, and Ted Schrecker

Global Health 50/50, 'The Global Health 50/50 Report 2020: Power, Privilege and Priorities', London, UK, 2020.

Week 11 – Social determinants of health

Carey, G., Crammond, B. (2015). Action on the social determinants of health: Views from inside the policy process. [Social Science & Medicine](#). Volume 128, March 2015, Pages 134-141

Short Video explaining frameworks on social determinants of health:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PH4JYfF4Ns>

Week 12 – Political determinants of health

Kickbusch, I. (2015). The political determinants of health—10 years on. Public health professionals need to become more politically astute to achieve their goals.

Excerpt from Daniel Dawes (2020): The Political Determinants of Health. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Week 13 – Agenda-setting and policy frameworks

Buse, K., Mays, N., & Walt, G. Chapter 4: Agenda-setting (2012). In Making Health Policy, 2nd Edition. Open University Press. Pp. 64-83

In this week, we will devote one class to using 3 policy frameworks outlined by Buse et al. (2012) to analyze current issues.

Week 14 – Governance in a digital era

Entman, R. & Usher, N. (2018). Framing in a Fractured Democracy: Impacts of Digital Technology on Ideology, Power and Cascading Network Activation. Journal of Communication 68 (2018) 298–308

Class assignment: writing discussion points on challenges of governance in the digital era

Week 15 – What can we do?

Blas, E., Gilson, L., Kelly, M., Labonté, R., Lapitan, J., Muntaner, C., Pirooska, O., Popay, J., Sadana, R., Sen, G., Schrecker, T., Vaghri, Z. (2008). Addressing social determinants of health inequities: What can the state and civil society do? The Lancet, 372(11), 1684-1689.