

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title : HS2029 Social Policy and Social Change

Pre-requisites : HS1001 Person and Society

No. of AUs. : 3

Contact Hours : 39

Course Aims

The course is designed to provide a broad introduction to social policy and analyses, and application of social policies to contemporary issues. The first part of the course will examine the following questions: What is a social policy? How do social policies vary across political and ideological perspectives? How do governments develop and implement social policies? How do we conduct social policy analysis and assess the effects of social policies? The second part of the course will be on application of social policies in a comparative perspective on issues related to poverty and inequality, families, migration, housing, health, and ageing. Overall, the course will equip you with deeper understanding of the social policy process and range of theoretical perspectives on social policy, and exploration of social policies in specific areas.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain key terms, theories, concepts and debates in social policy and social issues.
2. Analyse and assess alternative approaches to social policy interventions.
3. Consider the social policy issues involved in assistance to categorical groups, such as the aged, families and the unemployed.
4. Examine the eclectic nature of social change and policy and the potential contribution of an array of alternative approaches and academic disciplines.
5. Apply critical analysis to evaluate and synthesise evidence on social problems and programmes in high and middle income countries.
6. Communicate complex social policy debates in the style of a policy briefing paper produced by organisations such as the OECD and WHO.

Course Content

1. What is social policy and social change?
2. Historical contexts of social policy. The liberal era, welfare state, modernisation and the third way and austerity policies
3. Social needs, social problems and social policy
4. Perspectives on social policy. Neo-liberalism, conservative perspectives, social democracy, feminist and post-modern perspectives

5. Changing behaviour through social policy
6. Social policy production and provision: policy process, governance of policy, accountability.
7. Contemporary challenges and contexts. The demographic challenge, the sustainability challenge, distribution of welfare, economic context
8. Domains of social policy and changes: Education and life long learning: Issues, debates and challenges
9. Poverty, social exclusion and policy
10. Employment: working age and conditionality and labour market insecurity
11. Experiencing social policy: young people
12. Global social policy futures

Course Assessment

CA1	Lecture quizzes	: 10%
CA2	Online discussions	: 10%
CA3	Class/tutorial presentations	: 10%
CA4	Policy memo	: 20%
	Final Examination	: 50%

Total		100%