

Boğaziçi University

Department of Political Science and International Relations

Summer 2013

***The Politics of Social Policies (POLS 352)***



***Lecturer's contact information***

**Name:** Volkan Yilmaz

**Email:** [ptvy@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:ptvy@leeds.ac.uk)

**Phone number:** 00 90 212 311 7595

**Lectures:** 15:00-17:00 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

**Lecture hall:** İB 201 for Wednesdays and Fridays; İB 210 for Thursdays

**Office at Boğaziçi:** To be announced.

**Office Hours:** To be announced.

***Course description***

What are social policies? What is a welfare state? Can social policies and/or welfare state tackle different forms of social inequalities? How did social policies come into place? How can we understand the political and historical foundations of welfare states and emergence of social policies? Which actors and what factors gave birth to social policies or led to the alteration of these policies? In light of these broader questions, this course provides an introduction to main concepts in understanding of social policies (i.e. health care services, social housing, public education, retirement pensions, social assistance etc.) and offers insight to different theories of politics of social policies in contemporary societies.

### ***Course responsibilities***

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend classes, complete reading assigned articles or excerpts before class and participate in class discussions.

**Writing a blog:** I expect you to create a personal blog for this course. I ask you to find (or just come across while reading a newspaper) a news item about social inequalities, housing, health care services, education services, social services, social assistance, unemployment and pensions.

Your blog entry has to be on a specific news item and has to include a summary of this news item, web link of it as well as your comments or analysis with respect to this news item. Please do not forget that writing a blog is not like writing an academic article. It is a much more informal writing practice. I want you to develop your ability to write a political commentary on a specific issue. So feel free to express your views without being caged into the academic jargon.

I expect you to write a blog entry (min. 250 words) either in Turkish or English on this news item once in every week after class. Your first blog entry has to be online on July 1<sup>st</sup> and your last blog entry has to be online August 4<sup>nd</sup>. You have to write 6 blog entries during this semester.

You are free to decide whether you want to share your blog with your classmates or not. Of course, you will be expected to share your blog with me but I will keep it confidential if you ask me not to do so.

I will not assess your political views in these blogs. I only expect you to make a regular blog entry. You will get most credits from this task if you write regularly to your blog (and include a summary of a news item and your own analysis of this news item).

**Final paper:** You are expected to write a response paper on a specific social policy reform of your own choice. With the help of your instructor, you will choose a case of completed social policy reform in Turkey (i.e. introduction of family physicians model-TR. 'aile hekimliđi modeli') or in another country of your choice (i.e. change in the age limit for retirement in France, welfare retrenchment in Greece after the crisis of the Eurozone, health care reform of President Obama in the U.S.). Please come to my office hours after the midterm and no later than on July 26<sup>th</sup> to finalise your theme for the final paper.

You are expected to conduct a desk research on the selected topic, explore which political actors are engaged in this debate and examine how they approach to the same topic.

As you see in the course schedule and assigned readings, we will be discussing different theories that emphasise agency of different actors and/or factors in giving birth or that leads to changes in social policies. Using these different approaches, you are expected to develop an argument for your final paper.

Your main argument might be either of the following: 1) a specific approach explains your case, or 2) a mixture of different approaches explains your case, or 3) none of these

approaches explains your case (that should also include a justification for this argument).

Length of final papers must not exceed 5000 words. Detailed information about final papers will be announced later.

**Deadline for final papers: Send your final papers via email ([ptvy@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:ptvy@leeds.ac.uk)) no later than August 7<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) at 20:00.**

### ***Grade breakdown***

**Attendance:** 10 per cent

**Participation in classroom discussions:** 15 per cent

**Regular blog entries:** 25 per cent

**Final paper:** 50 per cent

### ***Important deadlines***

01.07.2013 First blog entry

28.07.2013 Last day to talk to the instructor on the theme of the final paper

04.08.2013 Last blog entry

07.08.2013 Final paper

### ***General notice***

If you have a disability, a mental health condition or a specific learning difficulty, please let me know before the class. I will do my best to facilitate your participation and learning experience.

### ***Grading***

<b>Grades</b>	<b>Weight</b>
AA Excellent	90 < X < 100
BA Very Good	80 < X < 90
BB Good	70 < X < 80
CB Fair-Good	60 < X < 70
CC Fair	50 < X < 60
DC Fair-Poor	40 < X < 50
DD Poor	40
F Fail	X < 40

## ***Course Schedule***

### ***Part 1 Social Inequalities and Social Policies***

**Week 1-Session 1-27.06.2013** Overview of the course and an introductory lecture on social policies

**Week 1-Session 2-28. 06. 2013** Lecture on social inequalities

Béteille, A. (2003) "The Idea of Natural Inequality" in *The Idea of Natural Inequality and Other Essays*, pp. 59-79

### ***Part 2 Nation State, Citizenship and Social Policies***

**Week 2-Session 1-03.07.2013** Lecture on social class and citizenship status

Marshall, T. H. (1964), 'Citizenship and Social Class', in *Class, Citizenship, and Social Development: Essays by T.H. Marshall*, pp. 30-39.

**Week 2-Session 2-04.07.2013** Lecture on nationalism and social policy

Beland, D. and Lecours, D. (2008) "Understanding the Nationalism-Social Policy Nexus," in *Nationalism and Social Policy: The Politics of Territorial Solidarity*, pp. 12-31.

**Week 2-Session 3-05.07.2013** Class discussion on how and to what extent social policies can tackle social inequalities

### ***Part 3 Capitalism, Left Politics and Social Policies***

**Week 3-Session 1-10.07.2013** Lecture on commodity, de-commodification and social policy

Esping Andersen, G. (1990) "De-Commodification in Social Policy" in *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*, pp. 35-53.

**Week 3-Session 2-11.07.2013** Lecture on agency of working class, trade unions and/or left parties

Korpi, W. (1989) "Power, Politics, and State Autonomy in the Development of Social Citizenship: Social Rights During Sickness in Eighteen OECD Countries Since 1930," *American Sociological Review*, pp. 309-328.

**Week 3-Session 3-12.07.2013** Class discussion on social policies and the left

### ***Part 4 Patriarchy, Feminist Politics and Social Policies***

**Week 4-Session 1-17.07.2013** Lecture on family, de-familialisation and social policies

Orloff, A. S. (1993) "Gender and the social rights of citizenship: The comparative analysis of gender relations and welfare states," *American Sociological Review*, pp. 303-328

**Week 4-Session 2-18.07.2013** Lecture on women's perspective, feminism and social policy

Skocpol, T. (1992) "Understanding the Origins of Modern Social Provision in the United States," *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of Social Policy in the U.S.*, pp. 30-60.

**Week 4-Session 3-19.07.2013** Class discussion on gender perspective, feminism and social policies

### **Part 5 Conservatism, Centre-Right Politics and Social Policies**

**Week 5-Session 1-24.07.2013** Lecture on religion, conservatism and social policy

Van Kersbergen, K. (1995) "Introduction" in *Social Capitalism: A Study of Christian Democracy and the Welfare State*.

**Week 5-Session 2-25.07.2013** Class discussion on the impact of conservative politics on social policies

### **Part 6 Political System, Political Institutions and their Impact on Social Policies**

**Week 5-Session 3-26.07.2013** Lecture on history and institutions as actors in social policy

Immergut, E. (1990) "Institutions, veto points, and policy results: A comparative analysis of health care," *Journal of Public Policy*, pp. 391-416.

**Week 6-Session 1-31.07.2013** Class discussion on the impact of the political system, institutions on social policy formation and change

### **Part 7 Globalisation, Neoliberalism and Social Policies**

**Week 6-Session 2-01.08.2013** Lecture on neoliberalism and social policies

Harvey, D. (2005) *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*, pp. 70-80.

**Week 6-Session 3-02.08.2013** Lecture on new politics of welfare

Pierson, P. (1996) "The New Politics of the Welfare State," *World Politics*, pp. 143-179

*(Optional)* **Week 6-Session 4-02.08.2013 (btw. 18:00-19:30)** Class discussion on the impact of globalisation and neoliberalism on social policy formation and change