

Short Form Unit Details

Unit Title	Work and Welfare in a Comparative Context
Level	3
Reference No. (<i>showing level</i>)	PCR_3_231
Credit Value	15 CAT points
Student Study Hours	Contact hours: 40 Student managed learning hours: 110
Pre-requisite learning	Successful completion of level 2 units or equivalent
Co-requisites	None
Excluded combinations	None
Unit co-ordinator	Antoine Rogers
Faculty/Department	Arts and Human Sciences / Social and Policy Studies
Short Description	This unit considers contemporary debates surrounding the links between 'work and welfare' particularly as it relates to social security systems and the labour market. However the unit casts its net wide and will consider all of the ways in which the UK addresses income maintenance and associated ideas of social protection.
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop understanding and appreciation of the role and function of income maintenance systems • To increase awareness of the choices available to policy makers in setting out social security strategies (reinforced through comparative analysis) • To develop students' understanding and application of key social security policy concepts and theories • To enhance students' knowledge of the impact of political, economic and social changes on the structure of the social security system – and vice-versa • To develop independent research skills related to social security • To develop analytical and presentation skills
Learning Outcomes	<p>Knowledge and Understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the many relationships between employment and social protection (in all its forms) • demonstrate knowledge of those factors that influence the current shape of UK social security provision • understand the functions of social security – particularly with regard to 'work and welfare' • understanding of the various social security provision in different welfare regimes; and be able to account for the varying distance between work and welfare in different welfare regimes <p>Intellectual Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to <u>identify</u> and define problems in the area of social policy • the ability to identify recent and contemporary pressures on social security / income maintenance systems and consider their impact on social protection in future. • a clear understanding of the relation between economic, social and political factors in social policy analysis • a clear understanding of the influence of national and global political forces on social policy development • the ability to critically review evidence-supporting conclusions and to assess its validity and significance. <p>Practical Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to apply appropriate knowledge and skills to the solution of problems <p>Transferable Skills: By the end of the unit students will be able to:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communicate ideas and debate key issues verbally and in written form; • grapple with complex ideas and concepts; • utilise information technology; • articulate ideas orally at the individual and group level using an accepted standard of presentation skills; • work toward and manage deadlines.
Employability	<p>This unit prepares students for employability by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drawing on material and resources from the social policy and welfare field with particular reference to work and welfare and encouraging students to engage with this material • introducing students to the impact of work and welfare policy in a comparative context • enabling students to relate to and interact effectively with individuals and groups.
Teaching and learning pattern	<p>This unit will be taught as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One and one half hour lecture • One and one hour seminar (with student presentations) • One hour spent on Blackboard
Indicative content	<p>Part One: What is Social Protection? provides an introduction to social protection and the development of social security. We explore what is meant by social security/protection and for whom does the system function.</p> <p>Part Two Social Protection and the Labour Market explores the link between social protection and the labour market. The twentieth century was a period of great technological change which led to large changes in the labour market, and the nature of employment. Lectures in this part of the unit aim to identify both the employees' and the states' response to changes and transformations in the labour market. In this part we also examine if/how the state and employee affect labour market flexibility. We also consider; who determines (and modifies) the rules of work and the rules of welfare; what happens when labour markets change; and what happens when people move around within labour markets – in and out of them – at different stages of working life. Finally Part Two explores the growing divide between the poor and the more affluent to see if and how social security policies reduce poverty and inequality.</p> <p>In Part Three: (De)Commodified Welfare States we consider the influences behind different types of social security regimes (including ideology, political struggle, and the economy). We explore theoretical debates surrounding social security provision which can be applied to other welfare states. We consider where the UK sits in context with other welfare regimes. In all this we seek to put UK social security in the widest political, economic and social context – not least, to see if social security policies are compatible with other social policies.</p> <p>Part Four: Student Lectures begins with a lecture to provide both guidance and expectations for student presentations. The final three weeks will be devoted mostly to student led presentations and discussions. The aim is for students to develop their ability to link contemporary policy developments with theoretical concepts discussed primarily during weeks two through seven. Students will be required to review and discuss (both in an essay and in a presentation) three contemporary newspaper articles that relate to themes discussed during weeks two through seven.</p>
Assessment <i>Elements & weightings</i>	<p>The unit will be assessed by:</p> <p>Individual Presentation: 30% Each student will deliver a 15-20 minute presentation during weeks 9-11.</p> <p>Essay: 70% Each student will be required to submit a 2,500 – 3,000 word essay that provides a critical analysis of the articles identified during their student lecture/presentation.</p>

<p>Indicative Sources (<i>Reading lists</i>)</p>	<p>Clarke, J (2004) Changing Welfare, Changing States: new directions in social policy. London: Sage Esping-Anderson, G. (1990) The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism. Cambridge: Polity Glennerster, H. (2003) Understanding the Finance of Welfare. Bristol: Policy Press Goodin, R.E., Headey, B. Muffels, R. Dirven (1999) The Real Worlds of Welfare Capitalism Cambridge: Cambridge University Press Walker, R. (2005) Social Security and Welfare: concepts and comparisons. Maidenhead: Open University Press</p> <p>Journals Benefits Journal Critical Social Policy Fiscal Studies Journal of Social Policy International Social Security Journal Social Policy and Administration Policy and Politics Poverty</p> <p>Websites Department for Work and Pensions http://www.dwp.gov.uk/ Economic and Social Data Services http://www.esds.ac.uk/government/ Institute for Fiscal Studies http://www.ifs.org.uk/index.php The Poverty Alliance http://www.povertyalliance.org/</p>
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