CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL POLICY
IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Aims
An examination and analysis of the ‘European’ characterisation, and context, of the development of European Union social policy, leading to assessment of the degree of Europeanisation of European Union social policy.

Objectives
Initially, the historical development of European Union social policy will be examined within the context of the growth in importance of social policy areas in the E.U. integration project. Against that background the course will move on to identify and characterise models of welfare in European states, as well as four typologies of European welfare states. The principles and concepts of harmonisation, mutual recognition, and convergence which shape and condition E.U. social policy will then be defined and examined. These will then be employed in two case studies of European Union social policy areas – welfare and labour mobility. Finally, definition and assessment of the degree of general Europeanisation of social policy will be undertaken within the context of the previous aspects and elements of the course, and in particular in terms of comparison with the characteristics of the types of European welfare states identified in the course.

Structure of the course
The course will be taught through a series of 6 lectures and 2 workshops.

Course programme:

PLEASE NOTE: 90% attendance at lectures (i.e. at least 5) and 100% attendance at both workshops is a requirement to pass the course (see Course Assessment on page 3)

The powerpoint presentations for each lecture will be placed on the Masaryk University Information System prior to each lecture

All lectures and workshops will take place at 15.15 in Room U53

Course programme:

14.10.15. Lecture 1. The historical development of E.U. social policy

28.10.15 NATIONAL HOLIDAY - NO CLASS

04.11.15 Lecture 3. Four types of European welfare states: Conservative Corporatist, Social Democratic, Anglo-Saxon, and the Mediterranean model.
11.11.15 Lecture 4. The principles and concepts of E.U. social policy – harmonisation, mutual recognition, cohesion and convergence
18.11.15 Lecture 5. Two case studies: a) European Union welfare policy
                      b) Labour mobility and the European Union
Workshop programme:

PLEASE NOTE:

a) 100% attendance at the 2 workshops is a requirement to pass the course (see Course Assessment on page 3)

b) Students will be expected to have read for each workshop and participate. Indicative readings are given below for each workshop

25.11.15 Workshop 1: This will consist of student participation and discussion groups.

Question: Is harmonisation, mutual recognition, or convergence the best principle upon which European Union social policy should be based? Provide reasons and evidence for your preference.

Readings:


09.12.15 Workshop 2: In this final workshop there will be discussion in student groups and some direction offered in respect of the assessment essay.

**Course Assessment**

a) **Attendance**: 90% attendance at lectures (at least 5) and 100% attendance at the 2 workshops is a requirement to pass this course.

b) **Essay** (maximum 2000 words/6 sides of A4 paper)

**Deadline: 17 December 2015. To be submitted by email to me at jitaly25@hotmail.com or through the Masaryk University Information System.**

Students will be required to submit an essay in answer to **one** of the questions shown below. The essay must be of **a maximum of 2,000 words**, be typewritten, fully properly referenced, and include a full bibliography.

**PLEASE NOTE: Essays that are more than 10 per cent above or below the word limit will be penalised through the deduction of marks**

(i) Using models and types of welfare states identified in the course evaluate the extent to which E.U. social policy can be described as *Europeanised*.

(ii) Critically assess whether European Union social policy can be characterised as *Europeanised*. Provide evidence and examples drawn from E.U. social policy areas to support your assessment.

**Texts**

Students are referred below to a range of journal, book and internet texts. These may be added to within the lectures, and if so, sources will be included within the lecture powerpoint presentations placed on the Information System prior to each lecture.

**Books**

Hantrais provides a useful introductory overview, and is useful for a range of E.U. social policy areas covered in the course. Kleinman addresses some broader issues concerning the role of social policy in the E.U. Kleinman (Ch.7) also examines the pressures created for EU social policy by rising levels of unemployment and changes in Labour Market policies. Richardson (Ch.3) examines ‘Europeanisation’ and the E.U. social policy process (Ch.13). Featherstone and Radaelli also examine ‘Europeanisation’.

*Journal Articles*


Journals
European Union Politics
European Political Science
Journal of Common Market Studies
Journal of European Social Policy (the ‘European Briefing’ section of this journal is very useful for up-to-date EU developments)
Journal of European Public Policy
Migration Online (www.migrationonline.cz/studies.shtml)

Internet
http://www.cec.org.uk
http://www.ecsa.org
http://europa.eu.int
http://ibeurope.eu.int
http://www.ieep.org.uk
http://www.policylibrary.com

John Wilton
07.09.2015