

Academic Year 2017 – 2018

Module Title	SS3383 Life Course and Evolving Welfare States (10 ECTS)
	This module will run in Hilary term (2017)
Lectures / Seminars	One two-hour seminar per week. <u>Attendance is mandatory and influences grade as 30 % of module mark is attributed to exercises completed during classes.</u>
Module Content	<p>During this module, the students will have an opportunity to reflect on the notion of the life course: how the timing of our birth and the context we are born and grow up in influences opportunities and outcomes throughout our lives. The students will be sensitised to how the life course is changing as a result of transformations in what are still considered major milestones for individuals. For instance, the time spent in education is increasing and entry into employment and long-term partnerships is being postponed. The module will connect these changes in the life course to welfare state structures, which are arguably lagging behind the pace of change, but are also trying to catch up with and adapt to these changes. The module draws on examples from a variety of welfare states and different policy sectors, with a focus on how welfare states are trying to address the new social risks of weak educational opportunities, youth unemployment, precarious work, the challenges of reconciling work and parenthood, and the mega-trend of ageing.</p>
Learning Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the social processes that shape the life course from childhood to old age • Cognizance of the main societal and economic forces that are bringing about changes in the life course. • Awareness of how welfare structures shape the life course • Good grasp of what are seen, from the point of social policy, to be the main challenges that now confront children and young workers, families, low-income workers and ageing workers • Appreciation of differences in how welfare states respond to evolving social risks, and the broad outline of the consequences of these responses

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the divergent views expressed in debates about what welfare states should do in response to new challenges <p>Preparatory reading:</p> <p>De Graaf, W. and Maier, R. (2017) 'The welfare state and the life course: Examining the interrelationship between welfare arrangements and inequality dynamics', <i>Social Policy & Administration</i> 51(1): 40-55.</p> <p>Green, L. (2017) <i>Understanding the life course: Sociological and psychological perspectives</i>. 2nd edition. Cambridge: Polity Press.</p>
Module Assessment	<p>Weighting of assessment components (total = 100):</p> <p>Attendance and writing exercises completed <i>during classes</i> = 30%</p> <p>Group project and presentation = 30 %</p> <p>Essay = 40 %</p>
Penalty for late submission	A penalty of 10% will be applied to students who submit essays late without an authorised extension.