



SOZIAL- UND WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFTEN

Professur für Soziologie

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Lehrveranstaltungen im SS 2011

Seminar: Social Policy in the USA (in Englisch gehaltene Lehrveranstaltung)

Diplomstudiengang Soziologie (Spezielle Soziologie)

BA Studienschwerpunkt Europäische und globale Studien/Soziologisches Wahlpflichtmodul:
Soziologische Globalisierungsforschung

MA Studienschwerpunkt Europäische und globale Studien/Soziologisches Wahlpflichtmodul:
Themen der Soziologie der Weltgesellschaft für Fortgeschrittene

Nebenfach Soziologie in Bachelorstudiengängen Leistungsnachweis Spezielle Soziologie

M.Phil. Pamela Wideman

14-tägig Do 16.00-18.00 F 302

The topic of the seminar is an examination of social politics and policies in the US. The course's main interest lays in the structure of institutions, historical conditions, and the consequences of social policies. How did the institutions of the US welfare state evolve, which historical conditions were in place and how did social policies perform once introduced. The contemporary situation will also be subject to sociological scrutiny.

The course intends to inform on:

The sociological approach: What is a social policy problem, what are the means of identifying it, and how can it be studied

Terms and theory: Notions of social policy, welfare state, and socialism, empirical findings and societal norms, the influence of the market and of globalization on social policies

The institutional settings: Different forms of welfare states require different institutional settings, and vice versa; the mutual relationship between the political landscape and the structure of the welfare in the United States.

The historical context: The heydays of social policy making (Roosevelt's New Deal, Johnson's Great Society) and the subsequent rise of neo-conservatism (morality, personal responsibility, religious discipline)

The contemporary situation: The nature of social policies in the US, their role in national politics (health care reform), path dependency, public opinion and societal conflict)



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Literature:

Michael Lavalette und Alan Pratt, Social Policy: Theories, Concepts and Issues, London: Sage, 2004.

Birgit Oldopp, Das politische System der USA. Eine Einführung, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag, 2005.