What explains why conditions of inequality vary so widely across nations? What role does public policy play in mitigating or exacerbating conditions of inequality? Why are some public policies more effective in addressing key indicators of human development than others? These are some of the central questions we’ll investigate over the course of this quarter. This seminar is designed to deepen your knowledge of key public policy areas in advanced industrialized democracies in the 21st century, as well as explore how, and why, these policies differentially impact the social, economic, and political standing of their citizens. Specifically, we’ll focus on five main areas of national policymaking: family policies, health care policies, pension policies, labor market policies, and corporate governance and finance policies. For each policy area, we’ll compare different policies trajectories and outcomes on human development in three advanced industrialized democracies: Sweden, Germany, and the United States. Questions we’ll ask include: What explains central differences in national policy trajectories and outcomes? What role can public policy play in promoting or inhibiting equitable conditions of social, political and/or economic development? What are dominant obstacles that might prevent more effective, efficient, and equitable policy reforms? Can these obstacles be overcome? If so, how? If not, why not?

The seminar is also designed to support you in further developing your critical reading, thinking, speaking, research, and writing skills, ultimately culminating in the successful completion of your senior capstone thesis in International Studies. For your thesis, you will research a public policy problem of your choice from one of the five policy areas above, in a country case study or case studies of your choice, and critically investigate its social, political and/or economic impacts. Weeks 2 through week 7, you’ll write short (1 pg., single-spaced) response papers on each of the five policy areas to deepen your understanding of different policy trajectories and outcomes across the three main course case studies, and lay foundations for your thesis project. In addition, you’ll submit a series of interim writing assignments (5 total) designed to provide feedback and support on your thesis project throughout the quarter. Although each of your thesis topics will be unique, our approach will be collaborative and supportive, with peer-review and instructor feedback on your ideas and writing each week. Our goal is that you will each write on a thesis topic that’s of great interest to you (within the parameters of the course), and that you will be highly successful in this endeavor!

Seminar Requirements:
(1) Seminar Participation:
  1) Reading response papers (5 x 1 pg. single-spaced, weeks 2 - 7, 10 total, 2% each) 10%
     - Submit to TritonEd by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday
  2) Discussion leader once (together with 3 classmates): 5%
  3) General seminar participation 5%
  4) Project presentations, weeks 8 - 10 5%

(2) Research Assignments:
  3) Week 5: Thurs., 8 Feb. Thesis -1st draft: 5 – 7 pgs (d-s), 10 sources, 5 peer reviewed 5%
Seminar Participation:
As a senior capstone seminar in International Studies, students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to seminar meetings and come prepared to actively discuss central questions, puzzles and insights that arise from these readings. Two course requirements are designed to help you succeed as a seminar participant, facilitate high quality discussions, and assist you with your research skills and thesis projects:

(1) Reading Response Papers: To further develop your critical reading and writing skills, and help facilitate seminar discussions, for weeks 2 – 7 you’ll write a short (1-page single-spaced) paper on a response question of your choice from the list of “Questions for Review and Reflection” that follow each chapter. Please upload your papers to TritonEd no later than 11:59 p.m. on Wednesdays before Thursday seminar meetings. (Each paper will count for 2% of your grade for a total of 10%)

(2) Discussion Leaders: Once during the quarter, together with three of your thesis-mates, you’ll be responsible for helping lead seminar discussions on issues, themes, questions, and puzzles that you think are particularly interesting and important from that week’s assigned readings. For the weeks that you are a designated discussion leader, you should also be able to: (1) summarize the key points of the assigned reading (usually just one chapter); (2) facilitate discussion on questions raised at the end of the chapter; (3) critique assumptions that are either stated or implied by the author’s arguments; (4) comment on the quality of evidence presented to support arguments; and (5) state whether you find the arguments and/or evidence compelling or not, and why. You’ll collaborate with your fellow discussion leaders in meeting these goals and in planning for the week’s seminar discussion. I'll also meet with each group prior to our Thurs. meeting and help facilitate and answer any questions you might have. Discussion leader responsibilities will count for a total of 5% of your seminar grade.

The third component of your participation grade is “general seminar participation.” This will be assessed on a weekly basis. As long as you attend seminar and critically and actively engage course readings and assignments, you will receive full points each week (5% of course grade).

Written Assignments and Research Projects:
The central written requirement for your senior capstone seminar in International Studies is a 20 – 25-page (double-spaced) research paper. Depending on your personal research interests and goals, you can choose to write either a research-based policy paper or a more traditional research paper to meet this seminar requirement. See above for schedule of draft submissions. During weeks 8 - 10, you will also have the opportunity to present your research for feedback. Presentations should be approximately 10 minutes and will count 5% of your final grade. Project presentations serve at least five purposes: (1) they enable us to better understand each other’s research projects and interests; (2) we gain practice in presenting our research ideas; (3) they provide an opportunity for feedback prior to turning in final projects (approximately 10 minutes will be allotted to each student for feedback); (4) they advance our understanding of contemporary policy experiments and their differential impacts on well-being and human development; and (5) they help us draw comparisons and insights across case studies and regions of the world.
Late Assignment Policy:
In order to ensure standards of fairness for all students, late assignments will be penalized one-third of a grade for each 24-hour period that they are late.

Statement of Academic Integrity:
Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD Policy on Academic Integrity and published in the UCSD General Catalog: http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/Appendices/app2.htm Violations will be subject to the disciplinary measures as outlined by the University. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please consult the International Studies office or me.

Course Texts:
Three texts are available for purchase at the UCSD bookstore. Please feel free to purchase these independently online or elsewhere. In addition, multiple copies of all texts have been placed on print reserves at Geisel Library. If you choose not to purchase the texts, and experience any problems obtaining a reserve copy, please let me know.

Course Schedule:
Week 1: Thursday, 11 January: Introductions
- Introductions: you, me, the course (fill out bios)
- Review of seminar goals and assignments
- Discussion leader schedule for quarter
- General discussion of your research interests, topics, and questions
- Discuss week 2 assignments: 1. 1 pg. reading response; 2.

Readings:
- None

Assignment:
- Fill out course bio forms
- Meet with Week 2 discussion leaders at end of class. Can set up time to meet next week as well.

If you’re able, please bring laptops to seminar today and sign onto UCSD-PROTECTED network. We’ll run a research workshop/tutorial with Annelise Sklar, Research Librarian, Geisel Library, for the first part of class.

Readings:
Assignments:
1. 1 pg. single-spaced discussion paper
2. Policy proposal: 1 paragraph – policy area, and policy problem within this area (if possible), you think you might want to explore, and why. (ungraded)

Key concepts: comparative institutional advantage, conservative welfare state, coordinated market economy, de-commodification, deserving poor, earnings related benefits, liberal market economy, liberal welfare state, means testing, political economy, social democratic welfare state, subsidiarity, universal eligibility, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), “daddy leave,” “dual earner-dual career” family, Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), family allowances, individual taxation versus household taxation, male-breadwinner family model, parental leave, refundable tax credit, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Week 3: Thursday, 25 January: Health Care Policies: Comparative Perspectives
Reading:

Assignments:
1. 1 pg. single-spaced discussion paper: Health Care Policy
2. Second draft thesis proposal (ungraded):
   1. Specific policy problem - explain (1 paragraph)
   2. Country case study/studies – why (1 paragraph)
   3. Bibliography: 5 sources; 3 peer reviewed
3. Peer review
   1. Upload draft to TII.com on TritonEd no later than, Sunday, 1/21 Jan., 11:59 pm
   2. Feedback to peers by Tuesday, 1/23, 11:59 am
   3. Bring hard copy to class.

Key Concepts: adverse selection, Affordable Care Act, ambulatory versus hospital care, community rating versus experience rating, co-payment versus coinsurance, deductible, diagnosis-related group (DRG) payment system, health maintenance organization (HMO), individual versus group insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, preferred provider organization, sickness fund

Week 4: Thursday, 1 February: no class due to conference travel (Independent research and writing for Week 5 drafts.)

Week 5: Thursday, 8 February: Pension Policies: Comparative Perspectives

Assignments:
1. 1 pg. single-spaced discussion paper
2. Thesis: 1st draft: 5 – 7 pages (double-spaced); 10 sources, 5 peer reviewed (5%) 
3. Peer review
   1. Upload draft to TII.com, no later than Sunday, 2/4, 11:59 pm
   2. Feedback to peers by Tuesday, 2/6, 11:59 am

Key Concepts: average indexed monthly earnings, bend points, defined-benefit pensions, defined contribution pensions, 401(K) account, funded pensions, notional defined-contribution pensions,
occupational pensions, Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund, PAYGO pensions, payroll tax, pension points, premium pension (Sweden), replacement rate, Riester pension

**Week 6: Thursday, 15 February:** Labor Market Policies: Comparative Perspectives  
**Reading:** Capitalisms Compared: Chapter 5, "Labor Markets," pp.170-238.

**Assignments:**
1. ~1 pg. single-spaced discussion paper: labor market policy
2. Thesis – 2nd draft due next week: 12 – 15 pages (double-spaced); 15 sources, 7 peer reviewed

**Key Concepts:** at-will employment doctrine; centralized versus decentralized collective bargaining; codetermination; combination in restraint trade; conflicts of right versus conflicts of interest; employers’ association; exit, voice, and loyalty in the labor market; labor injunctions; labor unions as monopolies; local-level collective bargaining; National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act); opening clause; pattern bargaining; peak bargaining; right-to-work laws; sectoral-level collective bargaining; solidaristic wages; strike versus lockout; Taft-Hartley Act; union sector versus nonunion sector; work councils

**Week 7: Thursday, 22 February:** Corporate Governance and Finance: Comparative Perspectives  

**Assignments:**
1. 1 pg. single-spaced discussion paper: corporate governance and finance policy
2. Thesis - 2nd draft: 12 – 15 pages (double-spaced); 15 sources, 7 peer reviewed (5%)
3. Peer review  
   1. Upload draft to TII.com no later than Sunday, 2/18., 11:59 pm  
   2. Feedback to peers by Tuesday, 2/20, 11:59 am  

**Key Concepts:** block holders; board-level codetermination; capitalism without capitalists; cartels; closed-end investment fund; corporation in the public interest; credit default swap; Dodd-Frank Act; dual-class shares; efficient market hypothesis; horizontal consolidation; hostile merger; insiders versus outsiders; institutional investors; leveraged buyout; limited liability; managerialism; market for corporate control; minority shareholders; mortgage-backed securities; principal-agent problem; proxy voting; proxy voting by banks; pyramids; Sarbanes-Oxley Act; separation of ownership and control; shadow banking system; stake-holding perspective versus shareholding perspective; stock options; supervisory board versus managing board; universal banking

**Week 8: Thursday, 1 March:** Research Presentations  
**Reading:** Capitalisms Compared: Chapter 7, "The Viability of Alternative Forms of Capitalism," pp. 301 - 321. (Light reading -> independent research and reading on projects.)

**Assignments:**
1. Presentations
2. Thesis - Independent researching and writing for penultimate draft next week

**Week 9: Thursday, 8 March:** Research Presentations  
**Reading:** Independent research and writing on projects

**Assignments:**
1. Presentations
2. Thesis - penultimate draft (~15 – 18 pages, double-spaced, 20 sources, 10 – 15 peer-reviewed, depending on whether writing research or policy paper) (5%)
3. Peer review
   1. Upload draft to TII.com no later than Sunday, 3/4, 11:59 pm
   2. Feedback to peers by Tuesday, 3/6, 11:59 am

**Week 10: Thursday, 15 March:** Research Presentations
Reading: Independent research and writing on projects

**Assignments:**
1. Presentations
2. Thesis - independent researching and writing for final draft next week

**Final Exams Week:** As per UCSD's final exam schedule, please turn in a hard copy of capstone project to me (SSB# 383 — in person, or in envelope, and follow-up by e-mail) and identical e-version to TritonEd no later than 3 pm, Thurs., 22 March, then celebrate the completion of your thesis and the quarter! Congrats!!

**Further Reading:**

**Week 2: Thursday, 18 January**

_Welfare, Work and Business: Comparative Political Economies_


Family Policies: Comparative Perspectives

Week 3: Thursday, 31 January: Health Care Policies
Week 5: Thursday, 1 February: Pension Policies

Week 6: Thursday, 8 February: Labor Market Policies
3. European Industrial Relations Observatory Online: https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/eiro/about_index.htm.

Week 7: Thursday, 22 February: Corporate Governance and Finance Policies