

Introduction to the course: Gender and Welfare

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Why Gender?

- Everybody has a gender
- Gender relations influence all aspects of our lives
- It influences our relations to our parents, it influences our education, including pre-school or whether we will even attend pre-school (daycare)
- It influences our careers (choice of jobs, ability to advance in our jobs)
- It influences our retirement (when we will retire, who will take care of us, size of our pension)

Why Social Policy?

- Social Policies have great influence on gender relations
- They influence who will take care of us
- They influence whom we will take care of
- They influence our possibilities to be mothers or fathers
- They influence our choice to have children
- They influence our ability to have careers and balance family life
- They influence our relationships to our partners and our children
- They influence the way we organize our life when living with our partner(s) and after separation
- They influence our freedom of choice (what kind of lifestyle we can have)

Which Policy Would You choose if.....?

- you want to promote traditional gender roles?
- you want to increase fertility rates?
- you want to promote Czech nationalism?
- you want to promote gender equality?
- you want to promote freedom of choice?
- you want to promote economic efficiency?
- you want to support children's rights?

Make up of the course

- Credits
- Seminars
- Final Report

Credits

- Told to make it an 8 and 12 credit course, so confusion on the information

Seminars and Reading

- Normally you will be in 4 groups and make a presentation.
- Each presentation will be 10 minutes. Then we will discuss it.
- You will discuss one chapter from a book or one article.
- Group 1 will present the first article/chapter, group 2 the second etc. (from the list in alphabetical order)
- For books I will assign chapters
- For the Esping-Andersen article, just come with questions you want to discuss
- For the seminar on Western Europe/USA, your group should read all the relevant chapters/articles, but each member need read only one.

More about the reading

- The articles are short, but scientific, so still takes some time
- Important training
- Try to give as much as possible in Czech
- Do not be afraid to ask questions at the seminars about things you do not understand

More about the seminars

- At your 10 minute presentation, spend about half the time summarizing one or two main points
- You will not have time for more!
- Spend the last 5 minutes discussing your reflections, such as things you disagree with or are uncertain about
- End with some questions that you want us to discuss

Importance of seminars

- Half your grade will be seminars
- This includes the presentations and discussions
- If you miss a seminar, you must send me a written reflection about two articles or chapters. Write one page about each.
- For each reflection, write you OWN thoughts NOT a summary!!!!

The Final Presentation

- present proposals for improving social policies in one field in the Czech Republic or another country
- You can choose such areas as family policy, labor market policy, healthcare, caring for the elderly, etc.
- Pretend you are presenting your proposal to the prime minister
- The presentation should be about 15-20 minutes

The Final Papers

- Due one week after the presentation
- So you have time to take into consideration some comments at the presentation.
- Students are expected to use an internationally acceptable form of notes and references, but they can choose which system to use.
- You **RELIABLE SOURCES!!!**

Reliable Sources

- Scientific, peer-reviewed articles and books are best
- Official statistics from the governments or international organizations
- Reports from respectable newspapers and magazines (LN – not blesk, etc.)
- Not unreliable internet sources, such as wikipedia!!!!
- The use of unreliable sources will lower your grade
- Remember to have a reference for every fact or opinion that is not your own opinion!