POSC 469 - Critical Issues in Comparative Politics: Comparative Social Policy in Europe

Spring 2015 - Monday and Wednesday at 2:00-3:20pm (VKC256)

In this course we will examine how social policies compare across advanced industrial democracies, with a specific eye on countries within the European Union.

Topics that we will explore during the course of the semester include:

- Welfare state regimes
- Social Policy in Great Britain
- Social Policy in Germany
- Social Policy in Italy
- Social Policy in Sweden
- Comparative Analysis of Gender Rights and “Mainstreaming”
- Comparative Family Policy
- Comparative Immigration Policy
- New Dynamics within European Financial Crisis and Bailout
- Public Opinion and Support for Welfare Spending
- Positions of Political Parties on Social Policy

The course will be run as a seminar, which is a form of academic instruction that prioritizes in-depth discussion and active, cooperative learning.

Professor Bio

Professor Oliver received her Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science at Northwestern University. Oliver’s research is in the field of Comparative Political Economy. Her work focuses on issues of inequality related to labor politics, social policy and gender. Oliver’s recent book project investigates how structures of aggregation impact distributional contestation and the sustainability of egalitarian bargaining institutions, with particular attention to the cases of Italy and Sweden.