

- Faculté des sciences économiques
- [www.unine.ch/seco](http://www.unine.ch/seco)

## Social Policy (5EN2022)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Master en économie appliquée</b>	<b>Cours: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	3

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

### Equipe enseignante

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### Contenu

One of the most important achievements of modern nations is the welfare state. Barr (2020) offers two notions. The welfare state can be understood as a way to combat poverty through redistribution of income and wealth. Or the welfare state can be thought of as a way of providing insurance (through risk sharing) and redistribution throughout the life cycle. Both notions lend themselves to economic inquiry. One central idea we will establish is that the welfare state can be understood not as a substitute but as a complement for private markets. In addition to providing relief to the poor, the welfare state can step in where private markets would fail.

Social policy is the way that governments implement the welfare state. Two questions loom large. First, what are the objectives of social policy? Do we want to maximize total welfare? Individual liberty? Equality? Second, what is the most efficient way to achieve these objectives? Economics has a lot to say about that.

As an introduction, the first two lectures cover the fundamental ideas of the welfare state. The next lectures tackle a basic building block of social policies: social insurance, such as unemployment insurance, old-age pension, or health insurance. The second part of the course covers more selected topics in social policy, such as family policy, discrimination, and crime.

### Forme de l'évaluation

The course grade will be based on two exams; a written mid-term quiz in November (20%) and a written final exam (80%) in January during exam session.

Neither documents nor connected devices are permitted during the exams.

In case of violation of these rules, the students are in situation of fraud and the unauthorized items will be removed. The exam could be deemed as failed.

### Documentation

The teaching program is based on Nicholas Barr's book "Economics of the Welfare State," (6th ed., Oxford University Press, 2020). Three hard copies are available in the university's library. Selected lectures also rely on journal articles, which will be uploaded on Moodle.

### Pré-requis

Students who take this course as an elective have to make sure they possess the required minimal knowledge in economics. No distinction will be made between MScAPEC students and others in terms of evaluation criteria.

### Forme de l'enseignement

2-hour lecture.

### Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

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### **Social Policy (5EN2022)**

- Analyse the pertinence of social policies
- Discuss policy interventions effects
- Apply economic concepts to the understand the pertinences of different policies
- Differentiate direct effects and unintended effects of different policies
- Review current evidence on social policies

#### **Compétences transférables**

- Explore alternative measures to judge policy interventions
- Carry out a critical analysis
- Discuss complex issues
- Communicate main goals behind some social policies