

COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY: THE SWEDISH MODEL IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Instructor: Jonas Brodin
E-mail: jonas.brodin@swedishprogram.org
Class hours: Monday & Wednesday 13.00–14.30
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 12.00–13.00, A987

In the middle decades of the 20th century, Sweden was often held up as a positive anomaly, proof that it was possible to have both robust economic growth and a strong welfare state. Today, talk of the Swedish Model has faded, even as Sweden's economy and welfare state have continued to evolve. The question we will investigate in this course is whether the Swedish Model can survive in the 21st century in the face of economic restructuring, welfare state retrenchment, a changing electorate, and pressure from the EU and beyond.

This investigation will begin by looking at the historical background that allowed the Swedish Model to emerge, and then proceed to a thorough examination of the rise and fall of the welfare state, and finally analyze the future prospects of that welfare state. Along the way, students will gain familiarity with the structure, mechanics, and major players in the Swedish politics system, as well as with how Swedish politics differs from and is similar to both Sweden's immediate as well as its more distant European neighbors, with the role of labor unions and other social movements, with Sweden's role in the larger international system, and with the challenges faced by Sweden in a changing world.

WEBPAGE AND FACEBOOK GROUP: I have created a webpage and a Facebook group for the class. You can find the link to the Facebook group on the homepage: <http://sites.google.com/a/swedishprogram.org/tsppolicy/>. On the webpage you will also find the additional readings, paper topics, and lecture notes, as well as links to upload your assignments, and to useful resources for further study. The group is intended primarily as a discussion forum outside of class, although you are also encouraged to participate in extending class discussions by posting questions and links throughout the semester. I will use the group to post links to articles and books that are relevant to the class, as well as reminders of deadlines and questions I have for you as a group outside of class. The real purpose of the group, however, is for you to post your own thoughts and questions and to have further discussions.

READINGS: There will be two books, which will comprise the bulk of the readings. All the additional readings will be available on the course website. The three books are:

Francis Sejersted, *The Age of Social Democracy*
Jonas Pontusson, *Inequality and Prosperity*

LAPTOPS IN THE CLASSROOM: You are welcome to use a laptop to take notes during lecture. However, please refrain from using the internet while in class: it distracts you and those around you from the classroom discussion, and current research shows that focusing on several tasks at once negatively impacts learning.

GRADING: Your grade will be calculated according to the following breakdown:

<i>Attendance and participation:</i>	20%
<i>Papers:</i>	60%
<i>Policy briefings:</i>	20%

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION (20%): Attendance is mandatory; you have to come to lecture to pass this course. One unexcused absence is permitted; any unexcused absence after that will lower your grade one step (e.g., from A to A-). Even more importantly, your active participation in class discussions is essential. You should also participate by posting to the course Facebook group. Please prepare for seminar by writing down the questions you have about the reading or the topic of that day's class.

LECTURE & POLICY LABS: Each week will be divided into a lecture and a policy lab. Monday classes will be lectures, although you are of course encouraged to ask questions and participate then as well. Wednesday classes will be what I have called policy labs: these are not discussion sections as such, but rather a space to work out and critique specific policies in a number of different policy areas using different methods. It is also during the policy labs that you will have your policy briefing.

PAPERS (60%): There will be **three** formal papers throughout the semester, each worth 20% of your final grade. Each paper will cover only one part of the course; i.e., the papers are not cumulative. I will give you a choice of several topics for each paper. The papers should be about 5-6 pages in length.

POLICY BRIEFING (20%): Each student will do one joint policy briefing during the semester. For this briefing, you will pair up with one other student and brief the rest of the class about a particular policy area. You will also have to write up and hand in a joint brief, which should be about 5 pages in length. Both the in-class briefing and the written brief should conform to the following model:

1. Introduction: quick summary of the brief; setting up the problems and issues related to the topic.
2. Background: overview of the topic; what is at stake; who are the stakeholders; what are the potential conflicts; what are the existing policies in this area?
3. Analysis: evaluate the current policy responses to this issue; which is more effective; which is more desirable; what are the long-term effects of these responses?
4. Policy implications: how can the current policies be revised; what consequences would those revisions have; what are the pros and cons of the different policy options?
5. Recommendations: which policy or policies do you recommend, and why?

SCHEDULE:

9/5	<i>Introduction to the course + The Structure of Swedish Government</i>	542
9/7	<i>Policy lab: What is the welfare state?</i> Reading: Esping-Andersen, "The Three Political Economies of the Welfare State"	542
9/12	<i>Modernization and integration</i> Reading: Sejersted, <i>The Age of Social Democracy</i> , Introduction + chapters 1-2	542
9/14	<i>Policy lab: Political participation & representation</i> Reading: Dahl, "What Political Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require?" Pitkin, "Representation and Democracy" Dalton, "Citizenship Norms and the Expansion of Political	542

	Participation” Saunders, “The Democratic Turnout ‘Problem’”	
9/19	<i>From poor relief to the “people’s home”</i> Reading: Sejersted, <i>The Age of Social Democracy</i> , chapters 3-4	542
9/21	<i>Policy lab: Energy and environmental policy</i> Reading: Victor & Yueh, “The New Energy Order” Nordhaus, “The Economic Aspects of Global Warming” Metcalf, “Market-Based Policy Options to Control U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions”	542
9/26	<i>The golden age of the strong welfare state</i> Reading: Sejersted, <i>The Age of Social Democracy</i> , chapters 7-8	542
9/28	<i>Policy lab: Education policy</i> Reading: Sahlberg, “Education Policies for Raising Student Learning” Darling-Hammond, “What PISA Can Tell Us about U.S. Education Policy” Delblanco, “The Two Faces of American Education Policy” Ravitch, “The Myth of Chinese Super Schools”	542
10/3	Break: no class!	
10/5	Break: no class!	
10/10	<i>Corporatism meets the consumer society</i> Reading: Sejersted, <i>The Age of Social Democracy</i> , chapters 10-11	542
10/12	<i>Policy lab: Gender equality and LGBT rights</i> Reading: England, “Gender Inequality in Labor Markets” Warner, “Normal and Normaller” Fassin, “Same Sex, Different Politics”	542
	Paper 1 due!	
10/17	<i>Consensus and conflict</i> Reading: Sejersted, <i>The Age of Social Democracy</i> , chapters 12-14	542
10/19	<i>Policy lab: Health care policy</i> Reading: <i>International Profiles of Health Care Systems, 2014</i>	542
10/24	<i>The Swedish welfare state</i> Reading: <i>Social Benefits</i>	TBA
10/26	<i>Policy lab: Social trust</i> Reading: Rothstein & Uslaner, “All for All” Bergh & Bjørnskov, “Historical Trust Levels Predict the Current Size of the Welfare State”	348
10/31	<i>Inequality and capitalism</i> Reading: Pontusson, <i>Inequality and Prosperity</i> , chapters 1-3	538
11/2	<i>Policy lab: The poor and the 1%</i> Reading: Alvaredo et. al., “The Top 1% in International and Historical Perspective” Gould & Wething, <i>U.S. Poverty Rates</i> Immervoll & Richardson, <i>Redistribution Policy and Inequality</i>	348

Reduction in OECD Countries

11/7	Break: no class!	
11/9	Break: no class!	
11/14	<i>Job creation & labor market participation</i>	328
	Reading: Pontusson, <i>Inequality and Prosperity</i> , chapters 4-6	
11/16	<i>Policy lab: labor market policy</i>	348
	Reading: Bonoli, <i>The Political Economy of Active Labor Market Policy</i>	
	Paper 2 due!	
11/21	<i>Redistribution and growth</i>	538
	Reading: Pontusson, <i>Inequality and Prosperity</i> , chapters 7-8	
11/23	<i>Policy lab: Social welfare vs. privatization</i>	538
	Reading: Judt, "What Is Living and What Is Dead in Social Democracy?"	
	Hacker, "Privatizing Risk"	
	Lindert, "Private Welfare and the Welfare State"	
11/28	<i>The supranational state</i>	538
	Reading: <i>The European Union Explained</i>	
11/30	<i>Policy lab: Is the EU in crisis?</i>	348
	Reading: Habermas, "The Crisis of the European Union"	
12/5	<i>The future of the welfare state</i>	538
	Reading: Esping-Andersen, <i>A Welfare State for the 21st Century</i>	
12/7	<i>Policy lab: Immigration and integration policy</i>	336
	Reading: Garton Ash, "Islam in Europe"	
	Blaut, "The Theory of Cultural Racism"	
	Hansen, <i>The Centrality of Employment in Immigrant Integration in Europe</i>	
12/14	Exam week: Paper 3 due!	