

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

FALL 2017

Instructor: Jonas Brodin
E-mail: jonas.brodin@swedishprogram.org
Class hours: Monday & Wednesday, 13.15–14.45
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 12.15–13.15

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.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM: The Swedish Program uses the Google Classroom platform for all its courses. On the course Classroom page, you will find the readings, assignments, and lecture notes, as well as links to useful resources for further study. The course platform is also where you will submit your assignments. It also functions as a discussion forum outside of class: you are highly encouraged to participate in extending class discussions by posting questions and links throughout the semester. I will use the course platform 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.

READINGS: There will be two books, which will comprise the bulk of the readings. All the additional readings will be available on the course platform. 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 briefing:</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:

8/28	<i>Introduction to the course + The Structure of Swedish Government</i>	348
8/30	<i>Policy lab: What is the welfare state?</i> Reading: Esping-Andersen, "The Three Political Economies of the Welfare State" Judt, "What Is Living and What Is Dead in Social Democracy?" Hacker, "Privatizing Risk without Privatizing the Welfare State"	348
9/4	<i>Modernization and integration</i> Reading: Sejersted, <i>The Age of Social Democracy</i> , Introduction + chapters 1-2	336
9/6	<i>Policy lab: Political participation & representation</i> Reading: Dahl, "What Political Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require?" Achen & Bartels, "Democracy for Realists" Dalton, "Citizenship Norms and the Expansion of Political Participation" Saunders, "The Democratic Turnout 'Problem'"	348

9/11	<i>From poor relief to the “people’s home”</i>	336
	Reading: Sejersted, <i>The Age of Social Democracy</i> , chapters 3-4	
9/13	<i>Policy lab: Migration, security, and the future of Europe</i>	348
	Reading: Ignatieff, “The Refugees & the New War”	
	Bollfrass et. al., “Don’t Fear Refugees”	
	Heisbourg, “The Strategic Implications of the Syrian refugee crisis”	
	Nail, “A Tale of Two Crises”	
	Roy, “Who Are the New Jihadis?”	
9/18	<i>The golden age of the strong welfare state</i>	348
	Reading: Sejersted, <i>The Age of Social Democracy</i> , chapters 7-8	
9/20	<i>Policy lab: Education policy</i>	348
	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, “When Public Goes Private, as Trump Wants: What Happens?”	
9/25	<i>Corporatism meets the consumer society</i>	348
	Reading: Sejersted, <i>The Age of Social Democracy</i> , chapters 10-11	
9/27	<i>Policy lab: Health care</i>	348
	Reading: <i>International Profiles of Health Care Systems</i>	
	Davis et. al., <i>Mirror, Mirror on the Wall</i>	
10/2	<i>Consensus and conflict</i>	350
	Reading: Sejersted, <i>The Age of Social Democracy</i> , chapters 12-14	
	Paper 1 due!	
10/4	<i>Policy lab: Energy and environmental policy</i>	348
	Reading: Victor & Yueh, “The New Energy Order”	
	McKibben, “Some Like It Hot”	
	Nordhaus, “The Economic Aspects of Global Warming”	
	Metcalf, “Market-Based Policy Options to Control U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions”	
10/9	<i>The Swedish welfare state</i>	120
	Reading: Rosenberg, <i>Sweden: The Reluctant Nation</i>	
10/11	<i>Policy lab: Social trust</i>	120
	Reading: Rothstein & Uslaner, “All for All”	
	Bergh & Bjørnskov, “Historical Trust Levels Predict the Current Size of the Welfare State”	
	Rothstein, “Corruption and Social Trust”	
10/16	<i>Inequality and capitalism</i>	348
	Reading: Pontusson, <i>Inequality and Prosperity</i> , chapters 1-3	

10/18	<i>Policy lab: The poor and the 1%</i>	348
	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 Reduction in OECD Countries</i>	
10/23	<i>Job creation & labor market participation</i>	350
	Reading: Pontusson, <i>Inequality and Prosperity</i> , chapters 4-6 Bonoli, <i>The Political Economy of Active Labor Market Policy</i>	
10/25	<i>Policy lab: Corruption</i>	350
	Reading: <i>Corruption Perceptions Index 2016</i> <i>EU Anti-Corruption Report 2014</i> <i>The State of Corruption: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine</i> "Corruption and Inequality"	
	Paper 2 due!	
10/30 -11/12	Break: no class!	
11/13	<i>Redistribution and growth</i>	350
	Reading: Pontusson, <i>Inequality and Prosperity</i> , chapters 7-8	
11/15	<i>Policy lab: Gender equality and LGBT rights</i>	536
	Reading: England, "Gender Inequality in Labor Markets" Fassin, "Same Sex, Different Politics" <i>Injustice at Every Turn</i> , executive summary Wright, "A Court Overturns a Burkini Ban, But Not Its Mindset"	
11/20	<i>The supranational state</i>	336
	Reading: <i>The European Union Explained</i>	
11/22	<i>Policy lab: The Future of Europe</i>	336
	Reading: Habermas, "The Crisis of the European Union" Freedland, "A Howl of Rage" Garton Ash, "Is Europe Disintegrating?"	
11/27	<i>The future of the welfare state</i>	536
	Reading: Esping-Andersen, <i>A Welfare State for the 21st Century</i>	
11/29	<i>Policy lab: Choice topic</i>	536
	Reading: TBA	
12/6	Exam week: Paper 3 due!	