The emphasis of social citizenship rights is in many ways a unique feature of European approaches to problems of poverty and social exclusion. Yet, in the current context of neoliberal globalisation, there is a lot of controversy around the meaning and significance of the concept of “social Europe”. This course covers the key social policy questions that emerge in this setting. These questions pertain to the nature of contemporary socioeconomic challenges to the welfare state and the types of policy response to these challenges. They also include the unity and diversity of the European institutional setting of social policy and the implications of European enlargement on old and new member states.

Course evaluation will be based on one take-home examination and a paper of about 15 pages long. Papers may be on a specific area of social policy such as health policy, pension system, housing, labor market regulation or social assistance. Problems of and policies directed at vulnerable groups, i.e. children, elderly, disabled, socially disadvantaged minorities or gender related social policy questions, too, are among relevant paper topics. Papers may address the EU level problems and policies as they may deal with country case studies in a comparative perspective. Class attendance and participation will also affect course evaluation.

Office hours: Thursday 10-12 a.m.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction (week 1)

II. “Europe as a Way of Life” (week 2)


III. “Social Europe”: Foundations and Limitations (week 3)


B. Harvey, “The Development and the Current Context for EU Anti-Poverty and
Inclusion Policies” in European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN), *The EU We Want*, 2005, pp. 9-16.

**IV. Diversity in European Social Policy Environment (week 4)**


**V. New Challenges to European Social Policy Environment (week 5)**


**VI. Work and Poverty in Europe: New Realities (week 6)**


**VII. Policy Response to New Challenges (week 7)**


A. Gray (2004), pp. 81-111; 160-188.


**VIII. What Happened to the Welfare State? (week 8)**


**IX. EU Enlargement and Its Implications for Old and New Member States: Southern Europe (week 9)**


**X. EU Enlargement and Its Implications for Old and New Member States: East-Central Europe (week 10)**


**Weeks 11-13: Student Presentations**