

OTTO-FRIEDRICH-UNIVERSITÄT BAMBERG



Syllabus for the seminar:
Comparative Health Care Politics from Sociological Perspectives
Room: F 348 / Date: Every Other Thursday
Lecturer: Pamela Wideman, pamela_wideman@hotmail.com

In der Veranstaltung können in Form einer Hausarbeit Leistungsnachweise für den MA Soziologie (Studienschwerpunkt "Europäische und globale Studien" – C.4.1] Soziologisches Wahlpflichtmodul: Themen der Soziologie der Weltgesellschaft für Fortgeschrittene) und die DP Soziologie (Spezielle Soziologie "Transnationale und globale Prozesse") erworben werden.

Die Veranstaltung ist für das Studium Generale geöffnet.

In this seminar we will examine health politics and policies in mature welfare states (US and Europe). The seminar will focus on sociological and political interpretations of the development and the status quo of health provision. How did the varying historical contexts shape the outcomes of different health care systems among industrialized nations after WWII? What are the challenges for health care systems today? What sociological and political perspectives can be applied to the field?

The course intends to inform on:

The Sociological Approach: How may health and health care be embedded in existing sociological perspectives, what are the strengths and weaknesses of these perspectives?

The Political Approach: How did politics and policies create and shape the very different systems of health provision, what role was assigned to institutions, interest groups, and ideology, how do political theories explain past, contemporary, and future decisions on health care?

The Historical Context: What were the conditions within postwar countries that led to the emergence of (public) health care provision, how did economic and social aspects influence its structure?

The Contemporary Context: What problems are health care systems facing today, and how do different nation states cope with these problems. What are the future implications of today's changes to the delivery of health care?

Introductory Literature:

COCKERHAM, WILLIAM C. (2001): *The Blackwell Companion to Medical Sociology*, Blackwell Publishers Inc, Oxford

QUADAGNO, JILL (2005): *On Nation Uninsured. Why the U.S. Has No National Health Insurance*, Oxford University Press, New York