COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course code	Course group	Volume in ECTS credits
EKO3003	C	4

Course type (compulsory or optional)	**compulsory**
Course level (study cycle)	**bachelor**
Semester the course is delivered	**5th**
Study form (face-to-face or distant)	**face-to-face**

Course title in Lithuanian

Gerovės ekonomika

Course title in English

Welfare Economics

Short course annotation in Lithuanian

Šio kurso tikslas yra suteikti studentams teorinių ir praktinių žinių apie gerovės ekonomiką, akcentuojant kompleksinę gerovės ir gerovės valstybės sampratą bei jos raidą. Kursas apima gerovės ekonomikos teorijos pagrindus ir jų taikymą ekonomikoje. Studentai kurso metu studijuoja pagrindines gerovės teorijas ir modelius, gerovę maksimizuojančios socialinės politikos pasirinkimą, šalies ir individo gerovės veiksnius ir juos atspindinčius rodiklius, efektyvų išteklių ir pajamų paskirstymą, gerovės valstybių vystymosi problemas ir jų sprendimo būdus taikant įvairius politinius ir ekonominius instrumentus.

Short course annotation in English

The aim of the subject is to acknowledge students with the theories and issues of welfare, principles and methods of the analysis of welfare economics. Emphasis is placed on understanding of multidimensional welfare state concept, its development and measurement. The course consists of the fundamentals of welfare theory and its application to policy. Students study main welfare concepts and social choices theories, models of economic exchange and production, uncertainty, optimality, public goods, social improvement criteria, quality of life in nation and its measurement, theories of implementation and economic and political mechanisms design.

Prerequisites for entering the course

Microeconomics, Macroeconomics

Course aim

Introduce students to concepts, theories and contemporary issues of welfare economics, using analysis of the actual economic problems theoretically in the context of welfare economics theory.

Links between study program outcomes, course outcomes, citeria of learning achievement evaluation, study methods, and learning evaluation methods

Study program outcomes	Course outcomes	Criteria of learning achievement evaluation	Study methods	Evaluation methods
1. Knowledge of economics, financial, marketing and management theories, ambition to analyse and systemise them when assessing theoretical and professional phenomena	1) Recognize and describe the basic concepts of welfare economics, identify contemporary welfare economics issues	The student is able to recognize and describe the least part of welfare concepts and theories by at least half of the questions formulated for the analysis	Provision of information (explanation, illustration) by using visual materials; formulation and explanation of problem examples and questions	Written survey (during midterm and final exams)
	2) Understand and identify the main economic factors and indicators affecting the level of individual welfare and welfare state	The student recognizes and identifies basic economic factors and it reflecting indicators affecting the level of welfare		

2. Ability to apply the most recent economic and financial knowledge in professional activities, analyse critically economic processes of organizations, countries and regions by applying economic and financial theories and peculiarities of European economy	3) Recognize and be able to evaluate economic and social problems in the welfare state. Describe the occurrence such as illiteracy, poverty, inequality and their consequences to the individual wellbeing	The student identifies and analyses the processes that occur in welfare state, their causes, consequences and possible regulation approaches by at least half of the questions formulated for the analysis	Provision of information (explanation, illustration) by using visual materials; formulation and explanation of problem examples and questions; search and analysis of information in educational, scientific and periodical literature	Written survey (during midterm and final exams); evaluation of preparation of group work and its presentation
	4) Demonstrate the knowledge and understanding about the significance of intervention of government and other institution in order to regulate externalities, public goods and to design the tax	The student identifies and evaluates the consequences of political and not political institutions actions in welfare state by at least half of the formulated questions for the analysis		
4. Ability to collect, analyze and systematize data relevant to solve economic, financial, social, ethical problems of European organizations and countries, and provide recommendations for solutions	5) In accordance with requirements prepare and verbally present group work - one EU country as a welfare state	The student together with other group members prepares written group work and gives oral presentation with at least half of the requirements	Search and analysis of information in educational, scientific and periodical literature; group work; presentation of groups and individual tasks in written or oral; discussions; consultations.	Evaluation of preparation of group work and its presentation in written and oral.
5. Ability to communicate in economic analysis context using European languages, produce and deliver economic and business information to various audiences, give their own views, participate in negotiations	6) Solve practical tasks applying welfare economics theories, formulate and defend their point of view during lectures, presenting the results of their analysis	The student is able to formulate his opinion and answer questions regarding the given topic	Presentation of groups and individual tasks in written or oral; public presentations, evaluations and discussions on individual and (or) group works.	Evaluation of preparation of group work and its presentation in written and oral
	7) Demonstrate ability to communicate with others and share the work, responsibilities, discuss in groups etc.	The student works together with other group members, communicates with them and takes responsibility for his own personal results		

Links between course outcomes and content

Course outcomes	Content (topics)
1) Recognize and describe the basic concepts of welfare economics, identify contemporary welfare economics issues	1. Introduction to Welfare economics: some basic concepts, problems of definition and measurement 2. Two main fundamental theorems of welfare economics. Edgeworth box 3. Markets and basic conditions of Pareto efficiency 4. State and markets: market failures and public sector 5. Public goods
2) Understand and identify the main economic factors affecting the	6. Social justice and the state, social welfare function 7. Well-being in nation and its measurement

	level of social welfare	8. Income and subjective well-being. The paradox of happiness
3)	Recognize and be able to evaluate economic and social problems in the modern welfare state. Describe the occurrence such as illiteracy, poverty, inequality and their consequences to the individual wellbeing	9. Origin of welfare state. Welfare state models 10. Poverty and inequality in the modern welfare state: concepts and measurement
4)	Demonstrate the knowledge and understanding about the significance of intervention of government and other institution in order to regulate externalities, public goods and to design the tax	9. Origin of welfare state. Welfare state models 11. Insurance and social insurance: theory, practise and contemporary challenges 12. Pension economics: types of pensions, methods of financing, reform issues 13. Benefits in kind: health and health care, education
5)	In accordance with requirements prepare and verbally present group work - one EU country as a welfare state	1. Introduction to Welfare economics: some basic concepts, problems of definition and measurement 7. Well-being in nation and its measurement 8. Income and subjective well-being. The paradox of happiness 9. Origin of welfare state. Welfare state models 11. Insurance and social insurance: theory, practise and contemporary challenges 12. Pension economics: types of pensions, methods of financing, reform issues 13. Benefits in kind: health and health care, education
6)	Solve practical tasks applying welfare economics theories, formulate and defend their point of view during lectures, presenting the results of their analysis	Topic 8–13
7)	Demonstrate ability to communicate with others and share the work, responsibilities, discuss in groups etc.	All topics (1–13)

Distribution of workload for students (contact and independent work hours)

Lectures	45 hours
Individual students work	75 hours
Total:	**120 hours**

Structure of cumulative score and value of its constituent parts

Report of group work and its presentation in the classroom – 20%

Mid-term – 30%

Final exam – 50%

Recommended reference materials

No.	Publication year	Authors of publication and title	Publishing house	Number of copies in *University library*
		Basic materials		
1.	2012	Barr, N. *Economics of the Welfare State*	Oxford University Press	3
2.	2009	Weston, P. E., Townsend, R. N. *Welfare Economics*	New York: Nova Science Publishers	EBSCO e-book collection
		Papildoma literatūra		
3.	2012	Svallfors, S. *Contested Welfare States: Welfare Attitudes in Europe and Beyond*	Stanford University Press.	EBSCO e-book collection
4.	2006	Leach, J. *A Course in Public Economics*	Cambridge University Press	1
5.	2006	Pestieau, P. *The welfare state in the European Union: economic and social perspectives*	Oxford: Oxford University Press	1

Course programme designed by

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