

# **China's Social Welfare Policies and Practices**

**Lecturer:** Dr. Fan Yang, Associate Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

## **Introduction**

Social welfare policies and practices is a mirror of the relationship between state and people. China's social welfare policies have witnessed vast changes in the past more than half a century, and a course in introducing the dynamic process and revealing the internal logic therein will provide a desirable angle for foreign students to understand China, as well as foster their critical thinking as with the existing frameworks in analyzing Chinese society and policy process.

This course is divided into two major sections, namely 1) the welfare policy introduction and analysis and 2) the welfare policy implementation mechanism analysis. The welfare policies covered include: pension, medical insurance, social assistance, housing, and migrant children welfare. Three guest speakers will be invited to talk about related topics, including doctor-patient conflicts, gender equality, housing and intimate relationship, and NGOs and migrant children welfare.

## **Goals**

This is a 3-credit course, containing a total of 48 hours' courses that are divided into 16 weeks. The teaching goals include: students are able 1) to have systematic

knowledge about China's social welfare policies; 2) to know how these welfare policies are implemented and who are implementing them; 3) to use interdisciplinary and comparison perspective to analyze the logic of these welfare policies.

### **Assessment**

The assessment of the course includes: 1) attendance, namely the attendance of course, participation of in-class discussion; 2) coursework, namely the accomplishment of group presentation and engagement in seminar discussion; and 3) course essay.

### **Syllabus**

*Week One:* General introduction of the course

*Week Two: Pension policy in modern China*

*Week Three:* Seminar: What are the roles of family and government in providing care and material supports for the elderly?

*Week Four: Housing welfare policy in modern China*

Guest *speaker:* Dr. Yang Shen. "Housing and intimate relationship in China"

*Week Five:* Seminar on housing policies in modern China

*Week Six: Medical insurance system in modern China*

Guest *speaker:* Prof. Fang Fu (TBD). "China's Doctor-patient conflicts and medical social worker's role in it"

*Week Seven:* Seminar: Do patients in your country trust doctors? What are the solutions to deal with the possible conflicts?

*Week Eight: Social assistance policies in modern China*

*Week Nine:* Seminar: “I feed you and you shut up” phenomenon in global countries

*Week Ten: Gender and Hukou issues in modern China’s social welfare policies*

*Week Eleven:* Seminar: How does your welfare system treat the “outsiders”? Do you think it is generous or not? Why? Then how about China?

*Week Twelve:* Seminar: Are welfare policies in your country gendered? In which areas and how?

*Week Thirteen: Community structure and the implementation of social welfare policies in modern China*

*Week Fourteen:* Seminar: How does your government define community geographically? And, what is the role of community in providing welfare?

*Week Fifteen NGOs and street-level bureaucrats in China’s social welfare system*

*Guest speaker: Ms. Cui Wang (TBD).* “Welfare for China’s migrant children and what can a NGO do for it.”

*Week Sixteen:* Seminar: Policies in documents are always not policies in practices. Why? To what extent the street-level bureaucrat / frontline workers should be responsible for this in the welfare policies area?