This course focuses on social policy in response to different social problems. Seminars are divided into two sections. In the first section, we will examine the concept of“welfare state” as well as the main social policy regimes. We will know how individual attitudes towards welfare states vary across countries, who social policies protect, and why that vary across countries.

In the second section, we will analyze policy-making in Russia and other countries, focusing on differing economic, demographic, institutional, and political settings. We will compare across policy areas associated with the welfare state, including education, health, family policy, housing, and other areas. Policy decision making and the consequences of social policies will be illustrated in several country examples.