

Subject card

Subject name and code	Social policy and social insurance law system - lecture, PG_00135812						
Field of study	Polityka społeczna i system ubezpieczeń społecznych - wykład						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2025/2026		
Education level	Master's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits		3.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		exam		
Conducting unit	Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Marek Benio				
	Teachers		dr hab. Marcin Zieleniecki				
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	45.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	45
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	45		0.0		30.0	75
Subject objectives	The aim of the course "Social Policy and Social Insurance System" is to introduce students to the fundamental concepts of social policy and the functioning of social security systems in different countries, with a particular focus on Poland. Students will gain knowledge about the instruments and mechanisms of social policy, the principles of the social insurance system, and its role in providing social protection. The course also aims to develop students' ability to analyze and evaluate the solutions used in social policy and their impact on different social groups.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[ADMINMU2_WG01] At an advanced level, the student is able to define the sciences of law and administration, knows and understands the terminology, methods, and theories arising from legal sciences and related disciplines, relevant to issues concerning public authorities, the system of the state, and administration.	The student knows and understands the fundamental concepts, principles, and theories of social policy, including its objectives, instruments, and the institutions responsible for implementing social protection measures.	[SW4] test/egzamin - ustny lub pisemny [SW1] wypowiedź ustna/rozmowa/diskusja
	[ADMINMU2_KK01] The student has an advanced awareness of the role of knowledge in problem-solving, as well as the necessity of relying on expert knowledge – including the views of legal doctrine and jurisprudence – in situations that exceed the capacity for independent problem-solving.	The student is able to analyse specific cases in the field of social insurance, including the interpretation of legal provisions and case law concerning benefits, insurance obligations, and social protection.	[SK4] test/egzamin - ustny lub pisemny [SK6] demonstracja umiejętności praktycznych
	[ADMINMU2_WG02] At an advanced level, the student identifies and understands the legal and administrative conditions of various forms of social and economic life, including the rights and obligations of individuals towards other individuals and state authorities.	The student knows the structure, functions, and legal foundations of the Polish social security system and can identify its links with other forms of social protection and labour market policies.	[SW4] test/egzamin - ustny lub pisemny [SW1] wypowiedź ustna/rozmowa/diskusja
	[ADMINMU2_UU06] The student is able to assess the level of his knowledge and skills, and understands the need for continuous learning.	The student understands the legal, social, and economic determinants of social benefits systems and their importance for individuals and the economy.	[SU1] wypowiedź ustna/rozmowa/diskusja [SU6] demonstracja umiejętności praktycznych

Subject contents

Basic concepts

- Definition and objectives of social policy
- Origin and definition of social security
- Social security as a term in legal language
- Social security in international agreements
- Social security law vs. social law terminology used in different legal systems
- Social security in Polish legal language
- The right to social security in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland

Forms of Social Security Social Insurance

- Origin of social insurance
- Categorical characteristics of the Bismarckian model: universality, compulsory nature, contributory financing, principle of reciprocity modified by social solidarity, subjective nature of entitlement, formality, and standardization of benefits

Social Provision

- Origin of social provision
- Categorical characteristics: budget-based financing, risk burden shared by society, subjective nature of entitlement, formality, and standardization of benefits

Social Assistance

- Origin of social assistance
- Categorical characteristics: budget-based financing, subsidiarity of benefits, means-tested eligibility, benefits set at the subsistence level
- The issue of other forms of social security

Coverage under Social Insurance

- Division of the social insurance system into branches and types
- Subjective scope of social insurance
- Mandatory pension and disability insurance
- Voluntary and continued pension and disability insurance
- Overlapping insurance titles
- Mandatory sickness insurance and voluntary sickness insurance
- Mandatory accident insurance
- Mechanisms of coverage: automatic inclusion, application-based inclusion
- Obligation to register for insurance

Financing Social Insurance

- Contribution obligation
- Social insurance contribution rates
- Contribution assessment base
- Contribution financing and payment
- Consequences of failure to pay contributions
- Social Insurance Fund, Demographic Reserve Fund, and Bridge Pension Fund
- Open pension funds

Administration of the Social Insurance System

- Social Insurance Institution (ZUS): legal status, organizational structure, scope of activities
- Rights and duties of ZUS authorities in individual cases: account and register management, contribution and benefit settlements, reimbursement of undue benefits, consequences of delayed benefit payments, inspection rights of ZUS auditors
- Social insurance proceedings
- Universal Pension Companies (PTE) and Lifetime Pension Institutions

Pension Benefits

- Eligibility for pensions
- Pensions for those born before January 1, 1949 (retirement age, insurance period, early retirement)
- Pensions for those born after December 31, 1948 (retirement age, special regulations for those born between 1949 and 1969)
- Amount of pension benefits
- Calculation of pensions: base amount, contributory and non-contributory periods, recorded contributions, and initial capital
- Principles of indexation and minimum pension amounts

Overlapping Entitlements, Suspension, and Reduction of Benefits

- Changes in pension entitlement and amounts
- Capital-funded pensions and bridge pensions

Disability Pensions and Other Benefits

- Disability pension: eligibility criteria, required contributory and non-contributory periods, disability assessment

	- Types of disability pensions, training pensions, survivors' pensions - Funeral allowance and additional benefits Occupational Accident and Disease Insurance Benefits - Definition of work-related accidents and occupational diseases - Benefit entitlements, compensation benefits, and eligibility loss conditions - Contribution rate differentiation for accident insurance Sickness Insurance Benefits - Sickness allowance: eligibility, amount, and duration - Rehabilitation benefit, compensatory allowance, maternity allowance, and caregiving allowance Farmers' Social Insurance - Coverage, mandatory and voluntary insurance - Contributions and benefit entitlements - Organization of agricultural insurance Universal Health Insurance - Scope and obligation of health insurance - Contribution rates and financing - Health care benefits, entitlement documents, service provision rules - National Health Fund (NFZ): organizational structure and responsibilities Family Benefits - Family allowance: eligibility based on income, eligible recipients, amount, and supplementary allowances - Supplementary benefits for childbirth, parental leave, single parenthood, and child education - Childcare benefits, nursing benefits, and their administration Unemployment Protection - Unemployment benefits: eligibility, duration, and amount - Activation and training allowances, stipends for education, internships, and retraining - Pre-retirement benefits and financing of unemployment protection Special Social Security Systems - Pension and disability benefits for military personnel and uniformed services - Compensation for service-related accidents and illnesses - Social security for war and military invalids, veterans, judges, and prosecutors Principles of the Social Assistance System - Objectives and tasks of social assistance - Social assistance benefits, social pensions, cash benefits, and services - Residential care facilities and family support - Refugee integration and cost-sharing rules - Administration and financing of social assistance		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	work in class	25.0%	50.0%
	examination	50.0%	50.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	- Jan Jończyk, Social Security Law, 3rd ed, Zakamycze, Wrocław 2005 - Gertruda Uścińska, Social Insurance Law. The principles, financing, organisation, C.H.Beck, Warszawa 2022	
	Supplementary literature	- Julian Auleytnier, Social Policy in Poland and the World (2nd edition), WSP TWP Warsaw 2012 - Grażyna Firlit-Fesnak, Jacek Męcina, Social Policy, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa 2018	
	eResources addresses		

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	• What are the main pillars of the social insurance system in Poland? • What conditions must be met to qualify for a pension in Poland? • What are the sources of financing for the social insurance system in Poland? • How does sickness insurance differ from accident insurance? • What consequences can arise from failing to pay social insurance contributions? • What are the main objectives of social policy, and what tools are used to achieve them? • How does social policy address social exclusion, and what are its biggest challenges in the 21st century?
Work placement	Not applicable

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