Economics of Social Policy

Module Code: ECO00004H  Credits: 20  Year: 3  Terms: 1-2
Contact Hours: 16 Lectures, 8 Seminars (24 contact hours)
Module Organiser: Dr W A Jackson

Overview:
The module investigates how economic theory can be applied to the analysis and appraisal of social policy. Topics covered include the welfare state, equity and redistribution, income maintenance, education, housing, pensions and social care. The main theoretical strands in the module are welfare economics, human capital theory, cost-benefit analysis, output measurement and internal market models.

Aims:
- To assess the economic aspects of social policy and consider how they relate to the non-economic aspects
- To show that all social policy gives rise to economic problems that can be analysed through the standard techniques of economics
- To make use of the relevant economic theories and methods in evaluating social policy

Objectives:
On completing the module a student will be able to:
- Appraise the economic and non-economic objectives of the Welfare State
- Apply economic techniques to the analysis of social policy
- Evaluate current social policies within a formal economic framework
- Think critically about social policy matters

Assessment:
There will be a 3-hour unseen examination in the Summer Term.

Pre-requisites:
None

Main References:
The main textbook is:

Other texts which provide useful coverage of much of the material in the module are: