POLITICAL SCIENCE 209A
COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY

Fall 2020
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Virtual Office Hours Mondays 2-4
768 Barrows Hall
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COURSE OUTLINE

This course provides a broad survey of some of the major debates in comparative political economy today, focusing especially on the creation, development and reform of market institutions. We begin by reading some of the classic works in political economy, including Smith, Marx, List, and Polanyi. We review some of the most influential works from four disciplines: History, Sociology, Economics, and Political Science. We then proceed with a selective survey of literature on the political economy of Western Europe, Japan, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, and China.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Book review paper and presentation 15%
- Final paper (due 4 PM on 12/14) 50%
- bCourses memos 10%
- Class participation 25%

READING ASSIGNMENTS

The following book is required for purchase:

COURSE INTRODUCTION (8/31)

THE CLASSICS (9/14)

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), Book I, Chapters 3-4 and Book IV, Chapter 1.

Recommended

WEBER AND POLANYI (9/21)

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (1944), especially Part II.

PATTERNS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION (9/28)

Barma and Vogel, eds., 195-228 (Rostow and Gerschenkron).
ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY (10/5)


THE NEW INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS (10/12)


POLITICAL ECONOMY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (10/19)

Skim supplementary COVID-19 readings.
THE MICRO-INSTITUTIONS OF CAPITALISM (10/26)

Barma and Vogel, 289-326 (Hall and Soskice).

ASIA (11/2)

Peter Evans, Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation (1995), Chapters 1-3 and 10, 3-73, 227-50.
Naazneen Barma literature review (forthcoming).

LATIN AMERICA (11/9)

Barma and Vogel, eds., The Political Economy Reader (2008), 475-82 (De Soto).
THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA (11/16)

Catherine Boone, *Property and Political Order in Africa* (2014), 1-89.

EASTERN EUROPE (11/23)


CHINA (11/30)

Barma and Vogel, eds., *The Political Economy Reader* (2008), 399-423 (Guthrie).
PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

BOOK REVIEW

Write a 1500-word review of one of the books from the list below. You may also choose a book outside the list in consultation with the instructor. You will be asked to post a short outline (two-pages single-spaced maximum) or PowerPoint (10 slides maximum) under Discussions on the bCourses site by 9 a.m. the day of the appropriate class session (depending on the book), give a 5-10 minute presentation during that class session, and then submit the written review via bCourses by 5 PM that Friday. For the outline or PowerPoint, you should summarize the argument, compare/contrast the book to other course readings (especially the readings for that week), and then offer your own critique. For the presentation, focus on situating the book in the context of the course and presenting your critique. For the paper, focus on analysis/critique rather than summary, and develop one coherent theme rather than providing a “laundry list” of comments. Please post the paper under Assignments on bCourses. Please submit your top two choices for books to review via email by 9/9. Check access for your book as soon as possible, and purchase if necessary.

FINAL PAPER

Write a 6000-word review essay, addressing writings on a specific topic within the field of comparative political economy. There is no specific minimum or maximum number of books and articles to be covered in this assignment, but you should identify multiple perspectives and review some of the best works on the topic. Integrate some of the required readings from the syllabus with a selection of works beyond those readings. The additional readings may or may not include items from the book review list.

One alternative: Write a 6000-word research design on a topic of your choice. Begin with a clear empirical puzzle, then present two or more hypotheses based on theories/perspectives from the course plus any relevant secondary literature, and then present a research design to test the hypotheses more definitively.

For either assignment, you should consult me about your topic early in the semester. The due dates are as follows: one-paragraph proposal 10/30 (required, to be posted under Discussions on bCourses), full draft 12/4 (strongly encouraged but not required), final draft posted to Assignments on bCourses by 4 PM on 12/14. Please single-space all assignments.

bCOURSES READING MEMOS

Write a short (200 words maximum) memo on the week’s readings and post it under the appropriate topic under Discussions on the bCourses site by 9 AM the day of class any 8 weeks during the semester. Make sure to read your classmates’ memos before class. The memos may take a variety of forms: 1) a critique of one or more of the readings, 2) a comparison/contrast of two or more authors, 3) questions about the readings, 4) a proposal of a topic for class discussion. Given the short length, you may write the memo in outline or list form. Feel free to experiment. We will discuss some of the memos in class.
BOOKS FOR REVIEW

The Classics (9/14)

Friedrich von Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom* (1945)
Joseph Schumpeter, *The Theory of Economic Development* (1939)
Joseph Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy* (1950)
Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom* (1962)

Weber and Polanyi (9/21)


Patterns of Industrialization (9/28)


British Industrialization

David Landes, *The Unbound Prometheus: Technological Change and Industrial Development in Western Europe from 1750 to the Present* (1969)

Continental Industrialization

Thorstein Veblen, *Imperial Germany and the Industrial Revolution* (1954)
K. de Schweinitz, *Industrialization and Democracy* (1964)
Economic Sociology (10/5)

Neil Fligstein, The Transformation of Corporate Control (1990)
Harrison White, Markets From Networks: Socioeconomic Models of Production (2002)
Marion Fourcade, Economists and Societies: Discipline and Profession in the United States, Britain, and France, 1890s to 1990s (2009)
Viviana Zelizer, The Social Meaning of Money: Pin Money, Paychecks, Poor Relief, and Other Currencies (2017)

The New Institutional Economics (10/12)

Oliver Williamson, The Economic Institutions of Capitalism (1985)
Douglass North, Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance (1991)

Political Economy in Political Science (10/19)

Industrial Countries
Andrew Shonfield, Modern Capitalism (1965)
John Zysman, Governments, Markets and Growth (1983)
Mark Blyth, Great Transformations: Economic Ideas and Institutional Change in the Twentieth Century (2002).
Hancké, Rhodes, and Thatcher, Beyond Varieties of Capitalism: Conflict, Contradictions, and Complementarities (2008)
Bo Rothstein, The Quality of Government: Corruption, Social Trust, and Inequality in International Perspective (2011)
Gunnar Trumbull, Strength in Numbers: The Political Power of Weak Interests (2012)
Wendy Brown, Undoing the Demos: Neoliberalism’s Stealth Revolution (2015)
Thomas Piketty, Capitalism in the Twenty-First Century (2017)
Iversen and Soskice, Democracy and Prosperity: Reinventing Capitalism Through a Turbulent Century (2019)
Thomas Piketty, Capital and Ideology (2020)
Historical Institutionalism
Mahoney and Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (2003)

The Welfare State

The Environment/ Climate Change

Innovation

Britain

France

Germany
Stephen Silvia, *Holding the Shop Together: German Industrial Relations in the Post-War Era* (2013)
The United States
Kathryn Lavelle, *Money and Banks in the American Political System* (2013)

Japan
Buchanan, Chai and Deakin, *Hedge Fund Activism in Japan: The Limits of Shareholder Primacy* (2012)

Subnational Models

Sectoral Governance
The Micro-Institutions of Capitalism (10/26)

**Labor Relations**
Baccaro and Howell, *Trajectories of Neoliberal Transformation: European Industrial Relations since the 1970s* (2017)

**Corporate Governance**
Pepper Culpepper, *Quiet Politics and Business Power: Corporate Control in Europe and Japan* (2011)
Isabelle Ferreras, *Firms as Political Entities: Saving Democracy through Economic Bicameralism* (2017)

**Accounting**

**Finance**

**The Financial Crisis**

**Production Regimes**
Development (11/2 through 11/16)


Asia (11/2)

East Asia

Southeast Asia
Tuong Vu, *Paths to Development in Asia: South Korea, Vietnam, China, and Indonesia* (2010)
Jeffrey Winters, *Oligarchy* (2011)

India
Adnan Naseemulah, *Development After Statism: Industrial Firms and the Political Economy of South Asia* (2016)
Latin America (11/9)

Peter Evans, *Dependent Development: The Alliance of Multinationals, State, and Local Capital in Brazil* (1979)
Collier and Collier, *Shaping the Political Arena: Critical Junctures, the Labor Movement, and Regime Dynamics in Latin America* (2001)

The Middle East and Africa (11/16)

The Middle East/ North Africa
Adam Hanieh, *Capitalism and Class in the Gulf Arab States* (2011)
Steffen Hertog, *Princes, Brokers, and Bureaucrats: Oil and the State in Saudi Arabia* (2011)
Diwan, Malik, and Atiyas, eds., *Crony Capitalism in the Middle East: Business and Politics From Liberalization to the Arab Spring* (2019)
Africa

Eastern Europe (11/23)

China (11/30)
Nee and Opper, *Capitalism From Below: Markets and Institutional Change in China* (2012)
Minxin Pei, *China’s Crony Capitalism: The Dynamics of Regime Decay* (2016)
Florian Schneider, *China’s Digital Nationalism* (2018)