

PSC 2339: Comparative Political Economy

Emmanuel Teitelbaum

Fall 2020

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Class Hours: TR 2:20-3:35 p.m.

Class Room: Online (Synchronous)

Course Description

This is a survey course in comparative political economy, a field of inquiry within the subfield of comparative politics that explores the interaction of politics and the economy. Comparative political economy is one of the most active research fields in comparative politics and is comprised of a wide range of research topics. Frequently the focus of research in comparative political economy is on how institutions influence economic outcomes. How, for example, do property rights facilitate investment and economic growth? How do different colonial legacies inhibit or promote economic performance? Sometimes, however, institutions become the dependent variable in our analysis. How does wealth influence regime stability? Or how does economic globalization affect welfare states? This course will address questions like these through an exploration of relevant literature. The syllabus emphasizes current research agendas in political economy, and its main goal is to provide students with a broad overview of contemporary debates in the field.

Course Requirements

1. Two exams (30% each)
2. Report and presentation (25%)
3. Quizzes (10%)
4. Participation (5%)

Readings

Students will read approximately 75 pages per week of academic material and one work of popular nonfiction during the semester.

All academic readings will be posted to blackboard, except for the following book, which I recommend that you purchase:

Judis, John B. (2016). *The Populist Explosion: How the Great Recession Transformed American and European Politics*. New York: Columbia Global Reports.

Exams

Students will take two non-comprehensive exams. These exams will test the students' knowledge of the reading material as well as arguments, concepts, and facts presented and discussed in class.

Exams will be comprised some combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer and essay questions.

Report and Presentation

Students will work in groups to prepare a report to be presented at the end of the semester. More details will be provided as the semester progresses.

Quizzes

Students will be required to take a series of pop quizzes. These quizzes are designed primarily to test reading comprehension and serve as incentive for students to complete the readings. While no makeups will be given for these quizzes, the instructor will drop each student's lowest quiz score.

Participation

This class is structured so that students have ample opportunity to participate in class discussions. Students are encouraged to voice their opinions both in small group settings as well as in broader class discussions and to ask clarifying questions when the need arises.

Learning Objectives

Students in this course should strive to meet the following objectives:

1. Demonstrate a basic familiarity with the field of comparative political economy.
2. Leverage differences between countries or regions to analyze the effects of institutions on economic outcomes and vice-versa.
3. Demonstrate how historical legacies shape contemporary political and economic outcomes.
4. Discern basic differences in institutional and economic structures shape how countries interact with the global economy.

Out of Class Preparation

In a 15-week semester, including exam week, students are expected to spend a minimum of 100 minutes of out-of-class work for every 50 minutes of direct instruction, for a minimum total of 2.5 hours a week. A 3-credit course should include 2.5 hours of direct instruction and a minimum of 5 hours of independent learning or 7.5 hours per week.

Academic Integrity

By taking this course, you are agreeing to abide by the [GWU code of Academic Integrity](#). According to this code, academic dishonesty is defined as "cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information." Note that this is not a comprehensive list. Other types of academic dishonesty include providing false or misleading information in an effort to postpone an exam or to get an extension on an assignment and providing substantially similar material for a writing assignment for assignments in two different courses without the prior permission of the faculty members teaching those courses. The minimum penalty for academic dishonesty is a failing grade on the assignment in question and the maximum penalty is failure of the class. Furthermore, the violation will be reported to GW's Office of Academic Integrity, which can impose additional penalties beyond those I may impose.

Course Policies

Attendance

There is no formal attendance requirement for this course. However, students who attend class tend to perform better on exams and assignments. Also, please keep in mind that attendance feeds into participation and that you cannot take the quizzes if you are not in class.

Lateness

Please come to class on time. It is distracting to me and to other students when you enter the room late.

Laptops and cell phones

Please put away your cell phones during class. It is fine to use computers to take notes, but you should refrain from checking social media and email.

Diversity in the Classroom

We want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to participate in class and to get the most out of their learning experience at GW. Moreover, we all benefit from a diversity of views in the classroom. Therefore, please be respectful of other people's views and be mindful of when others are trying to participate.

Make-Ups

Quizzes cannot be made up. I will give exam makeups for medical and family emergencies, but only with appropriate documentation from a medical professional.

Learning Needs

Please let me know if you have any special needs or learning requirements and I will do my best to accommodate them.

Email

I try to respond to emails within 24 hours except on weekends. It is usually preferred to talk to me in person, however, either after class or during office hours.

Food

Students are permitted to eat light snacks, but please refrain from bringing sugary drinks, coffee or large, odiferous meals.

Week 01, 08/31 - 09/04: Introduction and Overview

Polanyi, Karl (2001). *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press. Chapters 4, 11 and 12.

Part I: History, Regime Type and Development

Week 02, 09/07 - 09/11: Political Institutions and Economic Development

Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson (2012). *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. New York: Crown Publishers. Chapter 3.

Boix, Carles and Susan C. Stokes (2003). "Endogenous Democratization". In: *World Politics* 55.4, pp. 517–549.

Week 03, 09/14 - 09/18: Democratic Backsliding

Pop-Eleches, Grigore and Graeme B. Robertson (2015). "Structural Conditions and Democratization". In: *Journal of Democracy* 26.3, pp. 144–156.

V-Dem Institute. *V-Dem Annual Democracy Report 2019*.

Week 04, 09/21 - 09/25: The Resource Curse

Ross, Michael L. (2013). *The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 3.

Brooks, Sarah M. and Marcus J. Kurtz (2016). "Oil and Democracy: Endogenous Natural Resources and the Political Resource Curse". In: *International Organization* 70.2, pp. 279–311.

Part II: The Political Economy of the OECD

Week 05, 09/28 - 10/02: Poverty and Inequality

Piketty, Thomas (2014). *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. Cambridge Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. Introduction.

Stiglitz, Joseph E. (2012). *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future*. New York: WWNorton and Company. Chapter 2.

Week 06, 10/05 - 10/09: Capitalism and Social Policy

Esping-Andersen, Gosta (2014). "Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism". In: *The Welfare State Reader*. Ed. by Christopher Pierson, Francis G. Castles and Ingela K. Naumann. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Alesina, Alberto, Edward L. Glaeser, and Burce Sacerdote (2001). "Why Doesn't the United States Have a European-Style Welfare State?" In: *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity* 2001.2, pp. 187–277.

Week 07, 10/12 - 10/16: Automation and Employment

OECD (2018). *Job Creation and Local Economic Development 2018: Preparing for the Future of Work*. Read Executive Summary and Chapter 3. Skim Chapters 1 & 2 for main ideas.

***Exam 1 Available Thursday-Sunday

Part III: Distributive Politics in Developing Countries

Week 08, 10/19 - 10/23: Clientelism & Patronage

Stokes, Susan Carol (2013). *Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism: The Puzzle of Distributive Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

Aspinall, Edward and Ward Berenschot (2019). *Democracy for Sale: Elections, Clientelism, and the State in Indonesia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Chapters 5 & 6.

Week 09, 10/26 - 10/30: Ethnicity and Public Service Provisioning

Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner, and Jeremy M. Weinstein (2009). *Coethnicity: Diversity and the Dilemmas of Collective Action*. Russell Sage Foundation. ISBN: 9780871544209. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7758/9781610446389>.

Miguel, Edward (2004). "Tribe or Nation? Nation Building and Public Goods in Kenya versus Tanzania". In: *World Politics* 56.3, pp. 327–362.

Optional reading:

Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner, and Jeremy M. Weinstein (2007). "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" In: *American Political Science Review* 101.4, pp. 709–725.

Week 10, 11/02 - 11/06: Women and Development

Benería, Lourdes (2015). *Gender, Development, and Globalization: Economics as If All People Mattered*. New York, NY: Routledge. Chapter 3.

Duflo, Esther (2012). "Women Empowerment and Economic Development". In: *Journal of Economic Literature* 50.4, pp. 1051–1079.

Part IV: Globalization and the Populist Backlash

Week 11, 11/09 - 11/13: Neoliberalism and its Early Opponents

Judis, John B. (2016). *The Populist Explosion: How the Great Recession Transformed American and European Politics*. New York: Columbia Global Reports. Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2.

Week 12, 11/16 - 11/20: The Populist Backlash in the West

Judis, John B. (2016). *The Populist Explosion: How the Great Recession Transformed American and European Politics*. New York: Columbia Global Reports. Chapters 3, 4 & 6.

***Exam 2 Available Thursday-Sunday

Week 13, 11/23 - 11/27: Presentations

***No class Thursday, Thanksgiving Break

Week 14, 11/30 - 12/04: Presentations

Week 15, 12/07 - 12/11: Presentations

****No class Tuesday, designated Friday*

****Group project final reports due by end of day on scheduled date of final exam*