Department of Political Science
Brigham Young University
Winter 2011
PLSC 344: Comparative Political Economy

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Course Description:

Tracing its roots back to Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill, the term “political economy” is widely used by economists and political scientists alike to describe a host of different political and socio-economic phenomena. In this course we will examine the historical development of what we mean by political economy but ultimately will focus on the interaction between political and economic themes that affect everyday life. The effect of political decisions on economic outcomes remains one of the most important areas of study in political science and we will examine how and why certain decisions were made as well as the implications that arose from those policy choices. We will examine the relationship between politics and economics both historically as well as regionally and by the end of the course you will have acquired a more in-depth understanding of how political outcomes and economic structures are intrinsically related.

Requirements:

All assigned readings listed on the schedule below are required. In order to effectively understand and synthesize the material in the course it is imperative that you come prepared to participate in each class session. You should review the material before you come to class. Most of the lectures will not directly address the literature but rather use the analysis and information from the literature as a frame for our discussion. As a result, it is expected that everyone should be prepared to contribute and discuss the readings/topics each class.

Your grade in this course will consist of four main assignments over the course of the semester. Your first assignment will be to keep a theory journal with summaries for the readings/topics that we are covering in class. This assignment is focused on helping you understand and synthesize the material for the course (since we will be covering a lot of material over the course of the semester), and assist you in developing a more theoretically-grounded research project. You will be required to compose a summary (approximately 1-2 pages long) for each of the chapters/articles assigned. We will cover some of the readings in class (which will help you expand your summaries) but others we will only discuss briefly. You will be expected to accurately summarize the readings that are assigned. The theory journal will be turned in twice during the semester. The summaries will be a guide for me to ensure that you understand the readings and also a useful resource for you in your own research endeavors. This assignment will count for 10 percent of your final grade.

The second major assignment for the course will be three exams. Two exams will be given during throughout the course on February 3rd and March 15th, respectively. These exams will be distributed in class and you will have a 24-hour period to work on the exam. It will be open note and open book but you will not be allowed to consult anyone else’s work. The final exam will be a take-home,
comprehensive exam that will be distributed at the end of the semester. These exams will constitute 50% (15% for each exam, 20% for final) of your final grade.

In addition, you will be assigned to write a research paper on the topic of your choosing. This paper should be 15-18 pages (double-spaced) and will be a comparison of the political economy between two or more cases. Please note that a prospectus of your topic (including a list of preliminary sources) is due by Jan. 27th, so please begin thinking about what you would like to research and write on this semester. A preliminary draft of your final paper is due March 8th. Final papers are due in class on April 12th. Please feel free to discuss your research topics with your classmates but keep in mind that this is NOT a group project and it is expected that it will be your own work (see note on academic integrity below). This assignment will count for a total of 40% of your final grade.

Grading (% of Overall Grade):

- Reading Summaries/Participation-10% (Feb. 17th and Apr. 5th)
- Exam #1- 15% (Feb. 3rd)
- Exam #2- 15% (Mar. 15th)
- Research Prospectus- 10% (Jan. 27th)
- Preliminary Draft of Research Paper- 10% (Mar. 8th)
- Final Research Paper- 20% (Apr. 12th)
- Final Exam- 20% (TBA)

Academic Integrity:

While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. General information about the honor code can be found at honorcode.byu.edu. Details about Academic Honesty are found at http://honorcode.byu.edu/content/academic-honesty-details.

Writing submitted for credit at BYU must consist of the student's own ideas presented in sentences and paragraphs of his or her own construction. The work of other writers or speakers may be included when appropriate (as in a research paper or book review), but such material must support the student's own work (not substitute for it) and must be clearly identified by appropriate introduction and punctuation and by footnoting or other standard referencing.

The substitution of another person's work for the student's own or the inclusion of another person's work without adequate acknowledgment (whether done intentionally or not) is known as plagiarism. It is a violation of academic, ethical, and legal standards and can result in a failing grade not only for the paper but also for the course in which the paper is written. In extreme cases, it can justify expulsion from the University. Because of the seriousness of the possible consequences, students who wonder if their papers are within these guidelines should visit the Writing Lab or consult a faculty member who specializes in the teaching of writing or who specializes in the subject discussed in the paper. Useful books to consult on the topic include the current Harbrace College Handbook, the MLA Handbook, and James D. Lester's Writing Research Papers.
All students in this class are expected to adhere to the University's Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy. The availability and convenience of accessing information electronically has transformed the study of political phenomena but also requires more diligence on the part of scholars/students producing such work. Therefore, I consider it important to clarify the course policy regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct. Students must completely and unambiguously cite the sources that they use or draw upon in developing new ideas, theories and explanations that they present to their peers and the broader scholarly community (including this class). Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the course and notification will be given to the University's Honor Code Office. In addition, other forms of academic misconduct (cheating, fabrication of material, etc.) outlined in the Academic Honesty Policy will also result in a possible failing grade for the assignment or course. If you have any concerns or remaining doubts regarding the different forms of academic misconduct please come and discuss them with me.

Research and Scholarly Work:

Since this is an upper-division course I have certain expectations about the type of research and written work that you complete for the course. Each of you will be conducting research and writing a 15-18 page research paper this semester. Here are a couple of points that will help you in producing this paper.

First, I would encourage you to select your research topic and begin your research early on in the course. The more time that you have to think about your project and apply the lessons/theories from the course the more you will be able to polish and narrow your research question. Do not wait until the week that the research prospectus is due to start thinking about what puzzles interest you.

Second, I strongly encourage you to visit the College's Writing Lab in 1051 JFSB for assistance with this project. You can either schedule an appointment with a writing tutor or just drop-in for writing assistance. The lab assistants will help you with the structure of your argument and provide suggestions in how you might simplify your thesis and sub-arguments. Using the Writing Lab also requires you to work on the paper before it is actually due which forces you to more thoroughly examine your argument and the evidence you have found.

Finally, just a reminder that online sources (such as Wikipedia, about.com, etc.) are not typically considered academic sources and are NOT sufficient for you to use in conducting scholarly research. They may be useful starting points for your work but DO NOT attempt to cite those types of sources as scholarly work that supports your arguments. If you have questions about conducting research or where to look for sources on your topic, please come talk to me and I will be happy to provide assistance.

Class Conduct:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU’s policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to an administrative official and contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.
Special Assistance:

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.

Required Texts:


Class Schedule:

Jan. 4-Introduction and Class Overview

Section I- Examining the Relationship between Politics and the Economy

Jan. 6- Is the Economy Political? Are Politics Economic?

Assigned Readings:


Douglass North, *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*, (Cambridge University Press, 1990), pg. 3-45; 92-104

Jan. 11- Different Approaches in Political Economy

Assigned Readings:

James P. Caporaso & David P. Levine, *Theories of Political Economy*, pg. 55-126
Jan. 13- Common Debates in Comparative Political Economy

Assigned Readings:


Section II- Can Politics Explain Economic Policies and Growth?

Jan. 18- Explaining Economic Growth

Assigned Readings:


Jan. 20- Political Regimes and Economic Growth

Assigned Readings:


Jan. 25- Inequality and Redistribution

Assigned Readings:

Carles Boix, Democracy and Redistribution. (Cambridge University Press, 2003): Ch. 1, 6


Jan. 27- Welfare States and the Provision of Public Goods

***Research Prospectus Due

Assigned Readings:
Phillip Keefer and Stuti Khemani, “Why Do the Poor Receive Poor Services?,” Economic and Political Weekly, Feb. 28th, 2004


Feb. 1- Welfare State (cont’d)

Assigned Readings:

Gosta Esping-Andersen, Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism, (Princeton University Press, 1990), Ch. 1-3

Jonas Pontusson, Inequality and Prosperity: Social Europe vs. Liberal America, (Cornell University Press, 2005), Ch.7

Feb. 3- Exam #1

Section III- Politics and Policies in Advanced Industrialized Economies

Feb. 8- Varieties of Capitalism

Assigned Readings:

Mancur Olsen, The Rise and Decline of Nations, (Yale University Press, 1982), Ch. 2-3.


Feb. 10-Varieties of Capitalism (cont’d)

Assigned Readings:


Feb. 15- The Politics of Central Banking

Assigned Readings:


Feb. 17-Differences between U.S. and Europe
***Reading Journal Due

Assigned Readings:


Feb. 22- No class (Monday Instruction)

Feb. 24- Globalization and Change in Developed Economies

Assigned Readings:


Dani Rodrik, Has Globalization Gone Too Far? (Washington DC: Institute for International Economics, 1997), Ch. 3-4

Mar. 1- Globalization and Change (cont’d)

Assigned Readings:


Torben Iversen and Thomas Cusack "The Causes of Welfare State Expansion: Deindustrialization or Globalization?" World Politics, April 2000

Mar. 3- No class (Research/Writing Day Day)

Section IV- Politics and Policies in Developing Economies

Mar. 8- Examining Historical Legacies
***Preliminary Draft of Research Paper Due

Assigned Readings:


Atul Kohli, *State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery*, (Cambridge University Press, 2004), Ch. 1-3

**Mar. 10- Developing States and Economies**

**Assigned Readings:**


Atul Kohli, *State-Directed Development*, Ch. 8-9 (skim Ch. 8)

David Waldner, *State-Building and Late Development* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 1999), Ch. 2, 4

**Mar. 15- Exam #2**

**Mar. 17- Redistribution, Clientelism and Corruption**

**Assigned Readings:**


**Mar. 22- Ethnic Divisions**

**Assigned Readings:**


David Laitin, “Hegemony and Religious Conflict: British Imperial Control and Political Cleavages in Yorubaland,” in *Bringing the State Back In*, Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol, (eds.),

**Mar. 24- The Effects of International Aid**
Assigned Readings:


March 29- No Class (Research/Writing Day)

Section V- Political Economy and New Democracies

Mar. 31- Political Economy and Post-Socialism

Assigned Reading:


Apr. 5- Development, Democracy and Welfare States

***Reading Journal Due

Assigned Readings:


Apr. 7- Development, Democracy and Welfare States (cont’d)

Assigned Readings:


Apr. 12- Conclusion/Review for Final Exam

***Research Paper Due