COURSE OBJECTIVES

The field of comparative political economy (CPE) is enormous, seemingly touching on every major question in comparative politics. This graduate seminar focuses on the core of CPE, which is the literature that attempts to explain economic policies and economic outcomes with political variables. The motivating questions in this core, and thus in our seminar, are (1) why do different countries implement different economic policies and have different economic institutions and (2) why are some countries and some people wealthier than others? The course is designed to give students both the factual and the theoretical background needed to produce original scholarship on these questions. As a result (unlike most graduate seminars), this course will devote some time to developing a rich knowledge of empirical facts about CPE; students will read and view some works that will familiarize them with important real-world developments and facts in CPE. Most of the course, however, will be devoted to teaching students the main theoretical approaches and findings found in the scholarly study of CPE.

READING REQUIREMENTS

Weekly seminars will center on readings, student reactions to them, student reactions to other students’ reactions to them, and so on. The instructor will spur and guide discussions somewhat, but usually these will be launched by student presentations. All students are expected to have completed all of the REQUIRED READINGS listed each week. (Students are urged to read each week’s readings in the order they appear on the syllabus.) On this syllabus, many readings are followed by the pages or chapters that students are required to read; if this is absent, students should read the entire thing. The following books, which are on sale at the CU bookstore under PSCI 7902, will be read in their entirety or almost in their entirety (listed in order of appearance on syllabus):


These seven books, and many others from which we will read, are also available at Norlin reserves. All readings besides these seven books will be posted as scanned documents to CULearn.

GRADING

Your final grade will be based on four criteria, distributed in the following manner:

1. Class Participation 20%
2. Two Short Papers 20%
3. Final Paper 50%
4. Final Paper Presentation 10%
Final grades will be determined using the following percentage scale: A=94-100, A-=90-94, B+=87-90, B=84-87, B-=80-84, C+=77-80, C=74-77, C-=70-74, D+=67-70, D=64-67, D-=60-64, F=<60.

(1) **Class participation** is based on how often you voluntarily speak in class discussions. This obviously requires you to come prepared with questions/thoughts/reactions/criticisms from the readings.

(2) Each student is required to write **two short papers** and present one of them in class. The papers should critically assess, in 2-3 pages, the readings for that week. These papers should be logically structured with a coherent argument that unifies the paper. They should not be a laundry list of random thoughts or criticisms, nor should they necessarily cover every reading. Rather, the best papers will actually focus on one topic while drawing in one or two of the week’s readings. They may raise problems in research design or methodology, gaps in reasoning, oversight of important events or facts, etc. They may also compare and contrast different authors’ approaches to the same question or apply an argument to a particular empirical case.

Each student will present one of their two papers in class. Student presenters will lead off the discussion each week by giving a 10-minute presentation that draws from their paper. Students may not simply read their paper in class, nor is their presentation/paper to be a summary of the readings since everyone will have read them anyways. Rather, students should treat these presentations as a launching pad for the seminar’s discussion; presentations that end with a question for colleagues to grapple with are preferred.

(3) Students will hand in a **Final paper** (20 to 30 pages) on a topic of their choosing in the field of CPE. Students may make this paper an expansion of one of the short papers written during the semester, but they may NOT hand in or have handed in any part of their paper to another seminar or class. Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor after they have a research idea but before conducting extensive work on the project.

This paper should be written like a typical social science journal article, which means it must have the following parts. (1) **INTRODUCTION:** draws the reader in by framing the paper and clearly stating the research question or puzzle. (2) **LITERATURE REVIEW:** critically reviews the literature on the research question (requiring students to go beyond the readings for that topic on the syllabus). (3) **THEORY AND HYPOTHESES:** discusses the contribution and the need for the study, lays out the theoretical argument, and lists a set of hypotheses that will be tested in the remainder of the paper. (4) **DATA AND METHODS:** discusses the data and methods used in the paper. (5) **DATA ANALYSIS/RESULTS:** presents and analyzes the data. (6) **CONCLUSION:** summarizes and, well, concludes.

(4) During the last two weeks of class, each student will make their **Final paper presentation** to the entire class. These presentations will be 10 minutes long with 5 minutes for questions and answers.

PART I: BACKGROUND TO COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY

AUGUST 26

INTRODUCTION

SEPTEMBER 2

NO CLASS

REQUIRED:
- Film: *Commanding Heights, Episodes I and II* [watch on your own at http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/hi/story/index.html]

SEPTEMBER 9

BACKGROUND: HISTORICAL TRENDS AND THEORETICAL ISSUES

**MOTIVATING QUESTIONS:**
- What are the most important historical trends in political economy in the 20\textsuperscript{th} century?
- What are some ways in which countries differ in their political-economic configurations?
- What are the relative merits of different theoretical approaches to the scientific study of political economy?
REQUIRED READINGS:


RECOMMENDED READINGS (General Interest):

- Taylor, Timothy. *America and the Global Economy*. The Great Courses (DVDs)
- Weaver, Frederick (2006). *Economic Literacy*.
- Caporaso, James A. and David P. Levine (1992). *Theories of Political Economy*

RECOMMENDED READINGS (Area-Specific Interest):

- Aslund, Anders (2002). *How Capitalism was Built: The Transformation of Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia*.

RECOMMENDED READINGS (Classics):

- Schumpeter, Joseph (1942). *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*.
- Cardoso, Fernando Henrique and Enzo Faletto (1979). *Dependency and Development in Latin America*.

PART II: SCHOLARLY APPROACHES TO POLITICAL ECONOMY:

**THE THREE I’S OF PE**

SEPTEMBER 16

INTERESTS: RATIONALITY AND SELF-INTEREST

MOTIVATING QUESTIONS:

- Does material self-interest shape actors’ policy preferences and political behavior?
- If so, how are these interests aggregated and expressed to the state? If not, what does motivate political and economic actors?

REQUIRED READINGS:

Survey:


Substance

- Gourevitch, Peter (1986). *Politics in Hard Times*. [read Preface, Chapters 1, 2, and 6, and skim 3-5; on sale at CU bookstore]

Critique


RECOMMENDED READINGS:


SEPTEMBER 23

INSTITUTIONS 1: INSTITUTIONS AND GROWTH

MOTIVATING QUESTIONS:

- Are institutions the primary determinant of economic performance?
- Which institutions promote growth? Does democracy encourage development?

REQUIRED READINGS:

Survey


Substance


Critique


RECOMMENDED READINGS:

SEPTEMBER 30
INSTITUTIONS 2: VARIETIES OF CAPITALISM

MOTIVATING QUESTIONS:
- What are the different ways in which countries organize and regulate capitalism?
- What motivates these differences, and what are their consequences?

REQUIRED READINGS:
Survey

Substance
- Hall, Peter and David Soskice (2001). Varieties of Capitalism. [read Chapter 1]

Critique

RECOMMENDED READINGS:
- Schonfield, Andrew (1965). Modern Capitalism.
- Steinmo, Sven (1992). Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis

OCTOBER 7
IDEAS AND CULTURE

MOTIVATING QUESTIONS:
- Do ideas have a life of their own in explaining actors’ behavior and preferences, or are they merely drafted by individuals to justify their self-interested actions?
- Does a society’s culture influence how wealthy it is?

REQUIRED READINGS:
Survey

Substance
- Blyth, Mark (2002). Great Transformations. [read Chapters 1, 2, and 8]
- Hall, Peter (1989). The Political Power of Economic Ideas [read Chapters 1 and 14]

Critique
- Hall, Peter (1986). Governing the Economy. [read Chapters 1, 9, and 10]

RECOMMENDED READINGS:
PART III: THE STATE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

OCTOBER 14
LABOR, BUSINESS, AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE DEVELOPED WORLD

MOTIVATING QUESTIONS:
- Are labor unions and workers organizations good or bad for economic performance?
- Can corporatist and other collective wage bargaining institutions overcome the collective action problems posed by self-interested groups?

REQUIRED READINGS:
Review

Substance
- Olson, Mancur (1982). The Rise and Decline of Nations: Economic Growth, Stagflation, and Social Rigidities. [read Chapters 1-3]

Critique
- Iversen, Torben (1999). Contested Economic Institutions. [read entire (but skim Chapter 5); on sale at CU bookstore]

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

OCTOBER 21
GROWTH AND THE STATE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

MOTIVATING QUESTIONS:
- What kind of state and state policies are most conducive to economic growth in the Third World?
- More specifically, how and why did the East Asian Tigers grow so quickly?
- Should poor countries practice a measured protectionism or free trade?

REQUIRED READINGS:
Survey
- Gilpin, Robert (2001). Global Political Economy [read Chapter 12]

Substance

Critique
RECOMMENDED READINGS:
- Gerschenkron, Alexander (1962). *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective*
- Cardoso, Fernando Henrique and Enzo Faletto. *Dependency and Development in Latin America* (1979)
- Alice Amsden (1989), *Asia’s Next Giant: South Korea and Late Industrialization*
- Wade, Robert (1990). *Governing the Market*
- Collier, Paul (2007). *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Falling Behind and What Can be Done about it*

OCTOBER 28
POLICY REFORM AND MARKET LIBERALIZATION IN TRANSITIONING ECONOMIES

MOTIVATING QUESTIONS:
- What explains why some low- and middle-income countries have embraced free markets more enthusiastically than others?
- What are the consequences of the new market orthodoxy in the Third World?

REQUIRED READINGS:

Survey

Substance

Critique

RECOMMENDED READINGS:
PART IV: UNDERSTANDING AND COMPARING WELFARE STATES

NOVEMBER 4

VARIETIES OF WELFARE STATES IN THE DEVELOPED WORLD

MOTIVATING QUESTIONS:
- What are the different kinds of welfare states employed in the developed world?
- What explains these differences? Is it the demand for social protection from the working class or do states construct coherent “production regimes” into which welfare states coherently fit? And what is the role of business interests in shaping the welfare state?

REQUIRED READINGS:

Survey

Substance
- Esping-Andersen, Gosta (1990). The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism. [read Introduction and Chapters 1-3, 5-6, 9; on sale at CU bookstore]

Critique
- Hall, Peter and David Soskice (2001). Varieties of Capitalism. [read Chapter 4].

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

NOVEMBER 11

EMBEDDED LIBERALISM: GLOBALIZATION AND THE WELFARE STATE

MOTIVATING QUESTIONS:
- Why does openness seem to be coupled with a large welfare state?
- Does globalization grow or shrink the welfare state?

REQUIRED READINGS:

Survey

Substance
- Katzenstein, Peter (1985). Small States in World Markets. [read Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 5; on sale at CU bookstore]
Critique


RECOMMENDED READINGS:


NOVEMBER 18
WELFARE STATES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

MOTIVATING QUESTIONS:

- Does globalization enhance or weaken the welfare state in the developing world?
- Why have so many developing countries privatized social security?

REQUIRED READINGS:

Survey


Substance


Critique


RECOMMENDED READINGS:


DECEMBER 2
PAPER PRESENTATIONS

DECEMBER 9
PAPER PRESENTATIONS
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html

Disability Services’ letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, {{insert your procedures here}} See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at http://www.colorado.edu/odh

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/