

Comparative Political Economy

Spring 2018

Course Number: 01:790:357
Class Time: Mon & Thur. 10:55-12:15
Classroom: RAB-110A (Ruth Adams)
Office hours: by appointment

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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the main theories of comparative political economy (CPE) and their explanations of variation of economic policies and outcomes. The survey of these theories is organized as a progression from micro- to macro-level explanations. We begin by examining the sources of political cleavages over various economic policies and the formation of political coalitions. Next, we explore a range of theories positing that differences in the organization of interest groups lead to systematic differences in economic outcomes. We examine how comparative political economists have studied the problem of ‘state capture’ by interest groups and its economic and political consequences. In the last part of the course, we apply these theoretical building blocks to a variety of issue areas, including financial development, taxation, the development of social spending and the political management of unemployment.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Acquire an understanding of the main CPE theories and topics;
- Appraise and apply the main CPE theories in developing an advanced understanding of government, politics or public affairs;
- Assess the comparative method and analysis in the political science literature;
- Compare political and economic development of some particular regions in the world.

Requirements

This is a course covering the key concepts and theoretical debates in a large sub-field in comparative politics. Students are expected to complete the required readings each week, attend the lectures, participate in class discussions and take careful notes. I will be aimed at helping you understand and evaluate challenging readings assigned in this course. When reading the class materials, you should locate the main argument, strengths, weaknesses, and other issues that are of concern. If there are certain questions or points

that you think we should specifically examine in class, mark them down and raise them in our class discussions.

There are two in-class presentations, one in Week 5 (topic: variety of capitalism) and the other in Week 11 (topic: variety of welfare states). Students may be randomly selected by the instructor into groups for the presentations. The presentation slides should be uploaded to the course web-site on Sakai no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to the class on the selected country.

Evaluation

Class participation:	20 percent
In-class presentation:	15 percent
Midterm exam:	30 percent
Final exam:	35 percent

The exams will consist of identifications, short answers, and essays. If you would like a review on effective writing for essay tests, I recommend this website:

<https://www.csbsju.edu/academic-advising/study-skills-guide/essay-exam>.

Reading Materials

The textbook of this course is Clift, Ben. 2014. *Comparative Political Economy: States, Markets and Global Capitalism*. Palgrave Macmillan. It is available for purchase at the university bookstore; it can also be ordered from Amazon.com or Barnes and Noble (bn.com) where less expensive copies are often available.

For the other readings, articles (A) will be posted on Sakai; books (B) will be put on reserve at Douglass Library Undergraduate Reserve.

Self-Reporting Absence Application

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Academic Integrity

In accordance with Rutgers University policy on Academic Integrity, you are expected to fully comply with the school's policies. Please see: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require accommodation should review the following statement from the Office of Disability Services (<https://ods.rutgers.edu/>).

COURSE OVERVIEW

PART I

Week 1	Overview
Week 2	Introduction to Comparative Political Economy

PART II

Week 3	The study of preferences
Week 4	The organization of labor interests
Week 5	The organization of business
Week 6	Political coalitions: class or sector
Week 7	The state
Week 8	Midterm review and exam

PART III

Week 10	The political economy of financial development
Week 11	The political economy of social spending (1)
Week 12	The political economy of social spending (2)
Week 13	The political management of unemployment
Week 14	The political economy of taxation
Week 15	Final review and exam

TOPICS AND READINGS

PART 1: Introduction

Week 1 (1/18): Overview of the Course

Clift, pp.5-19.

(1/22): CLASS CANCELLED

Week 2 (1/25, 29): Introduction to Comparative Political Economy

Clift, Chapters 2 and 12.

PART 2: The Building Blocks: Preferences, Economic Interests and Institutions

Week 3 (2/1, 5): Preferences

Clift, Chapter 6 and pp.155-166.

Week 4 (2/8, 12): The organization of labor groups

Schmitter, Philippe. 1979. Still the century of corporatism? In Schmitter, Philippe and Lehmbruch, Gerhard. Eds. *Trends towards corporatist intermediation*, Beverly Hills: Sage, 43- 94. (B)

Cameron, David. 1984. Social Democracy, Corporatism, Labor Quiescence, and the Representation of Economic Interest in Advanced Capitalist Society, In Goldthorpe, John, ed. *Order and Conflict in Contemporary Capitalism*, pp. 143- 178. (B)

Week 5 (2/15, 19): The organization of employers

Clift, Chapters 9.

Hall, Peter and Soskice, David. 2001. *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 1. (B)

Week 6 (2/22, 26): Political coalitions - The relative importance of class and sector

Hiscox, Michael. 2002. *International Trade and Political Conflict*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, chapters 1-3. (B)

Swenson, Peter. 1991. Bringing Capital Back in, or Social Democracy Reconsidered: Employer Power, Cross-Class Alliances, and Centralization of Industrial Relations in Denmark and Sweden. *World Politics*. 513-45. (A)

Week 7 (3/1): The state

Clift, Chapter 8.

Hellman, Joel, Jones, Gariant, Kaufmann, Daniel. 2003. Seize the state, seize the day: state capture and influence in transition economies. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 31 (4), pp. 751-773. (A)

Week 8 (3/5, 8): Midterm review and exam

Week 9 (3/12, 15): Spring Break-NO CLASS

PART 3: Explaining Variation in Economic Policies and Outcomes

Week 10 (3/19, 22): The political economy of financial development

Clift, Chapter 10.

Gourevitch, Peter and Shinn, James. 2006. *Political Power and Corporate Control: The New Global Politics of Corporate Governance*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapters 1 and 2. (B)

Week 11 (3/26, 29): The political economy of social spending (part 1)

Clift, Chapter 11.

Esping-Andersen, Gosta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapter 1. (B)

Week 12 (4/2, 5): The political economy of social spending (part 2)

Haggard, Stephen and Kaufman, Robert. 2009. *Democracy, development and the welfare state*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Introduction, and Chapters 1 & 5. (B)

Week 13 (4/9, 12): The political management of unemployment

Rehm, P. H., Jacob S.; Schlesinger, Mark. 2012. Insecure Alliances: Risk, Inequality, and Support for the Welfare State. *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 106, No.2, pp. 386-406.

Iversen, Torben and Wren, Anne. 1998. Equality, Employment, and Budgetary Restraint: The Trilemma of the Service Economy. *World Politics*, Vol. 50, No.4, pp. 507-546.

Week 14 (4/16, 19): The political economy of taxation

Steinmo, Sven. 1989. Political Institutions and Tax Policy in the United States, Sweden and Britain. *World Politics* 41 (4): 500- 535. (A)

Mares, Isabela; Queralt, Didac. 2015. "The Non-Democratic Origins of Income Taxation." *Comparative Political Studies* 48 (14):1974-2009. (A)

Kato, Junko. 2003. *Regressive Taxation and the Welfare State: Path Dependence and Policy Diffusion*, Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1. (B)

Week 15 (4/23, 26): Final review and exam