

Varieties of Capitalism

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Office Hours: email me in advance

Office: Zoom meeting

Seminar Room: 10.1.6

Seminar Hours: 16:15-17:45

Online Lectures: Blackboard

Description

This course provides a broad survey of the most prominent debates in comparative political economy. Are the market and the state complementary? Why do some countries fall into poverty traps whereas other countries do not? How can businesspeople successfully influence political actors to pursue economic and financial policies that favor their firms? The answer to these questions (and many others that affect our life) involves knowledge about power relations, market development, political institutions, and conceptions of the economy that permeate the decisions of businesspeople and political representatives. Through this course, students will learn and analyze 1) the theoretical foundations of political economy; 2) how a coalition of actors are formed and affect economic policies; 3) why types of governments and political institutions affect economic performance; 4) the role of ideas and culture in shaping collective action and policies.

The course consists of online lectures and in-person seminars, which sum 14 sessions of 3 hours each. For each week, students are expected to do the readings in advance, discussion, presentations, and homework assigned. As a result of these activities, this course will be a springboard for examining substantive questions of political economy critically.

Requirements

To do well in this class, students must attend class, complete assigned readings and homework, keep up with current events, actively participate in the discussion and small group exercises, and take thorough notes in both reading and discussion. Students are responsible for material covered both in the readings and in lectures.

Students can collaborate and learn from each other when doing the homework, but students still need to do and submit their own homework, namely, question-papers, term assignment, and presentation. It is not acceptable to simply copy the homework from your mate.

Plagiarism and Ghostwriting are strictly forbidden. To make sure that these rules are not violated, the instructor will use a plagiarism checker to examine all written. Any plagiarism cases, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be taken seriously and reported as per the protocol at the University Carlos III of Madrid.

Students should email me at adde1rio@clio.uc3m.es to justify their absence for medical or major reasons before the beginning of class.

Any changes to the syllabus will be announced during class sessions.

Online lectures etiquette

I wish we could be together in a physical classroom! But zoom or blackboard can still foster a dynamic community. For that to happen, I ask that you use the same etiquette that I would expect if you were in a physical classroom, with these additions:

- Locate a low-traffic area so you can focus on the class
- Sign on 5 minutes before the class starts, just to allow a buffer and have enough time to solve any tech problem
- Please sit at a table or desk, if at all possible. Please do not lie down during class. If you feel unwell, you can simply sign off and email me to let me know you were unwell
- Have a writing notebook, pen, and readings on hand
- Please do not eat in class. You may drink coffee, water, juice or non-alcoholic drinks if youd like
- Camera must be activated. If you have a medical condition or a special reason to switch off the camera during our class, please, email me at adde1rio@clio.uc3m.es before Thursday noon.
- Please do not text, do other computer work, or be on the Internet during class. All phones are to be powered off unless you are a contact person for someone who might call you in an emergency. If this is the case, please, email me before Thursday noon
- I prefer for you to take notes in a notebook during the discussion. However, writing directly into the computer is allowed
- If you cannot successfully login to blackboard, please email me

Goals

The course aims to provide students with introductory knowledge of the major topics in political economy. By reading course material, participating in debates, writing short question-papers and an essay, students will develop relevant analytical skills to understand the political foundations of economic outcomes and find avenues for further research. In particular, students are expected to develop and improve the following general, transversal and specific skills (CG, CT and CE).

- Analyze political and economic phenomena through a comparative perspective (CG1)
- Find, organize and synthesize information that connects theory and real-world events (CG2)
- Formulate critical questions and opinions using the course materials and the scientific method (CG3 and 4)
- Outline and apply basic area of knowledge and data analysis autonomously (CB1-4 and CT4)
- Communicate with people that are not experts in the subject either publicly or through writings manuscripte.g., exams, essays, question papers, case studies (CT1)
- Hold an intellectual discussion in a constructive manner and teamwork (CT2)
- Planning and management of time (CT3)
- Outline and apply the theoretical foundations of political economy (CE1, CE4)
- Identify the fundamental political dynamics that shape the management of the economy (CE2 and 3)
- Explain today's political and economic events through interest-, institution- and ideas-based approaches of political economy

Assessment

Attendance is compulsory for both lectures and seminars. The final grade will be a combination of the following assessments:

Theory	
Midterm Exam	20% of course grade
Final Exam	30%
Practice	
2 question-papers	10%
Class participation	10%
Term assignment	20%
Presentation	10%

Exams. There will be two examinations: a mid-term and a final exam. Both will be cumulative, but you must pass each exam with a grade above 5 to add them towards the final grade. The exams will be composed of essay questions that evaluate students' capacity to apply theoretical knowledge. The mid-term exam is tentatively scheduled for March 23rd.

Question-papers. For each session, students will post 2-3 questions about readings (or the relationship among the readings, or between a reading and a particular event), with each question accompanied by an expository paragraph or two explaining the origin and context of the question.

Throughout the course, students must submit question-papers for 2 of the 14 online lectures. The pdf document's length should be between 600 and 800 words, with 1.5 spacing and 2,5 cm margins all around, in times new roman font size 12. The word count should be written on the last page.

Students might choose the sessions for which they post questions, though I ask you not to post questions for the first week. For example, if you want to submit a question-paper for third week's session (February 25), you should read the chapters assigned for that session (Barma and Vogel, pp 117-170 about Polanyi and Fligstein) and email me the question paper before Wednesday (February 24) at 12:30 pm. Please, email me the question-paper at adde1rio@clio.uc3m.es before 12:30 pm on Wednesday. Question-papers that are received after 12:30 pm are not considered for the grade. These questions will guide our discussion in the next day's class. These brief 'question-papers' are fundamental for holding a good discussion of the materials, as is a thorough reading of the assigned readings.

Class participation Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned materials and prepared to discuss them. While reading a research article or an essay, students should consider the following questions:

- What is the topic of the piece? What are the key concepts that the author use?
- What is the main research question (if applicable)? Do you agree with the framing and the approach adopted or not? Why?
- What are the key arguments advanced and assumptions? Do the authors overlook key factors or alternative explanations?
- Does the author test his/her argument? Is the evidence reported convincing? Does it support the argument? What are the additional analyses that could be done to further provide support?
- To what extent do the readings for the week (and previous sessions) support or contradict each other?

Term assignment. Students have to write an individual assignment during the term. Please, email me at adde1rio@clio.uc3m.es before 23:59 on May 2nd to submit the manuscript. The assignment can be either an essay, a research proposal, analysis, or a critical literature review

of at least 2500 words (excluding bibliography, title, footnotes, table, and figure titles). The pdf document submitted should have 1.5 spacing and 2,5 cm margins all around, in times new roman font size 12. The word count should be written on the first page.

Students can choose the topic for the assignment to study a political economy question. While topics related to the lecture are desirable, I also encourage students to examine other topics no-covered in the course (e.g., globalization, climate change, gender, remittances, among others).

The seminar session on March 30th is devoted to helping students choose a topic and explaining the evaluation criteria used for each assignment type. In addition to this session, students can use tutorial meetings to guide their topic choice and assignment type. Students are expected to email me 150 words abstract explaining their choice before 23:59 on April 1st.

Term assignment presentation. A total of four sessions will be devoted to students' presentations, half of them will be online and the other half in-person depending on the number of term assignments and topics examined. The presentation should be 8-10 minutes long, followed by 8-10 minutes discussion.

During the presentation, the student should introduce the term assignment to the rest of the class and, finally, provide a critical self-assessment, suggestions for improvement, and, if possible, propose pathways for future research. During the discussion, the audience should provide similar constructive feedback, ask questions, and keep in mind the suggestions in the class participation section to provide useful comments.

Tutorial meetings

For the sake of precautions, tutorial meetings will be online through Zoom from 18:00 to 20:00 on Thursday. Alternative days and in-person meetings can also be considered. In any case, please, email me *two days* in advance in order to schedule the meeting.

Reading Materials

- Barma, N and S Vogel (2008) *The Political Economy Reader. Market as Institutions*. United Kingdom: Routledge
- Beramendi, P, Häusermann, S, Kitschelt, H, and Kriesi, H (Eds.). (2015). *The Politics of Advanced Capitalism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

The first is the main book of the course. It is not a bad idea to purchase it. The other book is a recommended reading which might be useful to expand some topics covered in class or explore new ones. For each week, other article readings are detailed and uploaded in Aula Global.

Course outline

Week 1. The Classics

Seminar: Course Introduction. Interests, Institutions and Ideas (09.02)

Lecture: Adam Smith and the Liberals (11.02)

Readings:

- Barma and Vogel, pp to read about Smith
- Peter Hall, The Role of Interests, Institutions and Ideas in the Political Economy of Industrialized Nations In Lichbach and Zuckerman ed., *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture and Structure* (1997), pp. 174-207.

Week 2. The Classics

Seminar: How to debate in public (16.02)

Lecture: Karl Marx vs. Friedrich List (18.02)

Readings:

- Barma and Vogel, pp 41-86 to read about Marx and List
- Additional task for the seminar: if possible, students are encouraged to watch the movie 'Thank you for smoking '

Week 3. Economic Sociology

Seminar: The debate, first try (23.02)

Lecture: Polanyi and Fligstein (25.02)

Readings:

- Barma and Vogel, pp 117-170 to read about Polanyi and Fligstein

Week 4. The role of Institutions

Seminar: The debate on the classics I (02.03)

Lecture: New Institutional Economy (04.03)

Readings:

- Barma and Vogel, pp 171-184 to read about North
- David Stasavage. 2002. Credible Commitment in Early Modern Europe: North and Weingast Revisited, *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization* 18(1): 155-186

Week 5. Varieties of Capitalism

Seminar: The debate on the classics II (09.03)

Lecture: Varieties of capitalism (11.03)

Readings:

- Barma and Vogel, pp 239-258 to read about Lindblom

- Barma and Vogel, pp 289-321 to read about Hall and Soskice

Week 6. Welfare Capitalism

Seminar: Q&A session for the midterm exam (16.03)

Lecture: Welfare Capitalism (18.03)

Readings:

- Gøsta Esping-Andersen, The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism, in Pierson and Castles, *The Welfare State: A Reader*, pp. 154-169
- Paul Pierson, (1996) The New Politics of the Welfare State, *World Politics* 48(2), pp. 143-179. http://rszarf.ips.uw.edu.pl/welfare-state/pierson_politics.pdf

Week 7. Paths of Economic and Political Development

Seminar: Mid-term exam (23.03)

Lecture: The (rivaling) primary causes of development (25.03)

Readings:

- Barma and Vogel, pp 199-210
- Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. 2006. Paths of Economic and Political Development. In Barry R. Weingast and Donald A. Wittman (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Economy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. 673-692

Week 8. The Political Economy of Regime types I

Seminar: Topics for the term assignment (30.03)

Lecture: The Political Economy of Democracies (01.04)

Readings:

- Samuels, David J. and Matthew Soberg Shugart. 2003. Presidentialism, Elections and Representation. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 15 (1): 33-60.
- Persson, Torsten and Guido Tabellini (2006) Electoral Systems and Economic Policy. *Oxford Handbook of political Economy*.
- Knutsen, Carl Henrik (2011) Which Democracies Prosper? Electoral Rules, Form of Government and Economic Growth. *Electoral Studies*, 30 (1): 83-90.

DEADLINE: Send me an email with a 150 words abstract explaining the choice of term paper before 23:59 on April 1st

Week 9. The Political Economy of Regime types II

Seminar: Measuring regime types: an experiment (06.04)

Lecture: The Political Economy of Dictatorships (08.04)

Readings:

- Geddes, Barbara (1999) What do We Know about Democratization after Twenty Years? *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2: 115-144.
- Gandhi, J and A Przeworski (2006) Cooptation, Cooperation, and Rebellion under Dictatorships. *Economics & Politics*, 18 (1): 1-26
- Wright, J (2008) Do Authoritarian Institutions Constrain? How Legislatures Affect Economic Growth and Investment. *American Journal of Political Science*, 52(2): 322-343

Week 10: Natural Resources: The curse of governments?

Seminar: The debate: Capitalism and Political regimes I (13.04)

Lecture: The Resource Curse? (15.04)

Readings:

- Ross, M (2001) Does Oil Hinder Democracy? *World Politics*, 53 (3): 325-361
- Bueno de Mesquita, B and A Smith (2010) Leader Survival, Revolutions, and the Nature of Government Finance. *American Journal of Political Science*, 54 (4): 936-950.
- Haber, S and V Menaldo (2011) Do Natural Resources Fuel Authoritarianism? A Reappraisal of the Resource Curse. *American Political Science Review*, 105 (1): 1-26.

Week 11: Coalitions in Political Economy

Seminar: The debate: Capitalism and Political regimes II (20.04)

Lecture: Coalition formation and its effect in economic policies (22.04)

Readings:

- Peter S (1991) Bringing Capital Back In or Social Democracy Reconsidered, *World Politics*, 43(4), pp. 513-44
- Jeffrey A. Frieden (1991). Invested Interests: The Politics of National Economic Policies in a World of Global Finance. *International Organization Autumn*, 425-451.

Week 12: Capitalism and Business Power

Seminar: Business elites and the quality of governments (27.04)

Lecture: The impact of business power in political processes (29.04)

Readings:

- **read for the seminar:** Charles Lindblom, *Politics and Markets* (1977) Basic Books, pp. 170-214 in Private Enterprise and Democracy
- Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson (2002) Business Power and Social Policy: Employers and the Formation of the American Welfare State, *Politics and Society* 30:2
- Szakonyi, David (2018) Businesspeople in Elected Office: Identifying Private Benefits from Firm-Level Returns. *American Journal of Political Science*, 112(2): 322-38

DEADLINE: submit term paper before 23:59 on May 2nd

Week 13: Ideas in Politics and Policies

Seminar: Term assignment presentations (04.05)

Lecture: The role of ideas and culture in political economy (06.05)

Readings:

- Peter Hall (1993) Policy Paradigms, Social Learning, and the State, *Comparative Politics*, 25:3.
- Pepper D. C (2008) The Politics of Common Knowledge, *International Organization*

Week 14. Presentations

Seminar: In-person presentations (11.05)

Lecture: Online presentations (13.05)

Week 15. Presentations

Seminar: In-person presentations (18.05)

Lecture: Tutorial meetings for the exam (20-21.05)