

**INTL4310: Comparative Political Economy**  
University of Georgia  
Department of International Affairs  
MLC 268, Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-10:45

Instructor: Dr. Hanna Kleider  
Email: hkleider@uga.edu  
Office: Candler Hall 311  
Office hours: Wednesday, 2- 4 pm

**Course Description:** This course provides an introduction to contemporary work on comparative political economy. It focuses on the mechanisms by which political institutions affect economic performance and on the factors that explain when and how these institutions emerged. Political economists, in contrast to many mainstream economists, believe that economic behavior and outcomes cannot be understood based on a non-institutional and non-historical conception of markets. They emphasize that market behavior is embedded in political and social institutions and that markets themselves may be conceived of as institutions.

The course is organized around three main themes. We begin by examining the tension between the realm of the market and the world of politics. We address the following two questions: What is capitalism? And, how have major scholars thought about its virtues and vices? The second part of this course focuses on differences and similarities in the organization of capitalism around the world. Although capitalism is often portrayed as a single economic system, it may take on many different forms. We examine varieties of capitalism and ask what explains this continued differentiation. Furthermore, we will explore the consequences of these differences. In the last part of this course, we analyze cross-country variation in the politics of redistribution and social insurance. We examine the social and political forces that have shaped the welfare state and contemporary issues affecting it.

**Readings:**

All readings will be on eLearning Commons (ELC)

**Course Requirements:**

Participation and attendance: 10%

In-class presentation 10%

Midterm and final exam: 50% (midterm: 20%, final: 30%)

Paper: 30%

**Participation** is a key component of the course. Lectures will include student presentations and classroom discussions, so please come prepared. Participation involves attending class, asking and answering questions and contributing to class discussions. Regular attendance is very important. I will take attendance every class and I expect you to be present. You are permitted three absences without penalty. You can use these as you like (e.g., illness, ports travel, interviews, sleep, etc.). Each absence beyond these 3 will result in a 1% deduction from your final overall average.

**In-class presentation:** You have to prepare and present a topic using a power point presentation (5 minutes per student). Dates and topics for presentations can be found in the syllabus below. Presentation grades will be based on the content of your presentation, the structure and accessibility of your slide show, and your presentation skills.

Two closed book **exams** will be given during the semester. They will test your understanding of key concepts covered in class and your ability to use those concepts to analyze current political issues. Exam questions will be based on the required readings and the lectures, so take notes on both! The final exam will be cumulative and takes place on Thursday, May 5 at 8 am.

The **paper** is expected to be 5 pages long (double spaced, 12 point font). You will be able to choose from three different paper prompts. We will talk about the paper in class and I will upload a paper-writing guide. Deadlines for the paper will be announced in class. Late papers will be marked down one third of a letter grade per day.

### **Grading Policy**

Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

A 94 or greater	C 74-75.9
A- 90-93.9	C- 70-73.9
B+ 86-89.9	D+ 66-69.9
B 84-85.9	D 64-65.9
B- 80-83.9	D- 60-63.9
C+ 76-79.9	

Marginal course grades may be adjusted in rare cases when a student's performance has steadily improved during the semester. These changes will be made at the discretion of the instructor and will be increases of one-third of a letter grade (e.g. from B to B+). Grades will never be revised downwards. The intent is to reward improved performance by reasonably discounting bad evaluations early on in the course.

Contested Grades: Students are always welcome to come discuss assignments and their overall class performance during my office hours. If you find a mathematical error on a graded assignment please let me know immediately. Students wishing to contest a grade must wait 24 hours after their assignment/exam has been returned to make an appointment to see me. During that appointment students should come prepared with (1) their assignment/exam, (2) a typed explanation of what the best possible response to the would look like, (3) a typed explanation of how their work compares to that best answer,

and (4) their class and reading notes. All requests for such meetings must be made within two weeks of the date the assignment/exam was returned.

### **Communication**

I will use your registered UGA email address and cannot keep track of any other e-mail addresses that you might have. Please check your UGA email regularly.

### **Honor Code**

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: [www.uga.edu/honesty](http://www.uga.edu/honesty). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

## **Tue January 12: Course Introduction**

### **I THE RISE OF CAPITALISM**

#### **Thu January 14: The Great Debate: Governments versus Markets**

- Heilbroner, R. (1953). *The Worldly Philosophers*. New York: Simon and Schuster.  
(Chapter 9: The Heresies of John Maynard Keynes)
- Hayek, F. (1944). *The Road to Serfdom*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

#### **Tue January 19: Commanding Heights (Episode 1): The Battle of Ideas**

- Grossman, G. (1962). The Structure and Organization of the Soviet Economy. *Slavic Review* 21(2), 203-222.

#### **Tue January 21: Contending Perspectives on Economic Development**

- Gerschenkron, A. (1962). *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.  
(Pages 5-30)
- Baer, W. (1972). Import substitution and industrialization in Latin America: experiences and interpretations. *Latin American Research Review*, 7(1), 95-122.

Presentation topic:

- (1) Import substitution industrialization: steel industry in Mexico
- (2) Import substitution industrialization: car industry in Brazil

### **Tue January 26: The Political Economy of Reform**

- Hellman, J. (1998). Winners take all. *World politics*, 50(2), 203-234.
- Huber, E., & Solt, F. (2004). Successes and failures of neoliberalism. *Latin American Research Review*, 39(3), 150-164.

Presentation topic:

- (3) Privatization reforms: The case of Mikhail Khodorkovsky
- (4) Privatization reforms The case of Carlos Slim

### **Thu January 28: Commanding Heights (Episode 2): The Agony of Reform**

## **II: VARIETIES OF CAPITALISM**

### **Tue February 2: Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism**

- Hall, P. A., & Soskice, D. (2001). *Varieties of capitalism: The institutional foundations of comparative advantage*, Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Chapter 1)

Presentation topic:

- (5&6) Sweden & US: GDP per capita, GDP growth, unemployment rates
- (7&8) Sweden & US: Tax rates, employment protection legislation

### **Thu February 4: Labor and Wage Bargaining**

- Golden, M. A., Wallerstein, M., & Lange, P. (1999). Postwar trade-union organization and industrial relations in twelve countries. In Kitschelt, H., Lange, P., Marks, G., and Stephens, J. D. (Eds.). *Continuity and change in contemporary capitalism*. (pp. 194-230) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Optional: Crouch, C. (2000). The snakes and ladders of 21st-century trade unionism. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 16(1), 70-83.

Presentation topic:

- (9) Labor Unions: GDL in Germany
- (10) Labor Unions: CFDT in France

### **Tue February 9: Effects of Unionization**

- Brady, D., Baker, R.S. & Finnigan, R. (2013). When Unionization Disappears: State-Level Unionization and Working Poverty in the U.S. *American Sociological Review* 78 (5), 872-896.

- Alvarez, R. M., Garrett, G., & Lange, P. (1991). Government partisanship, labor organization, and macroeconomic performance. *American Political Science Review*, 85(02), 539-556.

Presentation topic:

(11&12) France & US: Number of strikes, strike days, economic cost of strikes  
(13&14) France & US: Income inequality, gender pay gap, and poverty rates

### **Thu February 11: Skills and Training I**

- Thelen, K. (2004). *How institutions evolve. The political economy of skills in Germany, Britain, the United States, and Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.  
(Chapter 2)

Presentation topic:

(15&16) Vocational training: Auto mechanics in Germany and the US

### **Tue February 16: Skills and Training II**

- Thelen, K. (2004). *How institutions evolve. The political economy of skills in Germany, Britain, the United States, and Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.  
(Chapter 3)

Presentation topic:

(17&18) Vocational training: Hairdressers in Germany and the US

### **Thu February 18: Gendering the Varieties of Capitalism**

- Estevez-Abe, M. (2006). Gendering the Varieties of Capitalism: A Study of Occupational Segregation by Sex in Advanced Industrial Societies. *World Politics*, 59(1), 142-175.

Presentation topic:

(19&20) US, Sweden & Germany: Female labor force participation, gender pay gap, and occupational segregation

### **Tue February 23: Convergence in Varieties of Capitalism**

- Yamamura, K., & Streeck, W. (2003). *The end of diversity?: prospects for German and Japanese capitalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.  
(Chapter 1)

**Thu February 25: Paper writing workshop & Midterm exam review**

**Tue March 1: Midterm**

## **SPRINGBREAK**

### **III: POLITICS OF REDISTRIBUTION AND SOCIAL INSURANCE**

**Tue March 15: Inequality**

- Piketty, T. (2014). *Capital in the 21st Century*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.  
(Introduction)

Presentation topic:

(21&22) Gini coefficients (before/after taxes and transfers) and poverty rates in the US, UK, Sweden, Germany, France

**Thu March 17: Public Support for Redistribution**

- Rehm, P., Hacker, J. S., & Schlesinger, M. (2012). Insecure alliances: Risk, inequality, and support for the welfare state. *American Political Science Review*, 106(02), 386-406.

Presentation topic:

(23&24) PEW Research Center public opinion data on preferences for redistribution

**Tue March 22: Welfare States**

- Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. (1990). *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Chapter 2)
- Scruggs, L., & Allan, J. (2006). Welfare-state decommodification in 18 OECD countries: a replication and revision. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 16(1), 55-72.

Presentation topic:

(25&26) Sickness insurance, unemployment insurance, and retirement benefit in the US, Sweden, and Germany (Social Security Programs throughout the World)

**Thu March 29: Origins of the Welfare State: Structural versus actor-centric explanations**

- Huber, E., & Stephens, J. D. (2001). *Development and crisis of the welfare state: parties and policies in global markets*. University of Chicago Press. (Chapters 2, 3)

**Thu March 31: Political institutions and social policy development**

- Immergut, E. M. (1992). The rules of the game: The logic of health policy-making in France, Switzerland, and Sweden. In Steinmo, S., Thelen, K. and Longstreth, F. (Eds.) *Structuring politics: Historical institutionalism in comparative analysis*, (pp. 57-89) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Presentation topic:

(27) Healthcare in Sweden

(28) Healthcare in France

(29) Healthcare in the US

**Tue April 5; Welfare State Outcomes**

- Brady, D., Fullerton, A. S., & Cross, J. M. (2009). Putting poverty in political context: a multi-level analysis of adult poverty across 18 affluent democracies. *Social Forces*, 88(1), 271-299.
- Kleider, H. (2015) Paid and Unpaid Work: The Impact of Social Policies on the Gender Division of Labour, *Journal of European Social Policy*, 25(5), 505-520.

Presentation topic:

(30&31) United States, Sweden, Germany: social spending and poverty rates

**Thu April 7: Causes of welfare state retrenchment – globalization?**

- Scharpf, F. W., & Schmidt, V. A. (Eds.). (2000). *Welfare and work in the open economy: diverse responses to common challenges in twelve countries* (Vol. 2). Oxford: Oxford University Press (Introduction)
- Roderick, Dani. 1998. Why Do Open Economies Have Bigger Governments? *Journal of Political Economy* 106(5), 997-1032.

Presentation topic:

(32&33) Retrenchment in Germany: Agenda 2010

**Tue April 12: Domestic Challenges to the Welfare State**

- Pierson, P. (2001). *The new politics of the welfare state*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Chapter by John Myers & Paul Pierson and Conclusion by Paul Pierson)

Presentation topic:

(34&35) Demographic developments in the United States, Sweden, and Germany.

**Thu April 14: Simulation preparation: Tripartite negotiations in Denmark**

**Tue April 19: Simulation: Tripartite negotiations in Denmark**

**Thu April 21: The changing face of inequality**

- Rueda, D. (2005). Insider–outsider politics in industrialized democracies: the challenge to social democratic parties. *American Political Science Review*, 99(01), 61-74.
- Schwander, H., & Häusermann, S. (2013). Who is in and who is out? A risk-based conceptualization of insiders and outsiders. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 23(3), 248-269.

Presentation topic:

(36&37) Gender differences in the degree of ‘outsiderness’

**Tue April 26: Immigration**

- Mau, S., & Burkhardt, C. (2009). Migration and welfare state solidarity in Western Europe. *Journal of European Social Policy*, 19(3), 213-229.
- Optional: Burgoon, B. (2014). Immigration, Integration, and Support for Redistribution in Europe. *World Politics*, 66(03), 365-405.

Presentation topic:

(38) Germany: Immigration figures

(39) France: Immigration figures

(40) United States: Immigration figures

**Thu April 28: Wrap up and Exam Review**

**Thu May 5: 8 am exam**