

Political Science 597.02, The Ohio State University
Contemporary Political Problems
The Politics of Market Capitalism

Instructor:
Ms. D Wisnu
2031 Derby Hall
154 N Oval Mall
292-1426

Class of Spring 2006:
Dreese Laboratories 0305
2015 Neil Ave.
Mo & Wed, 8:30 – 10.18 a.m.

Office hour: Tue, 9:30 – 11:00 am & by appointment wisnu.3@osu.edu
Course website: Main Library E-Reserve

Description

Poverty and income inequality has been among some of the complex problems of our society, both domestically and internationally. For decades students of economic development searched for its explanations, hoping they would help mitigate the problems. Yet what we see happening across the globe is unsettling. Employment and income *in*security become common problem that put more people at the risks of not being able to afford their life needs, to experience stoppage or substantial reduction of earnings resulting from sickness, maternity, injury, unemployment, invalidity, old-age and death. Such condition also pushes people away from meaningful participation in sociopolitical activities. Social security provision is a measure used to prevent the falling of individuals into these risks. Yet different countries adopt different models of social security provision.

What explains the variation of models of social security provision across countries? This is the research question to focus on throughout the course.

This course exposes students to the ways several countries provide social security for their citizens or workers and encourages students to think more critically of the functions of social security in a market economy. Our focus will be on the character of the provisions as reflected on their structure of benefits and the sharing of responsibility between public and private domain. The existing theories of social security provision drawn from the experience of advanced world economies will be used to begin our exploration. Recent event of social security reforms in Indonesia, the Philippines and Singapore push us to not disregard the political considerations and bargaining behind any social security provisions. The experiences of these latter countries allow us to disentangle the explanations for the variety of world's social security models. There are four explanatory (a.k.a. independent) variables to explore during this course: globalization, developmental state (business-state relations), democracy, and labor organization.

This course is aimed at (1) introducing students to the social aspect embedded in market capitalism, (2) enriching students' experiences of the contemporary world, (3) students synthesizing and applying knowledge from diverse disciplines to contemporary issues, and (4) students writing about or conducting research on the contemporary world.

This is an advanced level GEC class; junior or senior standing is required. No prior knowledge of political science or political economy is required. What required are open mind and the seriousness to learn. Everyone must read all the reading assignments, learn to develop original opinions by being critical of the arguments of assigned authors and do independent reading from relevant sources (e.g. the Economist, Lexis-Nexis, on-line journal of Asian Survey, World

Politics, Comparative Politics), contribute to class discussions, and respond constructively to others' opinions.

Course Requirements

Each student is responsible to make sure s/he meets the following grade components of this course:

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| Two (2) Response papers (each worth 15%) | 30% |
| In-class mid-term | 20% |
| In-class final exam | 15% |
| Final paper | 15% |
| One (1) unannounced presentation of the readings | 10% |
| Presence and Discussion participation | 10% |

Response paper. Each student must submit **two response papers on two different topics** (written in bold) of their choosing. The paper will be 1 page in length, typed single-spaced, and use Times New Roman 12 font. The paper must provide (1) your take-home point(s) of the assigned articles for a particular topic (2) your brief yet thorough explanation on how the take home point(s) might be useful to our search for answer to the above-mentioned research question (3) your personal view on how the take home point(s) fit your own opinion. The response paper must be submitted in class, before the class begins, on the first day the class discusses the topic. Late submission will NOT be accepted.

In-class mid-term and final exams. Mid-term exam is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3 during regular class hour. Meanwhile the schedule for the in-class final exam will be provided by the university. The exam day will be between June 5 and 8.

Make-up exams will be administered only under extraordinary circumstances (for example, in case of documented illness).

Final paper. Each student must submit a final paper on the final-exam day. Again, **the due time for the final paper is the final-exam day before the exam begins.** No electronic copy will be accepted. The paper should be 6-8 pages in length, typed double spaced, stapled, and is using Times New Roman 12 font.

The final paper presents your coherent and convincing analysis (backed by data and theories) of what explains the variation of social security provision across countries. Students are welcomed to further narrow the research question in order to develop a sharper explanation. You may also focus on one or two countries of your choosing if it helps to highlight appropriately the most convincing explanatory variable.

By Wednesday May 17, students are encouraged to submit a hardcopy of draft or abstract of the final paper to the instructor. Upon receiving the drafts/abstracts, the instructor will provide feedback. No grade is given for submitting the drafts/abstracts but this is helpful to set the stage for a good analytical final paper. The paper will be graded based on the value of your argument (the originality and how you relate it with the existing theoretical arguments), how well you defend it (how convincing, and the use of evidence from reliable & valid source) and the overall systematization of the paper writing (the coherence of the sentences and paragraphs).

A one un-announced presentation of the readings. Students should always read all the assigned articles and come to the class prepared to present the content of the articles. Anyone should be ready for on-call presentation, even if they do not write a response paper on that day's articles. The turn of presentation cannot be compromised.

Presence and Discussion participation. All students are required to participate actively in class discussions. Attendance alone does not count towards getting a full point for this grade component.

The grade scale used in this class is the following:

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| A | : 93-100 | C+ | : 77-79.99 | E: | 0-59.99 |
| A- | : 90-92.99 | C | : 73-76.99 | | |
| B+ | : 87-89.99 | C- | : 70-72.99 | | |
| B | : 83-86.99 | D+ | : 67-69.99 | | |
| B - | : 80-82.99 | D | : 60-66.99 | | |

Required course packet and electronic library reserved articles:

The course packet is available from COPEZ at Tuttle Park (behind the Tuttle Park parking garage).

Other materials not included in the course pack are available online at the electronic reserve of the main library. Go to the main library website (<http://library.osu.edu.proxy.lib.ohio-state.edu>) and search the reserve under my name.

Course readings:

To note, the readings could be very difficult because they are not taken from text books. Do not be discouraged or afraid, however. These are the articles and books read by scholars. Try to grasp as much as you can. This is why attending classes is important and active participation in class discussion is helpful. You will be tested on material that is extensively discussed in the class. After all, grading is not punitive nor is it curved.

Academic Honesty

I expect all the work you do in this course to be your own. I will tolerate absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation)! I will report any cases of cheating or plagiarism to the university committee on academic misconduct, and they will be handled according to university policy.

Special Needs

If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore the potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so.

Schedule of Readings

27 March (Mo). Introduction & overview of the course.

29 March (Wed). Current issues in economic development.

- Goad, Pierre. 1999. At your Service. *Far Eastern Economic Review*. September 2.
- ILO Fact Sheet on Employment Insecurity.
- Chan, Anita. 2003. A “Race to the Bottom”. *China Perspectives* 46: March-April. For better graph, download from (<http://rspas.anu.edu.au/~anita/pdf/AChancp461.pdf>)

3 April (Mo) & 5 April (Wed). Variation of social security provision.

- Gilbert, Neil and Paul Terrell. 2002. *Dimensions of Social Welfare Policy*. Chapter 2 (The Modern Welfare State). pp. 29-54.
- Asher, Mukul. 2002. Southeast Asia’s Social Security Systems: Need for a system-wide perspective and professionalism. *International Social Security Review* 55 (4): 71-88. **E-Reserve.**

10 April (Mo) & 12 April (Wed).

- Spero, Joan E. and Jeffrey Hart. 1997. “The North-South System and Possibility of Change.” *The Politics of International Economic Relations*. NY: St. Martin’s Press. 5th edition. Chapter 5.
- Wade, Robert. 1989. What Can Economics Learn from East Asian Success? *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 505: 68-79. **E-Reserve.**

17 April (Mo) & 19 April (Wed). **Understanding the Globalization Argument.**

- Watch a movie: Globalization
- Garrett, Geoffrey. 1998. Global Markets and National Politics: Collision Course or Virtuous Circle. *International Organization* 52 (4): 787-824. **E-Reserve.**

24 April (Mo) & 26 April (Wed). **Developmental State Argument.**

- A Handout on Development Trajectories in the Newly Industrializing Countries (source: Haggard, 1990 & various sources)
- Low, Linda. 2001. The Singapore Developmental State in the New Economy and Polity. *The Pacific Review* 14 (3): 411-441. **E-Reserve.**
- MacIntyre, Andrew. 1990. *Business and Politics in Indonesia*. Australia: Allen & Unwin. Chapter 4 (The textile Industry and the Conflict over Import Monopolies), pp. 66-141. **E-Reserve.**
- Hawes, Gary. 1992. Marcos, His Cronies, and the Philippines’ Failure to Develop. In *Southeast Asian Capitalists*.

1 May (Mo). Globalization vs. Developmental State Arguments.

3 May (Wed). Mid-term Exam. In class, during regular class hour.

8 May (Mo) & 10 May (Wed) & 15 May (Mo). **Democracy Argument.**

- Pierson, Paul. 1996. The New Politics of the Welfare State. *World Politics* 48 (2): 143-179. **E-Reserve.**
- Liddle, R William and Saiful Mujani. 2005. Indonesia in 2004: The Rise of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. *Asian Survey* 45 (1): 119-126. **E-Reserve.**
- Rivera, Temario C. 2005. The Philippines in 2004: New mandate, Daunting Problems. *Asian Survey* 45 (1): 127-133. **E-Reserve.**
- Wisnu, Dinna. 2006. One Step of Social Security Reform in Indonesia. In press – Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

17 May (Wed) & 22 May (Mo). **Labor Organization Argument.**

- Ramos, Elias. 1990. *Dualistic Unionism and Industrial Relations*. Quezon City: New Day Publishers. Chapter 1 and 9.

24 May (Wed). **The Politics of Social Security Provision.**

- Robison, Richard and Vedi R. Hadiz. 2004. *Reorganizing Power in Indonesia: The Politics of Oligarchy in an Age of Markets*. London: Routledge Curzon. Chapter Introduction and 7. **E-Reserve.**

Mo, 29 May. Memorial Day. No class.

Wed, 31 May. The Politics of Social Security Provision – continued.

?? June. Final Exam Day and Final paperSubmission.