Overview and Objectives

This class is an introduction to the field of political economy. The term “political economy” generally refers to studies of the interaction of states and markets and/or the application of methods from economics to political science questions. This class will put emphasis on the former interpretation, while paying necessary tribute to the latter.

The goal of this class is threefold. First, to familiarize you with basic theoretical and empirical approaches in political economy; second, to simultaneously introduce you to the classics and cutting edge of the field; third, to push you towards doing your own research on political economy questions. Good research combines technical skills with important substantive questions. Hence, we will engage the readings for this class with an eye toward the linkages between theory, research design, and data.

The course is organized in roughly three parts. We will spend the first three weeks discussing foundational questions of theoretical and empirical modeling. This should provide us with basic conceptual frameworks and tools we can apply to the substantive questions of the class. The second part of the course deals with the interplay between markets and the organization of power in society, focusing on three foundational topics of interest: economic development, the origin of states, and regime change. The third part of the course engages a variety of specific policy domains (public goods, welfare states, trade, finance, corruption).

Requirements

The course will largely be taught in a seminar format, but I now and then I will provide short input lectures.

- **Research Proposal, Presentation, and Feedback (45%)**: 8-10 pages (double-spaced). Proposal due on Nov 29, presentation on Dec 1. You will also be required to provide written feedback for one of your peer’s proposals.

- **A Literature or Book Review (15%)**: Pick a week after Sept 8. Either write a concise literature review that goes beyond the assigned readings or a review that engages one specific book. Each review is due on the week of the assigned topic/book. Literature reviews should be approximately 5-7 pages (double-spaced). Book reviews should be 3-5 pages (double-spaced) and you also have to prepare a 5-10 minute presentation for the rest of the class.

  - C. V. Rivera. Political Dynasties and Party Strength: Evidence from Victorian Britain. 2015

• **Group Replication (15%)**: Build teams of three to four. Pick an empirical political economy article and prepare a short replication memo. Please only pick an article if it has a well-documented replication archive. Your replication memo should cover a brief summary of the main hypothesis, research design, data sources, specifics of the modeling approach, reproduce one of the main tables/findings, and identify potential areas of weakness. The replication report is due on Nov 17.

• **Participation (15%)**: Please read all the assigned readings before class and send at least two discussion questions to me the night before class.

• **Summary of most important dates**:
  - Oct 12: Article Review
  - Nov 17: Replication Memo
  - Nov 29: Research Proposal
  - Dec 1: Research Proposal Presentation

**Academic Misconduct**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct [http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/](http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/).

**Disability**

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options.
You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Beyond class activities

OSU has many interesting talks and seminars that pertain to the topics of the class. I will make you aware of interesting events as they come up. I will notify you on the specific dates as they are published.

Course Material

There are no assigned books for this class. Each week usually features four to five assigned readings. I expect you to read all assigned readings in detail before class. Despite the lack of assigned books, I encourage you to build a functional library. Here is a list of good background reading that I highly recommend for our class:

- Overview of the political economy field:

- Game theory and formal models:

- Empirical techniques:
Course Outline

Week 1 (Aug 25): Introduction and Overview & Models

Introduction to the class, general requirements and logistics. Second half deals with the role of models in PE.

- Core readings:

- Supplementary readings:
  - T. Besley. *The New Political Economy.* Published: Keynes Lecture in Economics

Week 2 (Sep 1): APSA

No meeting in class, but take the time to read more from Week 1 and have a look at the posted lecture notes.
Week 3 (Sep 8): Causality and Empirical Analysis in Political Economy

- Core readings:

- Supplementary readings:
Week 4 (Sep 15): PE of Development I

- Core readings:
  - D. Acemoglu. *Introduction to Modern Economic Growth*. Princeton University Press, 2008 (Chapter 1 and 2)

- Supplementary readings:
Political Economy Syllabus

- P. Pinto and J. Timmons. The Political Determinants of Economic Performance: Political Competition and the Sources of Growth. Comparative Political Studies, 38:26–50, 2005

Week 5 (Sep 22): PE of Development II

- Core readings:


• Supplementary readings:


Week 6 (Sep 29): The Origins of States and State-Building

- Core readings:

- Supplementary readings:

**Week 7 (Oct 6): Autumn Break**

**Week 8 (Oct 13): PE of Democratization and Regime Change**

• *Core readings*:


• *Supplementary readings*:


**Week 9 (Oct 20): PE of Democracy and Public Goods Provision**

* Core readings:

* Supplementary readings:


– M. Martinez-Bravo, G. Padro-i Miguel, N. Qian, and Y. Yao. The Effects of Democrati-
zation on Public Goods and Redistribution: Evidence from China. May 2012. Published: 
NBER Working Paper 18101
– B. Min. Power and the Vote: Elections and Electricity in the Developing World. Cam-
bridge University Press, 2015

Week 10 (Oct 27): The Welfare State and Redistribution

• Core readings:
    Some Democracies Redistribute More Than Others. American Political Science Review, 
  – M. Dahlberg, K. Edmark, and H. Lundqvist. Ethnic Diversity and Preferences for Re-
    661, Sept. 2001

• Supplementary readings:
  – A. Adsera and C. Boix. Trade, Democracy, and the Size of the Public Sector: The 
  – J. S. Ahlquist. Building Strategic Capacity: The Political Underpinnings of Coordinated 
    University Press, 2016
  – B. W. Ansell. From the Ballot to the Blackboard. The Redistributive Political Economy 
    of Education. Cambridge Univ Press, 2010
  – B. Ansell and J. Lindvall. The Political Origins of Primary Education Systems: Ideology, 
    Institutions, and Interdenominational Conflict in an Era of Nation-Building. American 
  – P. Beramendi and D. Rueda. Social Democracy Constrained: Indirect Taxation in 


Week 11 (Nov 3): PE of Trade

• Core readings:


• Supplementary readings:

Week 12 (Nov 10): Finance

- Core readings:


- Supplementary readings:

**Week 13 (Nov 17): Lobbying and Corruption**

- Core readings:

- Supplementary readings:


**Week 14 (Nov 24): Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 15 (Dec 1): Presentations**

**Other Topics**

**Macroeconomic Policy and Economic Reform**

- M. S. Copelovitch and D. A. Singer. Financial Regulation, Monetary Policy, and Inflation in the Industrialized World. *Journal of Politics*


**Political Business Cycles**


**Decentralization**


**The Bureaucracy**


• S. Gulzar and B. Pasquale. Politicians, Bureaucrats, and Development: Evidence from India. 2015


**Clientelism**


**Ethnic Politics**


• B. Berman, D. Eyoh, and W. Kymlicka, editors. *Ethnicity and Democracy in Africa*. Oxford University Press, 2004


• D. N. Posner. *Institutions and Ethnic Politics in Africa*. Cambridge Univ Press, 2005


**Gender**


References


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