

PS3092

Comparative Political Economy

Contact Information

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Course Information

August 27-December 17, 2024
Classroom: MUEN E417
Class-time: TuTh 11am-12:15pm

Course Description:

How do politics and economics interact? This is the central question for this course, where we will examine how politics shape economic development, democratization, and political behavior. Comparative Political Economy (CPE) is a broad subfield of political science, and often an over-used term to describe the study of political and economic interactions. This course focuses on the domestic aspects of how politics effects economic outcomes and the consequences of economics for political behavior.

Over the course of the semester, we will discuss questions such as: What explains why some countries are rich and others are poor? Does democracy facilitate growth or vice versa? Why do some countries spend more on welfare and redistribute more than others? How does technological change shape the economy and politics?

This course is designed to stimulate an informed discussion among students about the interaction of politics and the economy. Many of the questions do not have clear answers but require rigorous analytical thinking. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Think critically about how politics influences economics
- Rigorously engage with competing academically supported arguments
- Analyze questions in the social sciences

Course Requirements and Grading:

Participation	10%
Weekly Quizzes	20%
Exams (3)	45%
Research Paper	25%

Letter grades will be assigned at the end of the semester based on the following scale. I will **not** round your grade and grades will not be curved.

A+	98-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A	93-97%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%

Participation (10%)

Active participation in this course is critical! Coming to class well prepared and offering comments and questions in discussions will result in a superior participation grade. Attendance is mandatory. Four “freebie” absences are allowed. Each subsequent absence will result in a decrease in the participation and attendance grade. Note that attendance alone is not sufficient to receive full credit.

Students with perfect attendance but no participation in class should expect to receive a 60% on the participation and attendance grade.

Weekly Quizzes (20%)

Each week, there will be a weekly quiz on that week's readings and lecture which makeup 15% of the overall course grade. There will be **twelve** quizzes (1/week minus exam weeks), and the two lowest scores will be dropped. Students get two attempts and quizzes are open note. Quizzes will be published on Canvas at the end of class on Thursday and students will have 24 hours to complete each quiz.

Exams (3x 15%)

There will be three exams during this course: two midterms and one final. Exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and one essay question. Exams are not cumulative.

Exam Dates:

- Midterm: Thursday, **September 26**
- Midterm: Thursday, **October 31**
- Final: Tuesday, **December 17**

Research Paper (25%)

There will be one essay for this course which will be worth 25% of the overall course grade. Students are expected to write 2500-3000 words on a research question of their choice. Students will be expected to identify a research question of interest related to course topics, consult relevant literature and data to develop an argument that answers their question. More specifics will be available on a separate assignment sheet on Canvas. Essays will be due on **December 5 at 11:59pm**.

Late/Makeup Assignment Policy

All assignments must be submitted by their specified due date as designated in the syllabus. Late assignments will suffer a 10 percent penalty for each day that they are late and will not be accepted after three days. There will be no make-up exams or extensions without a university approved excused absence and these must be communicated to the instructor prior to the due date. If you miss an assignment or exam without a university approved excuse, you will receive a 0.

Email Policy

Emails must have PSCI3092, Comparative Political Economy, or a logical alternative indicating the email pertains to this course. Emails pertaining to this course must be sent from your official University of Colorado email address. It is class policy that grades will not be discussed over email. I will generally reply to e-mails within 24 hours.

Schedule

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be made available on Canvas. Assigned readings are subject to change, but you will be notified in advance if this occurs.

Module 1: Political & Economic Systems

Week 1: What is CPE

Tuesday (Aug 26): Course Introduction & Syllabus

- *No readings*

Thursday (Aug 28): What is CPE

- *No readings*

Week 2: Democratization

Tuesday (Sept 3): Democratization

- Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2009. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2

Thursday (Sept 5): No Class

Week 3: Development

Tuesday (Sept 10): Development (1)

- Przeworski, Adam, and Fernando Limongi. 1997. "Modernization: Theories and Facts." *World Politics* 49(2):155–83.

Thursday (Sept 12): Development (2)

- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James Robinson. 2001. "The Colonial Origin of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation." *American Economic Review*. 91.5: 1369- 1401.

Week 4: Capitalism

Tuesday (Sept 17): Varieties of Capitalism (1)

- Hall, Peter and David Soskice. 2001. "An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism," in Peter A. Hall and David Soskice, eds. 2001. pgs 1-21.

Thursday (Sept 19): Varieties of Capitalism (2)

- Hay, Colin. 2020. "Does Capitalism (Still) Come in Varieties?" *Review of International Political Economy* 27(2):302–19.

Week 5: Post-Communism

Tuesday (Sept 24): Post-Communist Transition

- Frye, Timothy. 2010. *Building States and Markets after Communism: The Perils of Polarized Democracy*. Cambridge University Press. Conclusion.

Thursday (Sept 26): EXAM 1

Module 2: The Political Economy of...

Week 6: Inequality

Tuesday (Oct 1): CPE of Inequality (1)- Causes

- Lupu, Noam, and Jonas Pontusson. 2011. "The Structure of Inequality and the Politics of Redistribution." *American Political Science Review* 105(2):316–36.

Thursday (Oct 3): CPE of Inequality (2)- Consequences

- Rooduijn, Matthijs, and Brian Burgoon. 2018. "The Paradox of Well-Being: Do Unfavorable Socioeconomic and Sociocultural Contexts Deepen or Dampen Radical Left and Right Voting Among the Less Well-Off?" *Comparative Political Studies* 51(13):1720–53.

Week 7: Welfare

Tuesday (Oct 8): CPE of Welfare (1)- Causes

- Iversen, Torben, and David Soskice. 2006. "Electoral Institutions and the Politics of Coalitions: Why Some Democracies Redistribute More Than Others." *American Political Science Review* 100(2):165–81.

Thursday (Oct 10): CPE of Welfare (2)- Consequences

- Anderson, Christopher J., and Pablo Beramendi. 2012. "Left Parties, Poor Voters, and Electoral Participation in Advanced Industrial Societies." *Comparative Political Studies* 45(6):714–46.

Week 8: Unions & The Working Class

Tuesday (Oct 15): CPE of Unions (1)- Causes

- Wallerstein, Michael. 2000. "Unions in Decline? What Has Changed and Why." *Annual Review of Political Science*.

Thursday (Oct 17): CPE of Unions (2)- Consequences

- Rennwald, Line, and Jonas Pontusson. 2020. "Paper Stones Revisited: Class Voting, Unionization and the Electoral Decline of the Mainstream Left." *Perspectives on Politics* 1–19.

Week 9: Corruption

Tuesday (Oct 22): CPE of Corruption (1)- Causes

- Treisman, Daniel. 2000. "The Causes of Corruption: A Cross-National Study." *Journal of Public Economics* 76(3):399–457.

Thursday (Oct 24): CPE of Corruption (2)- Consequences

- Ferraz, Claudio, and Frederico Finan. 2008. "Exposing Corrupt Politicians: The Effects of Brazil's Publicly Released Audits on Electoral Outcomes *." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123(2):703–45.

Week 10: Exam

Tuesday (Oct 29): Buffer and Review

Thursday (Oct 31): EXAM 2

Week 11: Globalization

Tuesday (Nov 5): CPE of Globalization (1)- Causes

- Milner, Helen V., and Keiko Kubota. 2005. "Why the Move to Free Trade? Democracy and Trade Policy in the Developing Countries." *International Organization* 59(01).

Thursday (Nov 7): CPE of Globalization (2)- Consequences

- Colantone, Italo, and Piero Stanig. 2018. "The Trade Origins of Economic Nationalism: Import Competition and Voting Behavior in Western Europe." *American Journal of Political Science* 62(4):936–53.

Week 12: Immigration

Tuesday (Nov 12): CPE of Immigration (1)- Causes

- Fitzgerald, Jennifer, David Leblang, and Jessica C. Teets. 2014. "Defying the Law of Gravity: The Political Economy of International Migration." *World Politics* 66(3):406–45.

Thursday (Nov 14): CPE of Immigration (2)- Consequences

- Shehaj, Albana, Adrian J. Shin, and Ronald Inglehart. 2021. "Immigration and Right-Wing Populism: An Origin Story." *Party Politics* 27(2):282–93.

Week 13: Environmental Policy

Tuesday (Nov 19): CPE of Environmentalism (1)- Causes

- Hernandez Carballo, Ileri, and Matthew Ryan Sisco. 2024. "Examining the Effects of Gasoline Prices on Public Support for Climate Policies." *Nature Energy* 9(2):219–27.

Thursday (Nov 21): CPE of Environmentalism (2)- Consequences

- Aklin, Michaël. 2021. "Do High Electricity Bills Undermine Public Support for Renewables? Evidence from the European Union." *Energy Policy* 156:112400.

THANKSGIVING BREAK (Nov 26 and 28)

Week 14: Automation & Technological Change

Tuesday (Dec 3): CPE of Automation (1)- Causes

- Autor, David H. 2015. "Why Are There Still So Many Jobs? The History and Future of Workplace Automation." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 29(3):3–30.

Thursday (Dec 5): CPE of Automation (2)- Consequences

- Gonzalez-Rostani, Valentina. 2024. "Engaged Robots, Disengaged Workers: Automation and Political Alienation." *Economics & Politics*

Week 15: Catch-Up & Review

Tuesday (Dec 10): Buffer

Thursday (Dec 12): Review

FINAL EXAM: December 17, 1:30-4pm

Classroom Behavior: Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, marital status, political affiliation, or political philosophy. For more information, see the [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

Accommodation for Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or DSinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, please let me know as soon as possible via e-mail.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns: CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code: All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Note: Use of AI in your written answers is considered plagiarism in this course and is not permitted and will result in an “F” in the course!

Discrimination and Harassment: CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits [protected-class](#) discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC)

addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email CUreport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and [support resources](#) including confidential services can be found on the [OIEC website](#). Please know that faculty and graduate instructors must inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the [Don't Ignore It page](#).

Religious Holidays: Campus policy requires faculty to provide reasonable accommodations for students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please communicate the need for a religious accommodation in a timely manner. In this class, **please let me know by the end of week 3 of any religious accommodations you may require.** See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Mental Health and Wellness: The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7. Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [Academic Live Care](#). The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.