Political Economy I: Capitalism and Democracy

Central European University
Department of Political Science
Mandatory course, 2 Year MA Program,
Fall Semester 2016/2017
2 CEU credits, 4 ECTS credits

Instructor: Bruszt, László
Time and Place: Mondays and Wednesdays 09.00-10.40
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 14.00-16.30 VF2

Content
The course introduces some of the core theories and key concepts in political economy by focusing on the uneasy relationship between capitalism and democracy. The course will ask a number of “big questions” about politics and economics, such as: Under which conditions is capitalism compatible with democracy? How does the disproportionate power of business affect democracy? Which are the relative strengths and weaknesses of politics versus markets in bringing about economic growth and socioeconomic equality? How does economic globalization and European integration affect democracy? In order to address these and similar questions, the course will review liberal, Marxist, sociological and institutional approaches, and draw on the experiences of European capitalist democracies, East and West.

Although this is an introductory course, some basic understanding of macroeconomic concepts is required. Students who are unfamiliar with these are strongly encouraged to take the class Basics in Macroeconomics.

Learning outcomes
At the end of the course, students will have acquired a basic understanding of some core theories and key concepts in, as well as selected approaches to political economy. The course enhances critical thinking and multidisciplinary orientation, and contributes to the mastery of academic writing and oral skills. Learning outcomes are supported by the course’s requirements and assessed accordingly.

Course requirements and evaluation:
1. Attendance and in-class participation. Each session will consist of a lecture followed by a class discussion. Attendance and participation in the discussion are crucial (20 % of the grade).
2. Short questions. Students are required to submit three short questions on the readings for one session once a week (6 x 3 questions all in all). The questions have to be submitted electronically latest by noon the day prior to the class (Moodle). Students who write position papers cannot submit questions on the same reading. (20 % of the grade).

3. One bigger review paper of ca. 2100-2600 words or three position papers of 700-900 words each (excluding bibliography). (60% of the grade).
   a. **Review paper**: students are required to choose one topic of the course, identify a major work associated with the topic, and review it critically. The work can be a monograph, special journal issue, or edited book, and students can chose from the recommended literature or come up with their own suggestions. The topic and book has to be agreed upon with the instructor. A critical review is more than a simple summary. It should a) embed the work in the broader debate, b) identify its major arguments, findings, and methods, c) and critically evaluate its merits, shortcomings and contributions to the debate. Students are required to consult at least 3 additional sources (journal articles or books) when completing their review. The paper has to be submitted electronically (Moodle) latest by December, 23rd, midnight.
   b. **Position papers**: Position papers are small essays on the weekly readings. They should shortly summarize the readings, reflect on the major arguments, and include questions for further discussion. Position papers can compare the readings to other readings of the class, or apply the readings to an empirical case. The papers are to be distributed electronically to the whole class latest by noon the day prior to the class (Moodle). Students might be asked to shortly present their papers in class.

**Late submission**
According to the departmental policies, late submissions of written assignments will be downgraded in the following manner:
- 30 minute to 24 hours late:: 1 grading point
- 24.5 hours to 48 hours: 2 grading points
- etc.

**Academic dishonesty**
Students are expected to be familiar with the CEU policies on scholarly dishonesty. Plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty will result in automatic failure of the course and immediate referral to the appropriate committee for academic discipline.

**Electronic devices**
The use of electronic devices (laptops, tablets, e-readers, phones, etc.) is not allowed.
Topics and Readings

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**SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION**


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**SESSION 2: HOW DID EUROPE DEMOCRATIZE? (CLASSICS)**


Recommended:


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**SESSION 3: HOW DID EUROPE DEMOCRATIZE? (RECENT APPROACHES)**


Recommended:


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**SESSION 4: THE (IM)POSSIBILITY OF DEMOCRACY AND CAPITALISM IN EASTERN EUROPE**


**Recommended:**


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**SESSION 5 MARKETS AND (SOCIAL) DEMOCRACY (CLASSICAL DEBATES)**


**Recommended**


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**SESSION 6: SOCIAL DEMOCRACY**


**Recommended**


**SESSION 7 BUSINESS AND DEMOCRACY (COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE)**


Recommended:


**SESSION 8: BUSINESS AND DEMOCRACY (IPE)**


Recommended:


**SESSION 9: INEQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY**

**Recommended Readings**


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**SESSION 10: DEBT AND DEMOCRACY**


**Recommended:**


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**SESSION 11: THE EURO CRISIS AND DEMOCRACY**

Recommended


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**SESSION 12: WRAP UP**

General discussion