Political Economy II: Core Issues and Conceptual Frameworks in Political Economy

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Credits: 4 Credits (8 ECTS)
Semester: Winter 2018
Course Level: 1 and 2 Year MA
Office Hours: Tuesdays 13:00-15:00 and by appointment

Course Objectives

This course introduces political economy as a particular approach to the study of politics and explores foundational theoretical concepts, explanatory traditions and methodological approaches common in political economy. Political economy regards income redistribution, taxation, the production of public goods, and other actions of the public sector as determined by a political process simultaneously with the economic process of exchange and production. In this course, we will investigate the connection between public policies and the political forces that shape them. We will attempt to explain why the government behaves as it does and how its behavior influences and is in turn influenced by the behavior of private citizens. We will also investigate the effects of political institutions on political and economic outcomes and assess the relative performance of different political systems. The course also incorporates discussions about key theoretical approaches such as rational choice theory, game theory and historical institutionalism.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course, the students are expected to;

- understand the basic terms in political economy research
- have sufficient knowledge to apply these concepts in their research
- to be able to follow and understand the literature related to the subject matter
- be able to follow theoretical and empirical debates about government policies
- acquire knowledge of methodologies and assumptions in the study of political economy
- gain skills for presenting and critically discussing scholarly work by others
Class structure

Most meetings consist of a 15-minute critical presentation by a discussant, followed by an instructor-led structured discussion of key concepts; key arguments; key theoretical and methodological approaches; puzzles & questions; the relevance of the subject matter. **Meetings with a different structure will be announced in due course.**

Grading and Assessment

All of the students are expected to attend and actively participate in the class discussion. The participation counts for 15% and attendance counts another 5%. There are weekly reflection papers that make up 40% of the grade in total and the final exam counts for another 40%. The grades won’t be based on a curve.

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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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The grades will be marked down in case of late submissions, and in case of plagiarism departmental rules apply.

Note on Citing and Referencing

You will be expected to use [Harvard style referencing](http://ceulearning.ceu.edu/course/view.php?id=4862). Please find an extensive citation and referencing guide on the course website: http://ceulearning.ceu.edu/course/view.php?id=4862. At the same time, you are strongly encouraged to use a citation manager software for all your written assignments, in which case you can use [Chicago style referencing](http://ceulearning.ceu.edu/course/view.php?id=4862).

Readings

**Week 1: How the Economy is Political?**

Week 2: Rational Choice and Collective Action


Week 3: Game Theory


Week 4: Institutionalism


Week 5: Culture and Ideas


**Week 6: International Political Economy**


**Week 7: Political Economy of Regimes**


**Week 8: Economic Growth and Regime Type**

Week 9: Redistribution and Welfare States


Week 10: Fiscal Policy and Taxation


Week 11: Finance and Crisis


Week 12: Conclusion