

POLS 3551 THEORY AND HISTORY OF POLITICAL ECONOMY (Fall 2017)

Instructor: Amr Adly

Email: amradly82@aucegypt.edu

Class times: Mondays and Thursdays, 3:30 - 4:45 pm

Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:30-3:30

Office: HUSS 2011

Class: WALEED CP72

Course description

This course provides an in-depth look into the historical roots of modern political economy. It is an attempt to elaborate on the historical, economic and social contexts in which the discipline evolved since the 18th century and how its basic concepts, problems and themes formed. The course design is meant to introduce political economy in its methodological and ideological diversity of schools and traditions ranging from the left to the right while paying attention to how each has developed in time. The syllabus covers many of the principal topics that were tackled by political economy at critical junctures such as theories of trade, industrialization, the state, labor-capital relations, revolution and economic development.

As the course tackles history and theories of political economy, the syllabus was designed in a way that combines both tasks by introducing the students to the basic classic writings that gave rise to the discipline through the last two centuries. This should allow the readers to immediately and critically engage with the formative texts and the basic concepts they brought to being. Reading the classics is supported by secondary sources that highlight the social and political circumstances within each tradition developed together with lecturing and in-class discussions.

Course objectives

The course has three principal goals: the first is the comprehensive introduction of the theories and concepts of political economy to the students. Comprehensiveness here refers to covering a rich agenda of topics, readings and approaches. The second goal is the critical engagement with classical readings through which the basic concepts and approaches of political economy had developed. Students should be able to acquire analytical tools adequate enough to analyze, critique and deconstruct what they receive through the course. Finally, the third goal is the development of the students' ability to apply the analytical tools and approaches on the contemporary local and global socio-economic phenomena. Political economy

after all is a social discipline and it thus should contribute to the awareness and understanding of its students of the world around them.

Requirements and assessment

- You are expected to attend and participate in classes. Attendance will NOT be graded. However, as per university rules, if you miss more than three weeks of classes, for whatever reason, you will receive an F in the course. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are marked present for the day or withdraw from the course if you have too many absences.
- All readings on the syllabus are required to complete the course.
- There will be a total of SEVEN pop-up quizzes through the course. You need to take FIVE of them. The pop-up quizzes will tackle the readings and each will be graded out of 4 per cent of the total, making a total of 20 points. The aim is to make sure that readings are being done and in order to stimulate class participation.
- You are required to submit three assignments throughout the course. Assignments will be critical reviews of movies and documentaries related to course topics. Each assignment will take the form of an essay (around a 1000 words- maximum count).
 - Reviews should be sent by email.
 - Each review will be graded out of 5.
 - Reviews are meant to test the student's level of understanding of the readings and their ability to apply them critically.
 - Students are required to demonstrate their understanding of the main point in the reviewed movie/documentary; provide critical and in depth insights on the topic and; raise intriguing questions about the reading linking it to the general course work.
 - Reviews submitted later than the set deadline WILL NEITHER BE ACCEPTED NOR GRADED. No excuses including computer collapse or loss of files, so keep a backup.
- There will be group presentations through the course on assigned topics. Groups will be made up of 5 to 6 students. Presentations should be based on teamwork, good research and the applying of the themes and tools learned in class. Assessment will be based on the quality of research and

presentation skills, both group and individual. The exact schedule and topics of the presentations will be communicated by email in due course.

- There will be one mid-term and a final examination.
- Assessment will be as follows:

Participation:	5 per cent
Five quizzes:	20 per cent (4 each)
Three reviews:	15 per cent (5 each)
Presentation:	10 per cent
Mid-term:	25 per cent
Final:	25 per cent

The grade cut-offs will be as follows: A (94 and above), A- (90-93), B+(87-89), B (84-86), B- (80-83), C+ (77-79), C (74-76), C- (70-73), D+ (61-69), D (50-60).

- Cheating and Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assessment item. Heavier penalties may apply.

Classes

Class 1 (Thursday September 7th): Introduction: What is political economy?

Class 2 and 3: Classical Liberal Political Economy

Class 2 (Monday Sept. 11th): Smith, Adam. The Wealth of Nation: An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, pp. 219-232

Class 3 (Thursday Sept. 14th): Classical Political Economy (cont.)

Schumpeter, Joseph (1954). History of economic analysis. Chapter Six: The General Economics: Pure Theory, pp.575-625

Classes 4 - 7: Marxian Political Economy

Class 4 (Monday Sept. 18th):

Schumpeter, Joseph (1954). History of Economic Analysis. Chapter 6: The General Economics: Pure Theory, pp.625-645

Class 5 (Monday Sept. 25th)

Schumpeter, Joseph (1954). History of Economic Analysis. Chapter 6: The General Economics: Pure Theory, P. 645-688

* Read also Hegel for dummies:

<http://www.therightplanet.com/2014/01/hegelian-dialectics-for-dummies/>

Class 6 (Thursday Sept. 28th): Lenin, Valdimir (1952) Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism

Class 7 (Monday October 2nd): Bakunin, Mikhail (1873), Statism and Anarchy, pp.1-7

First Assignment due on Friday, October 6th no later than 7 am

Nationalism and the Economy

Class 8 (Thursday Oct. 5th): Shafaeddin, Mehdi (2000), What Did Frederick List Actually Say? Some Clarifications on the Infant Industry Argument

Classes 9 and 10: Weber's Sociological Approach to Political Economy

Class 9 (Monday Oct. 9th): Weber, Max (1905) "The Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism", Chapter 2, pp. 13- 39

Class 10 (Thursday Oct. 12th): Delacroix, Jacque (2001). "The Beloved Myth: Protestantism and the Rise of Industrial Capitalism in Nineteenth Century Europe". *Social forces* 80(2):509-553

Classes 11 and 12: Political Economy in Historical Perspective

Class 11 (Monday Oct. 16th): Polanyi, Carl, The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time, pp. 135-162

Class 12 (Thursday Oct. 19th): Gerschenkron, Alexander (1962) Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective, pp 1-30

Class 13 (Monday Oct. 23rd): Schumpeter, Joseph (1950) Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy, Part II: Can Capitalism Survive? pp.61-86

Second Assignment due on Friday, October 27th no later than 7 am

Classes 14 – 15: Social Origins of Political and Economic Systems

Class 14 (Thursday Oct. 26nd): Moore, Barrington (1966). Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, pp.413-453

MIDTERM EXAM (Monday October 30th)

Class 16 (Thursday November 2nd): Skocpol, Theda (1979), States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia and China, Cambridge: Cambridge University press, the Introduction

Classes 17 and 18: Welfarism, corporatism and Keynesianism

Class 17 (Monday Nov. 6th): Caporaso, James: Introduction to Political Economy, Chapter (5): Keynesian political economy, pp. 100-125.

Class 18 (Thursday Nov. 9th): Flora, Peter, and Arnold Joseph Heidenheimer, eds. The development of welfare states in Europe and America. Chapter 1.

Classes 19-20: The Neoclassical Turn

Class 19 (Monday Nov. 13th): Von Hayek, Friedrich (1960), The Constitution of Liberty, pp. 1 – 21

Class 20 (Thursday Nov. 16th): North, Douglass (1990) Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance, pp. 3-35

Classes 21-23: The State and Development

Class 21 (Monday Nov. 20th) Caporaso, James: Chapter 8: State-centered approaches to political economy, p.181-196

Class 22 (Monday Nov. 27th): Evans, Peter (1995) Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation. pp. 1-73.

Third Assignment due on Friday, December 1st No later than 7 am

Classes 23 and 24: Political economy of Gender and the Environment

Class 23 (Monday December 4th) Peterson, Spike (2005) How (the Meaning of) Gender Matters in Political Economy. *New Political Economy*, Vol. 10, No. 4, December 2005

Class 24 (Thursday Dec. 7th): Schumacher, Friedrich (2011). *Small is beautiful: A study of economics as if people mattered.*

Class 25: The political economy of the Arab State

Class 25 (Monday Dec. 11th): Mitchell, Timothy. "Carbon democracy." *Economy and Society* 38.3 (2009): 399-432.

Class 26 (Thursday Dec. 14th): Revision and general discussion

FINAL EXAM