

POLS 3551 THEORIES AND HISTORY OF POLITICAL ECONOMY (Spring 2017)

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Class times: Sundays and Wednesdays, 3:35 pm - 4:55 pm

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:30

Office: HUSS 2011

Class: WALEED C129

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 developed in modern times 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 classics 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 the classical readings through which the basic concepts and approaches of political economy had developed. The student 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 student's 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 the seminar sessions. 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. Each assignment will take the form of an essay (around a 1000 words-maximum count). You may review one or more of the three assigned movies and documentaries below or you may review any of the course readings.
 - You have to submit the reviews a day ahead of class in which the reviewed reading or movie/documentary will be discussed. Reviews should be sent by email.
 - Each review will be graded out of 5. If you submit four or five reviews, you get a bonus for your extra work.
 - Reviews are meant to test the students' level of understanding of the readings and to make sure that the most important pieces are thoroughly read for further discussion in class.
 - Students are required to demonstrate their understanding of the main argument given in the reviewed reading or 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 (Sunday Jan 29th): Introductory session: what is political economy?

Class 2 and 3: Classical Liberal political economy

Class 2 (Wednesday Feb 1st): Smith, Adam. The Wealth of Nation: An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, pp. 219-232

Class 3 (Sunday Feb 5th): Ricardo, David. On The Principles of Political Economy and Taxation. Preface and Chapter one

Classes 4 - 7: Marxian political economy

Class 4 (Wednesday Feb 8th): Marx, Karl. Capital (Vol I: Part III: The Production of Absolute Surplus-Value), Chapter Seven: The Labour-Process and the Process of Producing Surplus-Value, pp.1-11

Class 5 (Sunday Feb 12th) Marx, Karl. Capital (Vol I: Part III: The Production of Absolute Surplus-Value), Chapter four: The Transformation of Money and Capital, pp.12-24

* Read also Hegel for dummies:

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

Class 6 (Wednesday Feb 15th): Lenin, Valdimir (1952) Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism

Class 7 (Sunday Feb 26th): Bakunin, Mikhail (1873), Statism and Anarchy, pp.1-7

First Assignment: Is Orwell's animal farm a critique to Marxian theory or to the Soviet Union under Stalin as an implementation that went wrong?

Answer the above question by reviewing George Orwell's Animal Farm (The Cartoon 1954) Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0pys7boNro>

Nationalism and the economy

Class 8 (Wednesday March 1st): 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 (Sunday March 5th): Weber, Max (1905) "The Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism", chapter two, pp. 13- 39

Class 10 (Wednesday March 8th): 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 (Sunday March 12th): Polanyi, Carl, The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time, pp. 135-162

Class 12 (Wednesday March 15th): Gerschenkron, Alexander (1962) Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective, pp 1-30

Class 13 (Sunday March 19th): Schumpeter, Joseph (1950) Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy, Part II: Can Capitalism Survive? pp.61-86

Assignment two: Are Weber and Schumpeter's conceptualizations of entrepreneurship far more familiar than we think?

In answering the above question, review either Mahmoud Al-Arabi's autobiography "*sirr hayati*" OR the novel by Ihsan Abdel Quodoss, "*Lan A3eesh fi gelbab abi*"

Classes 14 – 15: Social origins of political and economic systems

Class 14 (Wednesday March 22nd): Moore, Barrington (1966). Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, pp.413-453

Class 15 (Sunday March 26th): Skocpol, Theda (1979), States and social revolutions: a comparative analysis of France, Russia and China, Cambridge: Cambridge University press, the introduction

MIDTERM EXAM (Wednesday 29th of March – Class 16)

Classes 17 and 18: Welfarism, corporatism and Keynesianism

Class 17 (Sunday April 2nd): Caporaso, James: Introduction to Political Economy, Chapter (5): Keynesian political economy, pp. 100-125.

Class 18 (Wednesday April 5th): Schmitter, Philippe (April 1977) “Corporatism and Policy-making in Contemporary Western Europe”, Introduction in Comparative Political Studies 10(1): pp.7-3

Spring Break April 9th – April 17th

Classes 19-20: The Neoclassical turn

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

Class 20 (Sunday April 23rd): North, Douglass (1990) Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance, pp. 3-35

Classes 21-23: The state and development

Class 21 (Wednesday April 26th) Caporaso, James: Chapter 8: State-centered approaches to political economy, p.181-196

Class 22 (Sunday April 30th): Evans, Peter (1995) Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation. pp. 1-73.

Assignment three: The Brazilian movie, the City of God (2002) is a drama about urban poverty and socio-economic marginalization, how Marx, Weber and Von Hayek would have reviewed it?

In answering the above question, write an analytical review of the movie. You-tube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVCmNOF_tI

Classes 23 and 24: New trends in political economy

Class 23 (Wednesday May 3rd) Peterson, Spike (2005) How (the Meaning of) Gender Matters in Political Economy. New Political Economy, Vol. 10, No. 4, December 2005

Class 24 (Sunday May 7th): Stavins, Robert (2004) Introduction to the Political Economy of Environmental Regulations. Resources for the Future, Discussion Paper 04–12

Class 25: The political economy of the Arab state

Class 25 (Wednesday May 10th): Ayubi, Nazih (2001) Overstating the Arab state: Politics and Society in the Middle East, Chapter 1, pp 1-35

Class 26 (Sunday May 14th): Revision and general discussion

FINAL EXAM