

## **POLS 3550**

### **Introduction to Political Economy**

**(Spring 2021, January, 31<sup>st</sup>-May, 20<sup>th</sup>)**

**Instructor:** Amr Adly

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**Class:** Online course

**Class times:** Monday and Thursday: 2:00-3:15 pm

**Office Hours:** flexible, by appointment

### **Course description**

The course introduces political economy in its theoretical and ideological variety. It provides a glimpse of the historical roots of the discipline and how they led to the development of its basic concepts, problems and themes. It offers an introduction to the various schools of political economy ranging from the left to the right while paying attention to how each has developed in time.

The course addresses a great variety of political economic problems ranging from the more theoretical and basic ones such as the modes of state and market articulation and labor – capital relations to more recent topics like economic development, gender, the economic basis of democratization and the political economy of the environment.

Not only does the course focus on the theoretical underpinnings of the discipline but also it substantially addresses the current situation in Egypt and the Middle East. The syllabus covers the principal political-economic theories and approaches that were developed in studying the region and tackles the areas of overlap and interaction between politics and economics in the recent and ongoing transformation in Egypt.

## Course objectives

This course wishes to develop a better understanding of the basic concepts, themes and issues of political economy as the discipline that studies the interplay between the distribution of power and that of economic resources. The course aims at instructing the students by using the analytical tools of political economy so as to understand political and economic realities and applying them to different contexts, including that of Egypt, the Middle East and the world more generally.

## Requirements and assessment

- This is an online course.
- We will meet on zoom on Monday and Thursday every week between 2:00 and 3:15 pm.
- As of class two, we will split into two groups:
  - The first will be made up of the first 15 names on the class list while the second consists of the following 15.
  - The first group will meet on zoom between 2:00 and 2:30 pm while the other group will meet between 2:35 and 3:15 pm
  - Each student will be required to show up for the zoom session with a question and a comment/critique pertaining to the reading and/or the audio lecture. Post them on the zoom chat and we will go through them. This is how your participation will be assessed.
- Participation will be out of 10 percent. Make sure to be online exactly at the designated class time. **Switch on your camera throughout the whole session. Otherwise, you won't be counted as present.**
- You will all receive an audio-recorded lecture before class time. Listen to it carefully and do the readings accordingly.
- 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.
- You are allowed to join up to five minutes of the beginning of the zoom session. Otherwise, you won't be counted as present.
- In case you have systematic connectivity problems that might hinder your presence, please inform me at the beginning of the course.
- All readings on the syllabus are required to complete the course. They will all be made available by email on the first class.
- You are required to submit three assignments through the course. Each assignment will take the form of an essay (around a 1000 words).
  - The exact topics and dates of submission of the essays are included in the course outline. No late submissions will be accepted.
  - Assignments 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.
  - Do not cite sources from the internet. Rely only on print sources that have been refereed. Lecture notes are also unacceptable as are dictionaries and encyclopedias.
- For the sake of making this course as interactive as possible, there will be group presentations through the course on assigned topics. Groups will be made up of approximately 4-5 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 midterm and a final examination.
- The assessment will be as follows:

|                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Participation:   | 10 percent                   |
| Presentation:    | 10 percent                   |
| (3) Assignments: | 30 percent (10 percent each) |
| Midterm exam     | 25 percent                   |
| Final exam       | 25 percent                   |

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).

### **"ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

Students are expected to commit to the principles of academic integrity.

Academic integrity includes a commitment to not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another person's work as one's own, using Internet or other sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty, etc.

Plagiarism for assignments and/or reports may result in a zero grade for the assignment and/or the report in question. Cheating during an examination may result in a zero grade for this examination. Further action, according to university regulations, would also be implemented.

You should be aware that all written work might be submitted to "Turnitin.com", the detection prevention software.

The University's statement on academic integrity, from which the above statement is drawn, is available at:

<http://www.aucegypt.edu/academics/integrity/Pages/default.aspx>

## Classes

### **Class 1 (Monday, Feb. 1st): Introduction to the course**

### **Class 2 (Thursday, Feb. 4th): Introduction to Political Economy**

What is political economy? Caporaso: introduction: p.1-6 and Ch.1.: Politics and economics, p.7-32

### **Class 3 (Monday, Feb. 8th): Classical political economy**

Caporaso: Ch.2.: The classical approach, p.33-54.

### **Classes 4-6: Marxian Political Economy**

#### **Class 4 (Thursday, Feb. 11th): Marxian political economy**

Howard and King (1983) *The Political Economy of Marx*". Chapter 1

#### **Class 5 (Monday, Feb. 15th): Marxian political economy (cont.)**

Colin Hay: What's Marxist about Marxist theory of the state? In Colin Hay et al. *The State. Theories and issues.* p. 59-78.

#### **Class 6 (Thursday, Feb. 18th): International Marxian political economy**

Lenin, Vladimir (1952) *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*

### **Classes 7-8: Dependency and Economic Nationalism**

#### **Class 7 (Monday, Feb. 22nd): Nationalism and the economy**

Shafaeddin, Mehdi (2000), *What Did Frederick List Actually Say? Some Clarifications on the Infant Industry Argument*

**Class 8 (Thursday, Feb. 25th):** Cardoso, Fernando Henrique, and Enzo Faletto. *Dependency and development in Latin America.* Univ of California Press, 1979, Ch.1

### **Classes 9-10: Weber's Political Economy**

#### **Class 9 (Monday, March 1st): Weber's sociological approach to political economy**

Weber, Max (1905) "The Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism", chapter two, pp. 13- 39

#### **Class 10 (Thursday, March 4th): Weber's sociological approach to political economy (cont.)**

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

### **Classes 11-12: Keynesianism and Welfarism**

#### **Class 11 (Monday, March 8th): Keynesian Political Economy**

Caporaso, James: *Introduction to Political Economy*, Chapter (5): Keynesian political economy, pp. 100-125.

#### **Class 12 (Thursday, March 11th): Welfarism and corporatism**

Korpi, W. and Palme, J., 2003. New politics and class politics in the context of austerity and globalization: Welfare state regress in 18 countries, 1975–95. *American Political Science Review*, 97(3), pp.425-446.

**Class 13 (Monday, March 15th): Schumpeterian Political Economy**

Schumpeter, Joseph (1950) *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*, Part II: Can Capitalism Survive? pp.61-86

**Classes 14-16: Neoclassical Political Economy**

**Class 14 (Thursday, March 18th): Neoclassical political economy**

Caporaso: Ch 5. Neoclassical political economy, p.79-99

**Class 15 (Monday, March 22nd): MIDTERM EXAM**

**Class 16 (Thursday, March 25th): Neoclassical political economy (cont.)**

Von Hayek, Friedrich (1960), *The Constitution of Liberty*, pp1 – 21

**Class 17 (Monday, March, 29th): Institutionalism and political economy**

North, Douglass (1990) *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*, pp. 3-35

**Classes 18-20: Political Economy of the State**

**Class 18 (Thursday, April 1st): State centered approaches to political economy**

Caporaso: Ch8. State-centered approaches to political economy, p.181-196

**Class 19 (Monday, April 5th): State centered approaches to political economy (cont.)**

Skocpol, Theda (1985) *Bringing the State back in*. Introduction.

**Class 20 (Thursday, April 8th): The developmental state**

Evans, Peter (1995) *Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation*. Ch.1

**Classes 21-22: State Finances**

**Class 21 (Monday, April 12th): The rentier state**

Beblawy, Hazem and Luciani, Giacomo (1987) *The rentier State in the Arab world*. London: Croom Helm. Ch1

**Class 22 (Thursday, April 15th): The Political economy of state finance in Egypt**

Soliman, Samer (2012) *The autumn of dictatorship: Fiscal crisis and political change in Egypt*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, Chapters one and two

**Classes 23-24: Political Economy of Development**

**Class 23 (Monday, April 19th): Political economy of cronyism and corruption**

Hellman, Joel et al. (2000) "Seize the State, Seize the Day: State Capture, Corruption, and Influence in Transition". Policy research paper no. 2444 World Bank Institute

**Class 24 (Thursday, April 22nd):** Walder, Andre (1995) Local Governments as Industrial Firms: An Organizational Analysis of China's Transitional Economy<sup>[1]</sup>. *American Journal of Sociology*: 101 (2), p. 263-301

**Class 25 (Monday, May 3rd):** Adly, Amr (2012) State Reform and Development in the Middle East: Turkey and Egypt in the Post-Liberalization Era, chapter 2

**Spring Break (April, 25<sup>th</sup>-May, 2<sup>nd</sup>)**

**Class 26 (Monday, May 10th): Political Economy of Gender**

Iversen, Torben and Rosenbluth, Frances (2006) "The Political Economy of Gender: Explaining Cross-National Variation in the Gender Division of Labor and the Gender Voting Gap" in *the American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 50, No. 1, January 2006, Pp. 1–19

**Class 27 (Monday, May 17th): Political Economy of the Environment**

Rudel, T.K., Roberts, J.T. and Carmin, J., 2011. Political economy of the environment. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 37, pp.221-238.

**Class 28 (Monday, May 20th): Wrap up and concluding remarks**