Political Science 473

Democracy and the Market

Professor Philip Oxhorn

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Office Hours: Room PETH 242 Mon., 3-5pm; Wed., 11:00-12:00 or by appointment.

The course examines the relationship between economic and political change by focusing on dual processes of economic reform and democratization. The inter-play of societal, state-level and international actors, and the possible trade-offs involved, are explored using examples from Latin America, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and other developing areas.

Course Requirements

One in-class exam covering material discussed through Theme V, Democracy and the Market: A Contingent Possibility? The exam will be held on October 27, and is worth 20% of the final grade.

One 15 to 20 page research paper. Students may write on any issue and/or case relating to one of the topics covered in the course, although specific topics must be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Papers must be handed in no later than Thursday, December 4. The research paper is worth 40% of the final grade.

A 3-hour final exam at the end of the term. The final will cover all material dealt with in the course, although the emphasis will be placed on the materials covered in the second part of the course, after the mid-term. The final is worth 30% of the course grade. A supplemental final examination will be available. The grade received on a supplemental final will replace the grade of the regular final exam in the calculation of the final grade.

Participation in conferences is required and is worth 10% of the final grade.

1. "McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information) (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)" L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les
conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

2. “In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.” (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)”

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maitrise d’une langue).”

MyCourses: This course has its own website on MyCourses. It will be updated regularly, so you are required to check the MyCourses site regularly as well. On the website, in addition to this syllabus, you will find other useful information regarding course assignments, conferences and the PowerPoint slides from the lectures. Other items of interest, including upcoming events and occasional suggested readings, will also be posted.

Schedule and Reading Assignments

The following book is available at the McGill bookstore and on library reserve:


A course pack containing all other required readings that are not available online is available for purchase at the McGill bookstore. All assigned readings are also available through Redpath Reserves.

*Please note that the online articles may require McGill Wifi connection or [McGill VPN](#) for full access.

I. Introduction: Democracy, Markets and Inequality (Sept 3, 8, 10)


II. Democracy and the Market: A Natural Affinity? (Sept 15, 17)


III. The Challenge of Getting from “Here” to “There” (Sept 22, 24, 29, Oct 1)


IV. What If You Don’t Feel Like Part of a Social Class? The Non-economic Sources of Difference (Oct 6, 8)


**October 27: In-Class Midterm:**

**October 29:**


VII. Globalization (Nov 19, 24)


VIII. The Unpredicted: Transitions from State Socialism and the Arab Spring (Nov 26, Dec 1)


IX. By Way of Conclusion: Markets or Politics? Human Rights or Liberal Rights? (Dec 3, 4)


