Political Science 672: International Political Economy  
Winter Semester 2017, Thursdays 8:35-11h25  
Leacock 541

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Course Description & Objectives

Political economy can be usefully conceived as a study of constraints. This seminar examines how political constraints at the domestic and international level shape—and often distort—outcomes in domestic economic reform, international trade, foreign investment, and financial and monetary affairs. In doing so, the course draws on readings from political science, economics, and law. While the seminar’s emphasis is on theory, much of the work we will look at is empirically motivated, and we will draw on examples from contemporary events as often as possible.

Beyond the course material, the seminar’s objective is to get students to practice presenting a research puzzle and pushing an argument. Students will do this first by taking turns in leading the first part of the seminar, and then by presenting a research design of their own to the seminar’s participants.

Prerequisites

A good understanding of basic principles of economics and international relations theory is required. Moreover, much of the scholarly work covered in the course assumes a solid practical understanding of statistical methods, and familiarity with concepts of game theory.

Requirements

(i) This is a seminar: everyone is expected to come to class ready to argue the merits of the week’s readings.

(ii) Every student will lead one meeting of the seminar. This entails sending all seminar participants a max 3-page (double-spaced) review of the week’s material on the Tuesday before noon, and making a short presentation of the readings at the start of class. Additionally, students will write three additional 3 page reviews on a week of their choice.

(iii) A research design (max. 18 pages) will make up the final requirement of the seminar, and is expected at semester’s end. Three weeks prior to the due date, students will present an abstract of their research design to the class. The research design is due at midnight, April 24th, 2015.
Grades are determined as follows:

- Participation, including leading one seminar: 20%
- Short Papers (4): 40%
- Research Proposal Presentation: 10%
- Final Research Proposal: 30%

The Fine Print

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 info)

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.

Instructors who adopt the use of text-matching software to verify the originality of students’ written course work must register for use of the software with Educational Technologies and must inform their students before the drop/add deadline, in writing, of the use of text-matching software in a course.

Late work will be penalized one full letter grade per day. No distinction is made between being an hour late and being 23 hours late, so be strategic. If you drop off late work outside of class, you MUST have it time-stamped and signed by a secretary in the political science department.

Course Outline

Readings marked with an asterisk are optional, but recommended, especially to students writing comprehensive exams.

**Session 1. Thursday Jan 11th**

**Introduction**


**Jan 12th: Joshua Busby Seminar**

**Session 2. Monday Jan 18th**

Making Commitments Credible


**Jan 19th: Layna Mosley Seminar**

**Jan 25th NO CLASS**

**Session 4. Feb 1st**

Economic Liberalization: the Demand Side


**Session 5. Feb 8th** **Economic Liberalization: the Supply Side**


**Session 5. Feb 15th. International Pressures and the Domestic System**


**Session 6. Feb 22nd The Design of Economic Institutions**


*** Feb 23rd: Tana Johnson Seminar ***

Session 7. March 1st The Political Economy of the International Trade Regime

GATT 1947 text, Article I-III.


March 8th: No class. *** READING WEEK ***

Session 8. March 15th       Capital Controls and Exchange Rate Politics


Session 9. March 22nd       Global Financial and Monetary Affairs


**Session 10. March 29th  International Economic Rules**


**Session 11. April 5th  The Political Economy of Crisis**


**Session 13. April 12th**

**Foreign Direct Investment and BITs**


**April 13th: Erica Owen Seminar **

**Final Research Designs Due: April 27th before midnight.**

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