This is a survey course in contemporary comparative political economy. The course emphasizes current research agendas in the field and issues of research design will feature prominently in our discussions. The course divides into two parts: the political economy of the OECD and the political economy of development. Within those two major divisions, we explore a variety of themes, including varieties of capitalism, the politics of the welfare state, inequality and redistribution, the politics of macroeconomic management, the political economy of wage bargaining, the developmental state, institutions and development, regime type and development, the political economy of investment and economic reform.

**Course Requirements**

1) Option of two argumentative essays, a mock research proposal or an original research paper (70%)
2) Weekly memos and class participation (30%)

**Readings**

Readings will be available online or will be placed on reserve. However, you may want to purchase the following books, of which we will read substantial portions:

- Przeworski et. al. 2000. *Democracy and Development*
Writing assignment

Students have three options for their major writing assignment: two argumentative essays; one mock research proposal or one term paper.

The two argumentative essays will correspond to each of the two major sections of the course—the PE of the OECD and the PE of development. The essays should be approximately 15 to 20 double-spaced pages in length and should provide substantial responses to questions formulated by the professor. I will circulate the questions on the last day of each major section, and your essays will be due two weeks later. For example, the section on the OECD ends on October 14, and the argumentative essays for this section will be due in class on October 28.

The purpose of the mock research proposal is to develop a competitive funding proposal for dissertation field research should you want to write a dissertation on political economy. The proposal should meet the guidelines and requirements of a funding agency to which you wish to apply. By default, this organization is the NSF. You must submit two drafts of your proposal. Your first draft will be due on Friday, November 7 and your final draft on Monday, December 15. Your goal should be to submit your proposal for an actual funding competition. As extra incentive, I would suggest that you challenge yourself to submit for the NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, which has a deadline of January 15. Students will present their proposals on the last day of class (December 2).

The term paper will be an original research paper of approximately 25 to 30 pages in length, although the length of the paper is much less important than the quality of your research and argumentation. If you decide to write the research paper, I will work closely with you to define the paper’s scope and a research strategy. Your goal should be to write a paper good enough to send to a professional academic journal for peer review and, hopefully, publication. Students will present their research papers on the last day of class (December 2). The deadline for your final draft is Monday, December 15.

Memos and class participation

You are required to submit a 250 to 500-word memo on the readings, which will be based on questions that I email to you each week. The primary purpose of the memos is to prepare you to discuss the readings in class. Please circulate your memos via email to the class list no later than midnight the day before class. Memos will be evaluated on a simple three-point scale (√-, √, √+) and will form a primary basis for your class participation score.
Week 1: Introduction (Sept 2)

PART I: THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE OECD

Week 2: The “Varieties of Capitalism” Approach (Sept 9)


Optional:


Week 3: Welfare State Regimes (Sept 16)


Optional:

Week 4: Partisan Politics and the Welfare State (Sept 23)


Week 5: Politics of redistribution and social insurance (Sept 30)


Week 6: Macro-economic management and electoral politics (Oct 7)


Optional:


**Week 7: The political economy of wage bargaining** (Oct 14)


Optional:


PART II: THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT

Week 8: The “Developmental State” Approach (Oct 21)


Robert Wade. 1990. Governing the Market, chs. 1, 2-3 (skim)& 4


Optional:


Week 9: Institutions and development (Oct 28)


Optional:


Week 10: Regime type and development (Nov 4)


Week 11: The political economy of investment flows (Nov 11)


Robertson and Teitelbaum. 2008. “Foreign Direct Investment and Labor Protest” (ms)

Week 12: The political economy of economic reform (Nov 18)


Teitelbaum. 2008. “Mobilizing Restraint: Unions and the Politics of Reform in South Asia” (ms)

Optional:

Pranab Bardhan. *The Political Economy of Development in India*.


**Week 13: Development and the welfare state** (Nov 25)

Nita Rudra. 2008. *Globalization and the Race to the Bottom in Developing Countries*. (selections tba)


**Week 14: Discussion of student papers** (Dec 2)