PSCI 255: Comparative Political Economy

Fall, 2017
RCH309, 1:00pm-2:20pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

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Office Hours: 12:00pm-1:00pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Contact Policy or Header Notes: Please contact the instructor directly by email.

Teaching Assistants:

Course Description: This course offers an introduction to the comparative analysis of political economy across advanced industrialized liberal democracies. Aptly called “rich democracies” by Harold Wilensky, we will not only examine how such wealth is generated, but also how it is redistributed through the democratic institutions and actors in control of these institutions. Arguably, one of the most fundamental questions in politics is “who gets what.” Therefore, studies of wealth generation and redistribution, in the group of countries with the world’s largest economic clout and most advanced economic development, offer important signposts for the future evolution of politics, not only for these countries, but for other industrializing countries trying to catch up. In other words, comparing political economies across rich democracies is one of the most fundamentally important topics in political science, and it has deep implications across the diverse field of political science.

Pre-Requisites: One of PSCI 100, 101, 110.

Course Objectives:
By the end of this course, students should:

- Be able to understand the basic concepts and theories introduced in this course
- Be able to apply these theories in the appropriate empirical context
University Regulations:

Cross-listed course:
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. In addition, consult the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes webpage for more information.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

Academic Integrity website (Arts) webpage

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo) webpage

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen
the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

If you are using Turnitin in your course:

Turnitin.com: Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See UWaterloo’s Turnitin webpage for more information.

Texts:

No required reading materials. There are various optional readings assigned for each week. I have put all these readings on LEARN.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

There will be two closed book exams (midterm and final). Of the two exams, the one for which you got higher grade will be 55% and the one for which you got lower grade will be 45%.

The mid term is on October 19th (Thursday), during regular class time, at RCH309.

Please note: Student travel plans are not an acceptable reason for granting an alternative examination time.

Schedule:

September 7: Introduction

September 12, 14: The Role of Politics in the Economy

John Myles and Jill Quadagno, "Political Theories of the Welfare State," Social Service Review, March, 2002. Read pages 34-41. We will read the rest latter

September 19, 21: Response to Poverty and Inequality
September 26, 28, October 3, 5: Comparing Welfare States


October 10, 12, 17, 24: The Political Economy of Employment


Jochen Clasen, “Motives, Means and Opportunities: Reforming Unemployment Compensation in the 1990s”. In Maurizio Ferrera and Martin Rhodes, Recasting European Welfare States, Frank Cass, 2000

October 26, 31, November 2, 7: The Political Economy of Growth


November 9, 14, 16, 21: The Political Economy of Gender


November 23, 28, 30: The Political Economy of Decline


