PSCI 428/631:
THE STATE AND ECONOMIC LIFE
(Partnerships, Profit, and Politics)
Winter, 2019
HH 259, Fridays 8:30-11:20am

Instructor: Heather Whiteside
Email Address: h2whiteside@uwaterloo.ca
Office Location: Hagey Hall 309
Office Hours: Thursdays 1-2pm

Course Description: This course examines debates and issues surrounding the role of the state in economic life, drawing on competing ideological traditions and through an analysis of how the state and economic actors relate through public-private partnerships. In the first part of the course, we review and analyze the rich scholarly tradition of political economy thought through the lens of leading liberal and heterodox traditions. The second part of the course takes up the politics of for-profit public works and services in contemporary capitalism. Students will also have an opportunity to workshop their research papers through several weeks devoted to discussing their specific research interests and developing their major research essays. Overall, the course links theory and academic debate to empirical developments in political economy through in-class presentations, informed discussion, a major research essay, and an open book take-home exam.

Pre-Requisites: four PSCI courses; level at least 4A

Course Objectives:
This course aims to give students the theoretical, analytical, and empirical tools needed to understand the political economy of the state and economic life.

By the end of this course, students should be able to provide a range of theoretically grounded answers to the following questions:

- What are the major approaches to understanding the political economy of the state and economic life, and how can they be applied to developments in contemporary capitalism?
- Who, what, when, where, how, and why are public-private partnerships?
To succeed in the course, students must be capable of conveying in written and verbal form arguments and analyses related to political economy theories of capitalism, the state as an economic actor, and the relationship between business and government in modern capitalism. Students must also be able demonstrate an understanding of the public-private partnership phenomenon that informs the political economy of today.

**Texts:**


*Note:* both books are available for purchase at the bookstore and for free through the library.

Any other selected required readings will be available through LEARN.

**Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:**

**Assignments:**

*Participation (25%)*

As a seminar class, participation is a must. It is expected that all required readings will be completed well in advance and *informed opinion* and analyses will be offered regularly throughout the in-class discussion. Discussions will mainly be student-led so be mindful of your level and quality of participation. You may use your computer for note taking only, please do not use it or your cell phone for personal activities during class.

Participation includes a combination of weekly reading responses submitted 24 hours in advance, weekly class attendance, contributions to in-class discussions (of an analytical, critical, or literature-based nature).

The weekly reading responses, submitted at least 24 hours prior to the start of class through LEARN, should consist of a couple paragraphs reflecting on the readings as a whole and a few questions for discussion. The reflections are not to be summaries; instead they should be reactions, critique, or engagement with the literature (for example: flag an insight, comment on a controversy, or highlight an interesting detail found in the readings).

A participation evaluation rubric will be available through LEARN, please ensure you are familiar with the requirements of this seminar-style participation.
**Presentation (25%)**

An analytical, case study-based presentation that applies the week’s theory or themes located in the required readings to an historical or contemporary news item or case study (i.e., a scenario selected by the presenter to bring the required readings to life). The presenter should include a combination of the following: a very brief summary of the main points in the readings, a detailed analysis of the readings, and the application of the week’s theory or themes to historical or contemporary events (beyond what already exists in the readings). Handouts or slides to assist with the case-study portion of the presentation are required. Creativity is encouraged. Each presenter will also be responsible for guiding that week’s discussion, and must provide questions or scenarios for the class to discuss/debate.

Presentations will be held in weeks 3-9.

A presentation evaluation rubric will be available through LEARN, please ensure you are familiar with the requirements of this presentation.

**Research essay (25%)**

Using the theme of “Partnerships, Profit, and Politics” students will write a research essay that applies theoretical literature in political economy to the topic of public-private partnerships or similar (must be linked to the course topic: the state and economic life). This assignment may be approached from a global, regional, national, or subnational perspective, and may draw on any combination of theory, case study evidence, or qualitative/quantitative data as desired.

Drafts essays will be presented in weeks 10 & 11. The draft must be circulated to the class through LEARN in week 9 and the final version of the research essay should be submitted to the instructor via LEARN within three weeks of the presentation.

PSCI 403: a 3,000 word essay using at least 8-10 academic sources  
PSCI 635: a 5,000 word essay using at least 10-12 academic sources

A research essay evaluation rubric will be available through LEARN, please ensure you are familiar with the requirements of this research essay.

**Take home exam (25%)**

An open book, take home exam held during week 12. The exam will be posted on LEARN at the start of class at 8:30am (April 5th) and due within 3 days (April 8th) by 5:30pm, returned to the instructor directly through LEARN. The exam will evaluate literature comprehension and an ability to generate informed opinions on topics germane to this course. Questions will ask for long answers to bring in analysis, explanation, evaluation, and/or critique. Use the allotted class time that week to write the answers, use the additional time provided to edit and revise answers as needed.
PSCI 428: answer 2 of 4 questions
PSCI 631: answer 3 of 4 questions

**Extra Credit:**

No extra credits provided, no assignment substitutions, and no alterations will be made to each assignment’s grade weighting.

**Late Policy:**

Written assignments: if handed in after the due date, a late penalty of 10% per day, including weekends, will be applied (except in the case of a documented medical emergency – please note that the documentation must specify the date/time of illness, this date/time must specifically cover the due date and the note must be obtained that day).

Presentation: only upon a documented medical emergency will the presentation be rescheduled for a later date.

Participation: this portion of the total grade cannot be made up through alternative assignments. It requires regular attendance and active engagement with the discussion and presentations.

**Policy About Collaborative Work:**

All written work must be sole authored. In the event that any in-class group work is required, participation will be evaluated on an individual basis.
Schedule:

Week 1 (January 11)

Course overview

*Note:* in-class seminar begins next week (January 18th). For more detail, please see video and instructions posted on LEARN. The instructor must receive your top three presentation preferences by January 12th.

Week 2 (January 18)

The Political Economy of Capitalism


*Note:* student presentations begin next week (January 25th).

Week 3 (January 25)

Keynesian Thought


Week 4 (February 1)

Marxian Thought


Week 5 (February 8)

Contemporary Concerns in Political Economy


Week 6 (February 15)

Conflicts and Alternatives in Political Economy


~ February 22: Reading Week Study Day ~
Week 7 (March 1)
Public-Private Partnerships: what are they, why are they?

Week 8 (March 8)
Public-Private Partnerships: where are they, when are they?

Week 9 (March 15)
Public-Private Partnerships: how are they, who are they?

Week 10 & 11 (March 22 & 29)
Research presentations
Draft research papers presented and discussed.
Read all draft essays in preparation for these classes.

Week 12 (April 5)
Open book, take home exam
Distributed through LEARN on Friday April 5th at 8:30am, due Monday April 8th by 5:30pm.
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, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71.

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, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

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, http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

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.