Politics of Economic Policymaking:
An IPE/CPE Perspective
Prepared for Departamento de Ciência Política
Universidade de São Paulo

Professor Stephen B. Kaplan
George Washington University
sbkaplan@gwu.edu

Lorena G. Barberia
Departamento de Ciência Política
Lorena.barberia@gmail.com

Course Meeting Time: 9 am – 1 pm

Course Goals and Descriptions:

This course introduces both master’s degree and doctoral students to the political analysis of economic policymaking. It covers the politics of international and comparative economics. From the domestic perspective, we will focus on the preferences of actors over economic policies and how institutions influence the transformation of preferences into policies and outcomes. From the international perspective, we will investigate the effects of international economic factors (globalization, finance, trade, debt, etc.) on domestic political processes and outcomes. The goal of this class is to make students conversant in the dominant themes of modern political economy, preparing them to do original research in the subfield.

Learning Objectives

1. To survey the state of the contemporary international and comparative political economy literature.
2. To gain substantive knowledge about trade, finance, globalization, debt, and economic development.
3. To critically compare and evaluate diverse approaches to the subject.
4. To prepare for independent research in international and comparative political economy.

Requirements:

Class Format: We meet three times (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) in the first two weeks in August 2017 (July 31, August 2, 4, 7, 9 and 11). The remaining six meetings will take place over the course of the semester (see dates below).

All students are responsible for being prepared to discuss the required readings. Furthermore, each student will be designated to co-lead with another student during one class discussion, which involves thinking of five discussion questions meant to spark a rich and compelling discussion during each class.
In addition to regular participation and seminar leadership, each student must also submit one research proposal by either Friday, August 4th on comparative political economy, or by Wednesday, August 9 on international political economy. A final paper based on the research proposal will be due by Thursday, December 15, 2017.

Each research proposal should be about five-to-six double-spaced pages. It should contain a 1) critical review of the literature in one area (i.e. redistributive politics and economic development) of a given week’s section (i.e. comparative or international political economy), and a 2) proposal for future research. These papers should not only propose a promising research design, but also evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the theory, research design and empirical methodology of the assigned readings.

Each final paper should be about twenty-to-thirty double-spaced pages. The final paper should be an extension and a further development of the research proposal in which an empirical exercise is undertaken based on the proposed research design.

Course Outlines and Readings:

Preliminary Course Readings: Research Design


Class Meeting #1 Research Design Overview & Comparative Political Economy I (July 31, 2017)

Redistributive Politics and Economic Development


Class Meeting #2: Comparative Political Economy II (August 2, 2017)

Economic Principles


Class Meeting #3: Comparative Political Economy III (August 4, 2017)

The Political Economy of Adjustment, Governance, and Reform


*** RESEARCH DESIGN PAPER OPTION I: Comparative Political Economy***

Class Meeting #4: International Political Economy I (August 7, 2017)

Globalization’s Race to the Bottom?


Class Meeting #5: International Political Economy II (August 9, 2017)

Economic Principles


The Political Economy of Global Finance


*** RESEARCH DESIGN PAPER OPTION II: International Political Economy***

Class Meeting #6: International Political Economy III (August 11, 2017)

Economic Principles


The Political Economy of Global Trade


Class Meeting #7: Comparative Political Economy IV (September 1, 2017)

Budgets


Class Meeting #8: Comparative Political Economy V (September 15, 2017)

Monetary Policy


Class Meeting #9: International Political Economy IV (September 29, 2017)

Exchange Rate Regimes


Class Meeting #10: International Political Economy V (October 6, 2017)

Migration and Remittances
Leblang, David (Forthcoming). Harnessing the Diaspora: Dual Citizenship, Migrant Return Remittances. *Comparative Political Studies*.


**Class Meeting #11: International Political Economy VI (with Adriana Schor) (October 20, 2017)**

*Preferential Trade Agreements*


**Class Meeting #12: Mini-Conference with Student Paper Drafts (November 3, 2017)**