Department of Social and Political Sciences  
*Seminar Spring 2012*

**Comparative Political Economy**

*Pepper D. Culpepper*

**Mondays 3:00 PM-5:00 PM, Badia Seminar Room 2 [except March 5]**

Registration with Päivi Kontinen (paivi.kontinen@eui.eu)

**Description**

This seminar surveys the literature in the comparative political economy of the advanced capitalist countries. To what extent do differences in partisanship or institutional choice create fundamentally different models of democratic capitalism? What is the relative role of institutions, interest groups, and ideas in determining the different arrangements we find in the contemporary world? And which variables are most likely to influence the future direction of policy-making and institutional evolution in the advanced industrial societies? These are the major questions the course addresses.

The course also has a pragmatic goal: to familiarize you with literature that any scholar of political economy must know (the list is in that sense necessary but not sufficient, of course). Many of the course sessions are structured around reading a classic text and some of the pieces that develop the insights associated with these classic texts. By choosing to take this class you are taking on the obligation to do all the reading.

Over the course of the seminar students must submit three 500-word response papers to the readings for a given session and post that paper on the course website the night before class. These response papers are fundamental for the holding of a good discussion of the materials, as is a thorough reading of the assigned readings.

Writing a term paper is encouraged. Your term paper should draw on the literature covered in the course but go well beyond it. The goal of any term paper should be an eventually publishable article. Those who wish to write a term paper should submit it to me by email and in paper copy, with a cc to Päivi Kontinen.
January 9

Introduction

Peter Hall and David Soskice, eds, 2001, Varieties of Capitalism, pp. 1-68.


January 16

Coalitions in Political Economy


January 23

Partisan Politics, Unions, and the Welfare State


January 30

**Institutionalism and Capitalism**


February 6

**Ideas in Politics and Policies**


February 13

**Fiscal Policy and Political Institutions**


February 20

**Long Term Growth and Its Origins**


February 27

**Capitalism and Business Power**


Pepper Culpepper, *Quiet Politics and Business Power*, 2010, CUP


[Please note: the class on March 5 takes place in seminar room 3]

March 5

**Inequality**


March 12

**Liberalization, Institutional Change and Politics**


