Comparative Political Economy

Seminar, 2nd term 2015-2016

Organised by Pepper D. Culpepper and Philipp Genschel

Please register online

Contact: Adele.Battistini@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 of 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.

Requirements
For each session, we ask students to post 2-3 questions about readings (or the relationship among the readings), with each question accompanied by an expository paragraph or two explaining the origin and context of the question. Over the course of the seminar, students must submit questions for 5 of the 10 course sessions (you may choose the sessions for which you post questions, though we ask you not to post questions for the first session). You are expected to post questions to the course webpage by 5 pm the previous day, and these guide our discussion in the next day’s class. These brief ‘question 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 us by email and in paper copy, with a cc to Adele Battistini.

This seminar is worth 20 credits.
Schedule
The seminar takes place on Tuesdays at 15:00-17:00, in Seminar Room 2 in the Badia, and will run from Thursday 12 January to Thursday 15 March. The full list of the seminar sessions is the following:

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<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Tuesday 12 January</td>
<td>15:00-17:00</td>
<td>Seminar Room 2</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Tuesday 19 January</td>
<td>15:00-17:00</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Tuesday 26 January</td>
<td>15:00-17:00</td>
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<td>Tuesday 2 February</td>
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<td>Tuesday 9 February</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Tuesday 16 February</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Tuesday 23 February</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Tuesday 1 March</td>
<td>15:00-17:00</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Tuesday 8 March</td>
<td>15:00-17:00</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Monday 14 March</td>
<td>10:00-12:00</td>
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SYLLABUS

1. Introduction (Tuesday 12 January 2016)


2. Coalitions in Political Economy (Tuesday 19 January 2016)


3. Welfare States and Social Policy Reform (Tuesday 26 January 2016)


4. Institutionalism and Capitalism (Tuesday 2 February 2016)


5. Ideas in Politics and Policies (Tuesday 9 February 2016)


6. Long Term Growth and Its Origins (Tuesday 16 February 2016)


7. Capitalism and Business Power (Tuesday 23 February 2016)


8. Inequality and Politics in Advanced Economies (Tuesday 1 March 2016)

Pontusson, Jonas and Lane Kenworthy, ‘Rising Inequality and the Politics of Redistribution in Affluent Countries', Perspectives on Politics, 2005.


9. Inequality and Democratization (Tuesday 8 March 2016)


Martin Ardanaz and Isabela Mares. 2014. “Labor Shortages, Rural Inequality, and Democratization” Comparative Political Studies 47:12: 1639-1669.

10. The Great Recession (Monday 14 March 2016)


