Fall 2018
NYU Department of Politics
POL-GA 3400.001
Comparative Political Economy

Professor Prosper Bernard Jr.
Pb80@nyu.edu
Class Day/Hours: Thursday / 6:20-8:20pm
Class Location: 19W 4th St, Rm. 212
Office hours: Tuesday / 4-6:15pm
Office Location: 19W 4th St, Rm. 302

Course Description
The seminar will be organized around three questions: Why are some countries able to promote equitable prosperity better than others? What are the economic, political, and social sources of recent changes in democratic politics, including the rise of populism? How does politics shape economic liberalization? We will probe these questions in the context of OECD countries. Overall, the seminar is designed to draw attention to key aspects of the interaction between capitalism and democracy in post-industrial OECD countries.

Requirements & Grading
1. **In-class summary** (10%): Each student is required to summarize assigned readings related to a weekly topic at least once (perhaps twice depending on class size) this semester. This assignment involves summarizing and synthesizing readings for up to 15 minutes and preparing for class use a written outline that includes summaries of the readings, comments that synthesize and contrast the reviewed materials, and discussion questions. For practical information regarding this assignment see “Tips for the in-class summary” posted on the NYU Class Course Site.
2. **Participation, Discussant & Presentation** (20%): Each week you are expected to attend class and participate constructively to the weekly class discussions. At the end of the semester you will present your research paper and serve as a discussant of a classmate’s research paper.
3. **Research Paper** (55%): You are required to write a research paper (between 18-20 pages long, double space, 12 font size, including graphs, tables, figures, and references) that investigates a seminar-related topic. Your project should strive to produce insight on an important analytical question using appropriate methodological tools and standards of social inquiry. Your paper must have a theory section in which you review relevant literature and elaborate your argument, and an empirical section in which you present supporting evidence in both quantitative and qualitative forms.

   On September 27, you are required to submit a statement about the issue you plan to investigate. On November 1, you will submit a preliminary bibliography and a brief description of the research materials. On November 15, you will submit an abstract and outline of your paper. On December 6 or December 13 you will present your research paper in class. Presentations should be between 15 and 20 minutes long and will be followed by a 5-minute response by a designated discussant. A 10-minute
Q&A will follow. On December 13, you will submit electronically your final paper via Assignment Tool on NYU Class.

4. **Review Essay (15%)**: During the semester you will write a review (5-6 pages long, double space, 12 font size) of assigned readings related to a weekly topic—ideally, the topic on which your in-class summary is based. The essay must engage critically and comparatively all of the assigned readings corresponding to the weekly topic. If a book represents a large portion of assigned reading for a week, then your essay should be styled as a book review. For practical information regarding this assignment see “Tips on how to write a review essay” posted on the NYU Class Course Site. The essay is due the week after we cover the weekly topic on which your essay is based. Your essay must be submitted through the Assignment Tool on NYU Class.

**Readings**

There are several books and many articles required for this course. Most of the readings are available in electronic format via Bobst library system. Books that are not available in e-book format have been placed at the Bobst reserve desk. Readings in the form of journal articles are available through Bobst Electronic Journals. Please bring the weekly assigned readings to class.

**Course Outline**

[Note some assigned readings may change]

**September 6: Going over Syllabus and Introduction to CPE**

**September 13: Contemporary Approaches to Comparative Political Economy**


*Equitable Prosperity from a Comparative Perspective: Institutional and Policy Sources*

**September 20: Analyzing the Relationship between Prosperity and Equality**


**September 27: Labor Market**


**October 4: Business Interest**

Cathie Jo Martin and Duane Swank, *The Political Construction of Business Interests: Coordination, Growth, and Equality* (Cambridge University Press, 2012): Chapters 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 12 & Conclusion. [You are encouraged to read at least one country case study].

**October 11: Macroeconomic Politics**


**October 18: Social Investment**


Democratic Politics in an Age of Liberalization

October 25: Causes and Forms of Populism


November 1: Political and Economic Effects of Populism


November 8: Winner Take All Politics


**November 15: Attitudes toward Postmaterialism, Integration, & Immigration**


**November 22: No Class – Thanksgiving Recess**

**November 29: Economic Opinions and Voting in Turbulent Times**


**December 6: Presentations**

**December 13: Presentations**