NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
Department of Politics, MA Program
Spring 2017

Political Economy (Core)
POL-GA. 1400.001
Thursday, 10-11:50am
Room 435
19 W. 4th Street

Professor Prosper Bernard, Jr.
Office hour: Thursday, 9-10am, 12-1pm Rm. 304
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Description
This course has three objectives. First, it is to familiarize you with theoretical approaches, methods of analysis, and concepts widely used in the study of political economy. Second, it is to explore how institutions and democratic politics shape economic policies and macroeconomic outcomes. The third goal is to survey how domestic and international economic and social factors affect domestic politics.

The course has three parts. In the first part we will cover various conceptual and theoretical topics ranging from rationality to transaction costs to principal-agent relations. The second part of the course will address issues concerning monetary and labor market institutions, various political institutions, and macroeconomic politics. The last section will engage topics about economic voting, democratization, inequality, and redistribution.

Requirements
1. Each week students are expected to attend class and to participate in class discussions. Each student is required to summarize the assigned readings of a weekly topic at least once 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 compare and contrast the reviewed materials, and discussion questions. For practical information regarding this assignment see “Tips for an effective summary” on NYU Class course site.

2. You are also required to write three review essays (5-7 pages long) based on any three weekly topics. The essays must engage critically and comparatively all of the assigned readings for a weekly topic. Consider the following points as you develop your response essay: What is the central theme connecting the selected readings? What are the main arguments developed in the literature under review? What are the main concepts addressed in the assigned readings and how are they conceptualized and operationalized? What are the main empirical findings and what methods are used to arrive at such findings? How do the readings under review enhance our understanding of the area of study in question? Indicate how the selected readings complement each other and point out the areas in which they diverge. For practical information about this assignment see “Tips for writing an effective essay” on NYU Class course site.
Each essay is due the week after we cover the weekly topic on which your essay is based. Please note the following time limits for the submission of your three essays: your first essay must be submitted no later than March 2; second essay no later than April 6; and third essay no later than May 11.Your three essays must be submitted via the Assignment Tool on NYU Class.

3. Finally, the course requires that you complete a take home exam at the end of the semester. The exam will be distributed on April 20 and due by May 4. Your exam must be submitted via the Assignment Tool on NYU Class course site.

Grading
Three review essays: 60%
Take home exam: 15%
Class participation: 10%
In-class summary: 15%

Readings
There are several books and many articles required for this course. Below, you will find a list of books available for purchase at the bookstore; these books are also on reserve. Readings in the form of book chapters are available at the Bobst reserve desk. Many of these books are available in ebook format. Readings in the form of journal articles are available through Bobst Electronic Journals.


January 26: What is Political Economy?
Suggested Readings:

Part I: Concepts and Perspectives in Political Economy

February 2: Preference Formation and Decision Making
Assigned Readings

**Suggested Readings**
- Ira Katznelson and Barry Weingast. 2007 *Preferences over Time*. (Russell Sage Foundation).

**February 9: Collective Action**

**Assigned Readings**


**Suggested Readings**

**February 16: Transaction Costs and Coordination**

**Assigned Readings**

Suggested Readings


February 23: Principal-Agent Relations

Assigned Readings


Suggested Readings


Part II: Effects of Institutions and Politics on Economic Policies and Performance

March 2: Institutions I

Assigned Readings


*Suggested Readings*


**March 9: Institutions II**

*Assigned Readings*


*Suggested Readings*


******** March 16 – No Class (Spring Recess) ***************

**March 23: Macroeconomic Politics: Electoral Cycles**

*Assigned Readings*


Suggested Readings

March 30: Macroeconomic Politics: Partisanship
Assigned Readings


Suggested Readings
Part III: The Effects of the Economy and Society on Domestic Politics

April 6: Economic Voting

Assigned Readings


Suggested Readings

April 13: Democratization

Assigned Readings


Suggested Readings
Adam Przeworski, Michael Alvarez, José Antonio Cheibub, and Fernando Limongi.


April 20: Politics of Inequality

**Assigned Readings**


**Suggested Readings**


April 27: Politics of Redistribution

**Assigned Readings**


Suggested Readings


May 4: Globalization’s Effects on Domestic Politics

Assigned Readings


Suggested Readings


