



POSC164

The Nation State and Capitalism

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:40 PM - 8:30 PM, Watkins Hall 1111

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

This syllabus is a work in constant progress.

Any changes in the syllabus will be posted on iLearn 24hours before they become effective.

Course Description:

This is a basic class in the comparative political economy field (CPE). A deep understanding of this field and its components is fundamental for any scholar and student. Providing insight and understanding of economic transformations, and unrests, happening across the globe, which impacts our lives, this introductory course aims to be a consistent starting point. Looking at history to explain the long ways the brought economy to its current state, we will also look into the different theories that guided the field to pursue a better understanding of the analytical mechanisms that tell this story.

This course will also take a distinctive look at the relationship between the state and economy and analyze the critical role portrayed by the government in shaping its economic institutions and environment.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Credit Hours: 4

Main Text(s): *Comparative Political Economy: Contours of a Subfield*, 2017, 1st Edition, Oxford University Press.

Author(s): Menz, Georg; **ISBN-13:** 978-0-19-957998-3

Other Recommended Text(s):

This texts will be mandatory in selected weeks in complement with the main reading chapter.

Readings will be available ahead of time on iLearn under "Course Materials."

1. **Title:** *Marx's Capital: An Illustrated Introduction*, 2014, Edition, Haymarket Books.

Author(s): David N. Smith; **ISBN-13:** 1608462668, 9781608462667

2. **Title:** *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*, 2001, Oxford University Press.

Author(s): Peter A. Hall, David Soskice; **ISBN-13:** 0191530107, 9780191530104

Course Objectives:

1. Familiarize students with the CPE field;
2. Introduce students to the theoretical framework and tools used on CPE;
3. Provide students with information and tools to engage in debate;
4. Discuss the different actors and roles in Political Economy;
5. Increase students skills in writing about CPE.

Grade Distribution:

Component	Grade Percentage
Attendance	10%
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	20%
Assignment 3	10%
Assignment 4	20%
Final Project	30%

Letter Grade Distribution:

Grade Distribution			
A+	>= 96	C+	77 - 79
A	93 - 95	C	73 - 76
A -	90 - 92	C-	70 - 72
B+	87 - 89	D +	67 - 69
B	83 - 86	D	63 - 66
B-	80 - 82	D-	60 - 62
F <= 59			

Course Policies:

- **General**

- Attendance for this class is **MANDATORY**;
- The use of internet access is encouraged as an aid to class and discussion.
- Students using gadgets (cell phones, computer, and tablets) to distract themselves will result in the total banishment of those in class;
- Assignments will be due online, if unable to submit an assignment when it is due, please email as soon as possible;
- No plagiarism or other types of academic misconduct will be excused;

- UCR has a detailed and strict academic dishonesty policy. Please take the time to review Section 6 of the Academic Senate Bylaws.
- There is **zero tolerance** for any academic dishonesty. Students who violate this policy, will receive a failing grade in the course and be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

- **Grades**

- **C** range: work **meets expectations**;
- **B** range: work **is above** expectations;
- **A** range: work **excels**.

- **Assignments**

- Students are expected to work independently;
- Assignments will be due online, **EVERY MONDAY**;
- Extensions may be provided if the instructor see fit.

- **Attendance and Absences**

- Attendance is **mandatory** and will be taken at the beginning of each class.
- Students are allowed to miss **1** class during the course without penalty. Any further absences will result in point or grade deductions.
- Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for the absence. It is also the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials.
- In case of absence students are encouraged to attend office hours and present all questions and doubts about the missed materials

Academic Honesty Policy Summary:

Introduction

In addition to skills and knowledge, UC Riverside aims to teach students ethical and professional conduct. The Academic Honesty Policy exists to inform students and Faculty of their obligations in upholding the highest standards of professional and ethical integrity.

Instructor's Guidelines and Purpose

The student must abide instructor's guidelines and purpose for assignments. While the instructor will establish them, each student must clarify outstanding questions of those guidelines for a given assignment.

Authorship

The student must clearly establish authorship of a work. Referenced work must be clearly documented, cited, and attributed, regardless of media or distribution.

Declaration

Online submission of, or placing one's name on an exam, assignment, or any course document is a statement of academic honor.

Consequences

The instructor may impose sanctions on the student depending upon the instructor's evaluation of the nature and gravity of the offense.

Sanctions include but are not limited to, the following: (1) Require the student to redo the assignment; (2) Require the student to complete another assignment; (3) Assign a grade of zero to the assignment; (4) Assign a final grade of "F" for the course.

Tentative Course Outline:

The weekly coverage depends on the progress of the class, and is subject to change. Students must keep up with the readings and assignments.

Week	Content
Week 1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory class: Instructor, Class and Key concepts. • Reading assignment: Syllabus
Week 1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genealogy of CPE • Reading assignment: Chapter 1.
Week 2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparing Economies: Ours is bigger then theirs, but why? • Reading assignment: Chapter 2
Week 2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DIY Capitalism • Reading assignment: Chapter 3
Week 3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Laborious Task of Regulating Labor • Reading assignment: Chapter 4
Week 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance and Governance Without Grievance • Reading assignment: Chapter 5
Week 4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt: Everybody has some, lets talk about someone else's for a change? • Reading assignment: Chapter 6
Week 4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare: What can the State do for you? And for the economy? • Chapter 7
Week 5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Strikes Back • Reading assignment: Chapter 8
Week 5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Future of CPE: Bitcoin? • Reading assignment: Chapter 9

Assignments:

Assignments will be distributed on Tuesdays by the end of section, and due Monday nights of the following week.

Quotes:

“Government doesn’t “intrude” on the “free market.” It creates the market. The rules are neither neutral nor universal, and they are not permanent. Different societies at different times have adopted different versions. The rules partly mirror a society’s evolving norms and values but also reflect who in society has the most power to make or influence them.”

(Robert B. Reich, Saving Capitalism: For the Many, Not the Few)

“I have a feeling in a few years people are going to be doing what they always do when the economy tanks. They will be blaming immigrants and poor people.”

(The Big Short, 2015)