Political Economy of Germany and the EU
POL 372H 1 F
Fall 2019

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:30-3:30 PM and 6:00-7:00 PM (or by appointment)
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Lecture Hours: Tuesday, 12:00-2:00 PM
Lecture Room: RW 140 (Ramsay Wright Laboratories)

Course Description:

The goal of this course is to conduct a comparative institutional analysis of the German political economy in the context of EU integration and economic globalisation, including an understanding of the economic and political system and its regional manifestations. Drawing upon the varieties-of-capitalism approach, the main themes in the course revolve around the institutional conditions for growth. Using a comparative institutional approach, the course explores topics, such as the role of collective agents, corporate governance and finance, collective bargaining, social security systems, and population structure and immigration. In order to understand the heterogeneous challenges to the “German model”, the course also explores the conditions under which regional economies and regional networks develop. This includes an analysis of the reunification process and the economic and political situation in the new Länder. Further, the question is raised as to how the “German model” can adapt to the challenges of globalisation.

Course Structure:

Although the course has a lecture format, it will provide opportunities for students to participate in class discussions. Course evaluation will be based on a final exam and a research component, consisting of an annotated research proposal (2 pages double-spaced plus annotated bibliography) and a research paper (10-12 pages double-spaced). In addition, a 2% attendance bonus will be granted to those students attending at least 10 classes.

For the research assignment, students are expected to choose a topic from the context of the course, comparing the political economy of Germany with that of another European country or Canada. For instance, students could compare changes in the financial system or in corporate
governance after the global financial crisis between Germany and the UK, the impact of globalization processes on the German and Canadian labour markets, or the adaptations in the German and Scandinavian welfare states under economic pressure.

The *paper proposal* should provide an introduction to the topic, put forward the main question or problem to be addressed, provide a structure of the argument advanced, and indicate the conceptual basis used to structure the research. An annotated bibliography should be attached to the 2-page proposal that gives an overview of the sources to be used. It is expected that the *research paper* will later be developed from this proposal and the comments received on it. To conserve paper, please print all assignments double-sided.

Assignments should be handed in as a hardcopy on the due date. Students should bring them to class (or, if not possible, to the Political Science Main Office, SS Room 3018). The due dates for the assignments are noted below. For lateness, a penalty of 3% per day will be deducted from the mark for the first 7 days. After this 7-day period, papers will receive a grade of 0%. (Special arrangements can only be made based on proper and timely documentation, such as a doctor’s note.) Students are strongly advised to keep all rough and draft work as well as hard copies of their research papers and assignments until the marked assignments have been returned and the grades posted on ACORN. The research paper (NOT the proposal) also needs to be submitted online through the Quercus-based course website.

**Quercus:**

The course uses the management system Quercus which helps to establish efficient communication between instructor, teaching assistant and students. One of its advantages is that students can access their marks at any time on an individual basis. Questions related to the course should normally be directed to the teaching assistant first. An answer will usually be provided within 2-3 days, except for the weekend. In urgent cases, students should discuss issues with the teaching assistant or instructor in person or by telephone.

To access the Quercus-based course website, go to the UofT portal login page at [http://portal.utoronto.ca](http://portal.utoronto.ca) and log in using your UTORid and password. If you need information on how to activate your UTORid and set your password for the first time, please go to [http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). The Help Desk at the Information Commons and telephone assistance under 416-978-HELP can also answer other related questions.

Once you have logged into the portal using your UTORid and password, you will find a link on the Quercus “Dashboard” to this course website, along with links to all your other Quercus-based courses. At times, the instructor or teaching assistant may decide to send out important course information by e-mail. To this end, all UofT students are required to have a valid UofT e-mail address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UofT e-mail address is set up AND properly entered in the ACORN system.
Academic integrity:

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the UofT degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves. For further details and information on academic integrity, see https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity.

Turnitin.com:

The course also uses Turnitin.com, a web-based program to deter plagiarism and ensure academic integrity. Normally, students will be required to submit their research papers (NOT the proposals) to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website. The submitted hardcopy of the research paper and electronic version must be identical.

If, as a student, you object to using Turnitin.com, please see the course instructor to establish appropriate alternative arrangements for submission of your written assignments. This must be done at least 4 weeks before the submission deadline.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information on plagiarism, see the University of Toronto’s policy on Plagiarism at http://advice-writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/.

The submission of the final research paper to Turnitin.com is done through the Quercus-based website, without the need to register separately with Turnitin.com. Students have to select “Assignments” from the Quercus course menu and click the “Research Paper” link to upload and submit their research papers (“Submit Assignment”). Help regarding this process is available through portal.help@utoronto.ca (see also the information in the Quercus “Help” menu).

Accessibility Needs:

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible at accessibility.services@utoronto.ca or http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/.
Further details regarding the course and suggestions from students will be discussed in class.

**Required Readings:**

All required readings are accessible online by clicking the link “Library Course Reserves” on the Quercus-based course website.

**Course Evaluation:**

The course evaluation will be based on the following aspects:

- 20% paper proposal (2 pages plus annotated bibliography) (due class 7: October 22)
- 40% research paper (10-12 pages) (due class 11: November 26)
- 40% final exam
- **BONUS:** 2% if students attend at least 10 classes

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TOPICS: Fall Term 2019

A. Background and conceptual basis for understanding the German political economy

1. Introduction: Regional political and economic structure of Germany
2. Backwardness and the rise of the semi-sovereign state
3. The West German model of welfare capitalism
4. Fordism, Post-Fordism and varieties of capitalism

B. Collective agents and basic institutional structure of the German political economy

5. German corporatism: Collective bargaining and co-determination
6. Financial system and corporate governance
7. Social security system: Unemployment insurance, health care, and pension funds

C. Regional expressions of and challenges to the German political economy

8. Networking and lock-in: Company networks and structural change in the German Ruhr
9. “Späth capitalism” and economic revival in Baden-Württemberg
10. Germany reunited: Transformation of the East German economy

D. Boundaries of and adjustments to the German political economy

11. Shifts in population structure and immigration
12. Challenges of globalization, global change and crises
Readings by Topic: Fall Term 2019

Readings marked by an asterisk (*) are core readings on each topic which all students are required to read.

1. Introduction: Regional political and economic structure of Germany


2. Backwardness and the rise of the semi-sovereign state


3. The West German model of welfare capitalism


4. Fordism, Post-Fordism and varieties of capitalism


Haddow, R. (2008): How can comparative political economy explain variable change?


5. German corporatism: Collective bargaining and co-determination


6. Financial system and corporate governance


7. Social security system: Unemployment insurance, health care, and pension funds


8. Networking and lock-in: Company networks and structural change in the German Ruhr


9. “Späth capitalism” and economic revival in Baden-Württemberg


10. Germany reunited: Transformation of the East German economy


11. Shifts in population structure and immigration


12. Challenges of globalization, global change and crises


