

Topics in Comparative Politics III:

Comparative Political Economy of Advanced Economies

Fall 2021
Political Science 379
Tuesdays 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
SS1007

Professor Nicole Wu
3035 Sidney Smith Hall
nicolek.wu@utoronto.ca
Office hours: Mondays 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. or by appointment (online)

This course covers core concepts and theories in the comparative study of advanced economies. It examines the interplay between the economy and politics in industrialized countries. The first part of the course surveys classical approaches to the study of developed nations, covering the main economic and political features of these countries. The second part discusses some common stressors on such economies and the durability (or fragility) of the liberal order. The third and last section covers contemporary issues such as, money in politics, climate change politics, immigration, and home ownership. This course focuses on causal (positive) theories/explanations of political phenomena but not the specific history or facts of a region or country.

Course requirements

40% of your course grade will be based on short weekly quizzes starting week 4 (approximately 10 minutes each). The quizzes are meant to test if you understand the main argument of the readings and not their details. These should be very straightforward if you've done the readings. I will drop your 3 lowest scores.

30% of your course grade will come from your midterm examination. To help you prepare, I will distribute five mock exam questions a week before the exam. Three of which will appear in the midterm, and you will be required to answer two of them.

Given the ongoing difficulties associated with the pandemic, you will be given a choice for the final assessment (30%): you may sit for a final exam (the same format as the midterm) or write a research paper on a topic of your choice to be submitted electronically (10 pages, double spaced).

Readings

Required readings will be made available on Quercus or through the University Library.

COVID-19 etiquette and safety measures

According to [U of T policy](#), face masks have to be worn in indoor spaces on campus. If you refuse to do so, you will be asked to leave for the protection of you and others. Absences due to illness or quarantine/self-isolation restrictions will not be penalized.

Inclusion and special accommodation

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach Accessibility Services (accessibility.services@utoronto.ca) and/or me as soon as possible. Developed jointly by you and your accessibility advisor, a letter of accommodation maintains confidentiality about the nature of your disability but informs me about relevant accommodations needed to help you be successful in the course.

Religious observances

Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during the academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please contact me to discuss appropriate arrangements.

Academic integrity

The University treats cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments to the University's plagiarism detection tool website for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the University's plagiarism detection tool 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 University's plagiarism detection tool service are described on the company web site.

Copyright and privacy in instructional settings

If students wish to audio record, video record, photograph, or otherwise reproduce lectures, course notes or other similar materials provided by instructors, they must obtain the instructor's written consent beforehand. Otherwise, all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. In the case of private use by students with accommodation needs, they must have registered for the accommodation through AccServ.

Land acknowledgement

For thousands of years, the land on which the University operates has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Course schedule and readings

Part I: Classical approaches and analytical framework

Week 1 – Introduction to the political economy of advanced economies (Sep 14)

Optional: Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson. *Why nations fail: The origins of power, prosperity, and poverty*. Currency, 2012. Chapter 2.

Week 2 – Varieties of capitalism (Sep 21)

Hall, Peter, and David Soskice. 2001. "An Introduction to Varieties of Capitalism." In *Varieties of Capitalism*, ed. Hall and Soskice. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-68.

Thelen, Kathleen. "Varieties of capitalism: Trajectories of liberalization and the new politics of social solidarity." *Annual Review of Political Science* 15 (2012): 137-159.

Week 3 – Variations in redistribution (Sep 28)

Iversen, Torben, and David Soskice. "Electoral institutions and the politics of coalitions: Why some democracies redistribute more than others." *American political science review* 100, no. 2 (2006): 165-181.

Lupu, Noam, and Jonas Pontusson. "The structure of inequality and the politics of redistribution." *American Political Science Review* 105, no. 2 (2011): 316-336.

Cavaille, Charlotte. Listen to "Redistribution as Fairness" (*Podcast available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Google Podcasts, 1 hour and 21 minutes*)
<https://www.scopeconditionspodcast.com/episodes/episode-10-redistribution-as-fairness-with-charlotte-cavaille>

Or Read chapter 1:

https://charlottecavaille.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/chap1_chap2_fev2021.pdf

Part II: Open economy under stress?

Week 4 – Globalization and populism (Oct 5)

Milner, Helen V. "Voting for populism in Europe: globalization, technological change, and the extreme right." *Comparative Political Studies* (2021).

Colantone, Italo, and Piero Stanig. "Global competition and Brexit." *American political science review* 112, no. 2 (2018): 201-218.

Optional: Rodrik, Dani. "Why does globalization fuel populism? Economics, culture, and the rise of right-wing populism." *Annual Review of Economics* 13 (2020).

Week 5 – Technological change and political discontent (Oct 12)

Frey, Carl Benedikt, Thor Berger, and Chinchih Chen. "Political machinery: did robots swing the 2016 US presidential election?" *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 34, no. 3 (2018): 418-442.

Wu, Nicole. "Misattributed blame? Attitudes toward globalization in the age of automation." *Political Science Research and Methods* (2021): 1-18.

Week 6 – Immigration (Oct 19)

Hainmueller, Jens, and Michael J. Hiscox. "Attitudes toward highly skilled and low-skilled immigration: Evidence from a survey experiment." *American political science review* 104, no. 1 (2010): 61-84.

Iyengar, Shanto, Simon Jackman, Solomon Messing, Nicholas Valentino, Toril Aalberg, Raymond Duch, Kyu S. Hahn, Stuart Soroka, Allison Harell, and Tetsuro Kobayashi. "Do attitudes about immigration predict willingness to admit individual immigrants? A cross-national test of the person-positivity bias." *Public opinion quarterly* 77, no. 3 (2013): 641-665.

Hangartner, Dominik, Elias Dinas, Moritz Marbach, Konstantinos Matakos, and Dimitrios Xefteris. "Does exposure to the refugee crisis make natives more hostile?." *American Political Science Review* 113, no. 2 (2019): 442-455.

Optional: Banting, Keith, and Stuart Soroka. "A Distinctive Culture? The Sources of Public Support for Immigration in Canada, 1980–2019." *Canadian Journal of Political Science/Revue canadienne de science politique* 53, no. 4 (2020): 821-838.

Week 7 – Mid-term examination (covering weeks 2-6, no new readings) (Oct 26)

Week 8 – Embedded liberalism and multilateral economic system under stress? (Nov 2)

Ruggie, John. "Embedded Liberalism in the Post War Economic Order." *International Organization* 36, no. 2 (1982): 379-415.

Gingrich, Jane. "Did state responses to automation matter for voters?" *Research & Politics* 6, no. 1 (2019).

Mansfield, Edward D., and Nita Rudra. "Embedded Liberalism in the Digital Era." *International Organization* 75, no. 2 (2021): 558-585.

Part III: Contentious issues in developed capitalist states

Nov 9 – No class

Week 9 – Job creation and corporate welfare (Nov 16)

Optional: Last Week Tonight (John Oliver): Economic Development (9:35-14:10 only;

Optional, only to illustrate the issue of corporate welfare; **Language and content warnings apply**) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bl19RoR7lc>

Jensen, Nathan M., and Edmund J. Malesky. *Incentives to pander: How politicians use corporate welfare for political gain*. Cambridge University Press, 2018. (Chapter TBD)

Rickard, Stephanie J. *Spending to win: Political institutions, economic geography, and government subsidies*. Cambridge University Press, 2018. (Chapter TBD)

Week 10 – The politics of housing and homeownership (Nov 23)

Ansell, Ben W. "The politics of housing." *Annual review of political science* 22 (2019): 165-185.

Or Ansell, Ben. "The political economy of ownership: Housing markets and the welfare state." *American Political Science Review* (2014): 383-402.

Adler, David, and Ben Ansell. "Housing and populism." *West European Politics* 43, no. 2 (2020): 344-365.

Week 11 – Diversity, prejudice, and public policy (US case study) (Nov 30)

Cramer, Katherine. "Understanding the role of racism in contemporary US public opinion." *Annual Review of Political Science* 23 (2020): 153-169.

Yadon, Nicole, and Mara C. Ostfeld. "Shades of Privilege: The Relationship Between Skin Color and Political Attitudes Among White Americans." *Political Behavior* 42, no. 4 (2020): 1369-1392.

Jardina, Ashley. *White identity politics*. Cambridge University Press, 2019. (Chapter TBD)

Week 12 – Climate change politics (Dec 7)

Murdie, Amanda, and Johannes Urpelainen. "Why pick on us? Environmental INGOs and state shaming as a strategic substitute." *Political Studies* 63, no. 2 (2015): 353-372.

Cory, Jared, Michael Lerner, and Iain Osgood. "Supply Chain Linkages and the Extended Carbon Coalition." *American Journal of Political Science* 65, no. 1 (2021): 69-87.

Final examination (date TBD) or a 10-page final paper to be submitted electronically (December 15, noon)