Topics in Comparative Politics III:  
*Comparative Political Economy of Advanced Economies*

Fall 2022  
Political Science 379  
Tuesdays 12:00 – 14:00 p.m.  
UC179

Professor Nicole Wu  
3035 Sidney Smith Hall  
nicolek.wu@utoronto.ca  
Office hours: Tuesdays 14:00-15:00 and by appointment

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**

35% of your course grade will be based on short weekly quizzes starting **week 3** (approximately 10-15 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 2 lowest scores.

65% of your grade will be based on exams. 40% of your course grade will come from your midterm exam. 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. There will be no surprises.

Your final exam will contribute 25% of your course grade. I will again distribute a set of five mock questions a week before the exam and three of which will appear in the final assessment. The midterm and final exam both cover 6 and 4 weeks’ worth of materials respectively. The final is not cumulative.

**Readings**

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

**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: Varieties of capitalism (September 13)**


**Week 2 – Variations in redistribution (September 20)**


Cavaille, Charlotte. Listen to “Redistribution as Fairness” (*Podcast available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Google Podcasts, 1 hour and 21 minutes*)

Or Read chapter 1:
https://charlottecavaille.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/chap1_chap2_fev2021.pdf

**Part II: Open economy under stress?**

**Week 3 – Globalization and populism (September 27)**

Quiz begins


**Week 4 – Immigration (October 4)**


**Week 5 – Technological change and political discontent (October 11)**


**Week 6 – Embedded liberalism and multilateral economic system under stress? (October 18)**


**Week 7 – Mid-term examination (October 25)**

**Part III: Contentious issues in developed capitalist states**

**Week 8 – Job creation and corporate welfare (November 1)**


Rickard, Stephanie J. *Spending to win: Political institutions, economic geography, and government subsidies*. Cambridge University Press, 2018. (Chapter 5)

**Reading Week – No class (November 8)**

**Week 9 – The politics of housing and homeownership (November 15)**


Week 10 – Diversity, prejudice, and public policy (US case study) (November 22)

Week 11 – Climate change politics (November 29)
* No quiz per UofT rules (no combination of tests worth over 25% during the last 2 weeks of the term)

Week 12 – Final examination (December 6)