This graduate seminar for Ph.D. students examines the interaction between politics and the economy. This seminar will focus on how politics—in particular, political institutions—shapes economic outcomes and how the economy affects politics. We will examine both developed and developing countries. The relative importance of domestic politics and international economic forces is also a theme.

The course builds on 200C States and Markets. Readings are chosen not only to represent important debates in CPE but also to showcase works on different regions and countries using diverse methodologies (quantitative, qualitative, historical, formal, and experimental). The trade-off for the breath and diversity of this course is that few articles can be assigned on any given topic. My goal, however, is to introduce you to the seminal and current ideas in CPE and to help you identify research questions that you can pursue in your own work. Students will be encouraged to pay close attention to how these studies speak to each other and discuss how we can advance the literature.

In addition to the readings and class participation, three major requirements for the course are presentations (see the end of this syllabus for details) and papers.

Important Deadlines:

: Referee report
: Literature review

January 28: One-page original research idea memo due.
March 10: Upload Your Original Idea Slides

REQUIREMENTS

A. One “Referee Report” (15%)
A two-page, single-spaced “referee report” reviewing an article either (i) chosen from this syllabus, (ii) chosen by you (please consult with me beforehand), or, (iii) I was/am assigned to review (please request). Please turn in this referee report at the beginning of the class from which your article is assigned. I will go over how to write a referee report using actual examples during the first class. **Those who received a grade lower than A- need to write a second referee report on a different article.**

B. Literature Review (25%)  

One 5-7 page, double-spaced, typed paper critically examining the readings due during the course. The literature review has to develop and defend your own critiques and discuss how to move the scholarship forward. During the first week, I will go over how to write a great literature review. **Those who received a grade lower than A- need to write a second literature review on a different theme.**

C. Original Research Idea Paper (40%)  

You will prepare a 15 or longer page paper containing an original idea that has a germ for a potentially publishable work. Your new idea may be theoretical, empirical or methodological or combination of these innovations. I will give a detailed instruction in the class on how to write this paper. Please do not “recycle” research papers or dissertation chapters you have already worked on. It is fine to use this paper as a part of dissertation, but the idea here is to develop something new.  

**Due Date:** A preliminary, one-page proposal is due on January 28 at the beginning of class. The final paper is due of finals week xx by 5:00 pm.  

All late work will be penalized at the rate of 1/3 letter grade per day, including weekend days.

D: Presentation (10%)  

Each class participant in the first and second years is required to do two presentations during the course in two capacities—a “data report” presenter (explained in detail below) and a research idea presenter during the final 10th week.
Students in third years and beyond are required to do one presentation as on research idea during the course.

For the data report, you will need to distribute a hand-out in class and upload it on TED.

**Grade**

Students are required to attend class and have done the readings in advance. Unless you have a well-documented reason (e.g., hospitalization over a week), absence in two more classes will result in B+ or lower grade.

**January 7  Week 1: Debates in Comparative Political Economy**


For Workshop II on How to Write a Literature Review, please read the following two literature reviews and assess how effective they are in (i) summarizing key literature, (ii) assessing the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches, and (iii) identifying promising lines of future research.


**Workshop I:** How to write a referee report (*i.e.*, evaluate the contribution of your work and others)

**Workshop II:** How to write a literature review.

**January 17.  Week 2: Economic Growth**


“From settler mortality to patrimonialism: weaving the dynamics of political competition into the political economy of development,” *Political Economists* (APSA Newsletter for Political Economy section), Volume XII, Issue 3.

**Micro and Historical Views:**

**Practical Issue:** How should we use economic models in our political economy research?

**Data Report (Please Follow the Template at the End of this Syllabus):**
1. What data measure economic growth?
2. What data measure the security of property rights?

**January 21 Week 3: Political Economy of Regime Type**


Micro-level Evidence within Countries (Read one of the two): 

Devin Caughey One-party South?

**Practical Issue:** How should we make the best use of “typology” in political economy research?

**Data Report:**
1. What data measure different aspects of democracy and autocracy (e.g.,
representation, checks and balances, and civil liberty)?
2. What data measure different aspects of democracy and autocracy within a country, such as subnational variations?

January 28 Week 4 Inequality and Redistribution

**One-page original research idea due**


**Practical Issue:** How should we demonstrate empirically that institutions affect political economy outcomes such as degrees of inequality and redistribution?

**Data Report:** Inequality and Redistribution
1. What data measure inequality?
2. What data measure government spending?
3. What data measure the extent to which governments redistribute wealth?

February 4 Week 5: The Provision of Public Goods


**Practical Issue:** How should we identify & describe policy “preferences” in political economy research?

**Data Report:**
1. What data measure the provision of public goods?
2. What data measure preferences of actors over different types of goods (citizens, public officials, firms etc)?
February 11  Week 6: Corruption and Resource Curse


**Practical Issue:** How do we study unobservables (or, observable phenomena with strong selection and reporting bias) such as corruption?

**Data Report:**
1. What data measure corruption?
2. What data measure natural resource endowment?

February 18  Week 7: Political Economy of Social Divisions


Laitin, David. Hegemony and Religious Conflict: British Imperial Control and Political Cleavages in Yorubaland. Chapter 9 of Bringing the State Back In. Edited by Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol.


**Data report:**
1. What data measure degrees of ethnic and religious divides in societies?
2. What data measure salience of certain identities over others?

**February 25 Week 8: Elections, Parties, and Economics (Part I: Voters)**


**Data Report:**
1. What data measure left vs. right orientation of political parties? How about left vs. right orientation of individual legislators?
2. What data allows us to test self-interests vs. socio-tropic economic voting?

March 3  Week 9: Elections, Parties and Economics (Part II: Organized Interests)


Data Report:

1. What data measure influence and preferences of organized interests over public policies?

March 10**  Week 10: New Questions in Comparative Political Economy &
Conference on Your Original Research Ideas
(Note: I will be out of town to give a talk, so need to reschedule)

We will discuss the following works and reviews for the first 20 minutes and then will have a Conference on Your Original Research Ideas. Before the class, please upload maximum four slides on TED summarizing (i) Research question and its importance (one slide), (ii) Argument, Hypotheses and/or Novel Research Strategy (1-2 slides), (iii) Data and Methods (one slide).

Political Economy of Violence

Political Economy of Public Health

Political Economy of Environment
TBA

Political Economy of Education
TBA

Data Report

You will report on data that are used to conduct question that the student chooses. The student will briefly describe the report in class (5-10 minutes each). Data can be cross-national, subnational, or a country-specific (e.g., individual-level). For a country-specific data report, you will need to address contextual/country-specific issues that are reflected in the data collection effort (e.g., In Russia, published data on labor strikes is known to be biased and politicized, and hence Graeme Robertson used internal police reports to calculate the data etc).

The best synopses will:
Describe the conceptual variable(s) that are being measured by the data that is the topic of the report;

Describe what data exist on the topic;

Give (brief) examples of how the data have been used;

Discuss (briefly) any significant controversies that exist regarding measurement; and

Provide links to relevant codebooks or data sets.

The synopses should be brief (1-2 pages), with useful links to data, codebooks, or especially relevant bibliographic resources. Students should prepare the hard-copy handouts for the class and all reports should be posted to the course website before the class. Students can choose which question to answer with only one person working on each topic. Also, the questions are “suggested”—if a student would like to pose and answer a different data question, including data questions about archives or other important resources for qualitative research, they can do so with my approval.

Sources of Ideas & Being Informed

Newspapers & Magazines
Wall Street Journal
Financial Times
New York Times
Equivalent of above papers of the country/region that you study

The Economist

Recently Published Papers and Working Papers
In addition to usual suspects in political science (APSR, AJPS, JOP, IO, WP, CPS etc), check out some of the economics journals:

American Economic Review
Econometrica
Quaterly Journal of Economics
Review of Economics and Statistics
Journal of Political Economy

Tuesday Political Economy Lunch Group reading list (UCSD) [http://pelg.ucsd.edu](http://pelg.ucsd.edu)
Harvard Political Economy Lunch Group
International Political Economy Society Past Programs