Political Economy of Institutions
V53.0595
(Politics, Policy, and Economic Development)

Professor Hafer
Politics Department- Hamilton Center

Spring 2007
Wednesdays 9:30-12:00
Silver Center #409

Contact Information
e-mail: catherine.hafer@nyu.edu
office: #312, 19 W. 4th St.
office hours: Mondays 10-12

Course Description

This course examines the relationship between political and economic factors in accounting for the choice and success of economic policies in promoting growth, development, and well-being. Topics include but are not limited to establishing and enforcing property rights, creating and expanding markets, globalization, government corruption and good governance. The course focuses on theories that advance an economic rationale for institutions and relies on the methodologies of game theory and rational choice, of which no prior knowledge will be assumed.

Course Requirements

The course requirements consist of one set of technical exercises, a midterm exam, a group project to be presented in class, and active and informed class participation. Course grades will be calculated using the following weights: problem set (15%), research project (35%), midterm exam (35%), class participation (15%).

Students are expected to do the assigned readings before class and to be prepared to discuss the readings in detail. A thorough understanding of both the readings (including material not discussed in class) and the lecture material (including that not included in the readings) is necessary to perform well on the exam and in class discussions.

Academic Integrity

All the graded assignments for this course must be products of your own work. Words and ideas of other authors used in your work must be properly referenced in accordance with the standard reference manuals (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.). All instances of plagiarism (whereby the work of other authors is presented as your own) and cheating will be handled in accordance with university policy. For a more detailed description of university policy, see http://www.nyu.edu/cas/map/integrity.html.
Students with Disabilities

If you have any medically diagnosed condition which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work outlined in this syllabus, or which will require additional time for exams, please notify me and the University Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) in the first week of the course so that we may make appropriate arrangements. All information and documentation of disability is confidential.

Readings:

The following assigned books can be purchased at the NYU bookstore:


In addition, a reading packet will be made available through New University Copies on Waverly Place beginning on January 22.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Concepts of Analysis


Individual Incentives and the Enforcement of Property Rights


**Markets**


**Globalization**


**Corruption and Effective Governance**


**Politico-Economic Transitions and Economic Growth**


**Developing capacity and administering aid**


**Health**


**Conclusion and Review**