Political Economy
NYU Department of Politics
G53.1400

Professor Prosper Bernard
Office hours: before/after class and by appt.
Pbernard5@compuserve.com

Fall 2006
Tuesday 4-6
726 Broadway

Course Description: This course offers a graduate-level introduction to political economy. We will discuss core theoretical perspectives as well as a variety of topics and debates in the field of political economy. This course does not explore comprehensively all of the issues and debates related to this field; instead, it focuses on those core debates and issues that will enable you to develop a sufficient understanding of this subject matter and prepare you for further study and specialization in the field.

The course is divided into four parts. The first part explores conventional and recent theoretical perspectives. The second part focuses on the institutional foundations of economic performance. This is followed by a discussion of the distributive effects of markets and the redistributive efforts of states. The course concludes with a discussion of select topics relating to the political economy of international relations.

Requirements: Every week, each student is expected to attend class and to participate actively in class discussions based on the assigned readings. Participation is an essential part of the class. In addition, you are required to write three discussion papers (5-7 pages long). Each paper is based on a weekly topic and must engage analytically and succinctly the assigned readings related to that topic. Be alert to the research questions asked, the main arguments, the methods employed, the points of contrast and similarity in the authors’ arguments, the main contributions of the literature, and the readings’ shortcomings and omissions. At the end of the semester you will be required to complete a take-home final exam (two essay questions), in which you will have to demonstrate a command of the relevant readings and an ability to synthesize a variety of material. This assignment is due on the last class meeting.

Grading
3 discussion papers: 60%
Class participation: 20%
Take-home final exam: 20%

Readings
There are several books and many articles required for this course. Below, you will find a list of books available for purchase in the bookstore and have also been put on reserve. Readings in the form of book chapters are available in the library reserve reading room. Readings in the form of journal articles have been placed on reserve and most are available through Bobst Library Electronic Journals. The book chapters and articles are in
a course pack available for purchase. The recommended readings have not been put on reserve.


**Concepts and Theories of Political Economy**

**Week 1: Introduction and Theories of Political Economy**


**Recommended:**
Institutional Foundations of Economic Performance

Week 2: Interest Groups and Corporatism


Recommended:

Week 3: Varieties of Capitalism


Recommended:

**Week 4: Unions and Labor Markets**


Recommended:
Week 5: Political Parties and Economic Policy


Recommended:


Week 6: Central Banks and Macroeconomic Performance


Torben Iversen, *Contested Economic Institutions* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999) [chapters 1 and 2].

Recommended:


Markets and States: Distribution and Redistribution

Week 7: Economic Roles of Developmental and Predatory States

Peter Evans, *Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995) [Chapters 1, 2, and 3].


Recommended:

Week 8: Perspectives on the Welfare State


Recommended:
**Week 9: Inequality**


**Recommended**


**Week 10: The Politics of Redistribution**


**Recommended:**


Lane Kenworthy and Jonas Pontusson, “Rising Inequality and the Politics of Redistribution in Affluent Countries,” *Perspectives on Politics* 3 (3) 2005.
Week 11: Withering Away of the Welfare State?


**Recommended:**

The Political Economy of International Relations

Week 12: The Political Economy of International Trade and Finance

Robert Keohane and Helen Milner, eds., *Internationalization and Domestic Politics* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996) [Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10].


**Recommended**
Week 13: The Political Economy of Regional Integration


Recommended:

Week 14: Globalization and its Effects


Recommended: