

Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2019/20 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

Module name	Comparative Political Economy
Module code	IP2031
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department or equivalent	Department of International Politics
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	5
Delivery location (partnership programmes only)	N/A

MODULE SUMMARY

Module outline and aims

Comparative Political Economy is a field of study that attempts to explain the interaction between political features and economic outcomes across several countries and systems. The purpose of this course is to provide a survey of the key concepts, theories, and issues in this field and an opportunity for in-depth study of the political economy of democratic and non-democratic capitalisms.

The major questions the course addresses are:

- Does democracy support or hinder economic growth?
- How do particular institutions and political processes influence the economic policies and performance of a country?
- How do markets and economic factors shape the institutions and political processes of a country?
- Does the power of business distort the political process?
- Do economic conditions determine electoral systems, government stability, and other political outcomes?
- Do elections affect monetary and fiscal policy?
- What explains the significant variations in the scale of governmental intervention into the functioning of markets across different countries?
- Why do tax and welfare systems vary so profoundly across liberal democracies?

In this course, you will explore these questions from a comparative perspective, examining variations in economic policies and outcomes over time within countries, as well as among

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countries with different institutional settings and different levels of development. The approach in this module is generic and comparative, though the literature considered is mainly concerned with the politics of economic policy in industrial democracies.

In the first part of the course, you will be introduced to some competing theoretical perspectives about the field of comparative political economy. These include the role of political regimes; comparative democratic institutions; elections, partisanship, and political cycles; varieties of capitalism; interest groups and lobbying. In the second part of the course you will explore in depth a variety of areas of economic policymaking: macroeconomic policy, monetary policy and central banking; welfare, taxation, and redistribution; trade policies; corporate governance, industrial relations and labour markets; economic regulation.

On the empirical side, you will draw from a variety of empirical evidence, including from qualitative comparative cases and quantitative studies based on contemporary or historical data. While there will be no formal pre-requisite for the course, it would be preferable if you have already completed an introductory module in microeconomics and macroeconomics.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate substantive knowledge and awareness of the differences in economic policies and economic performance across countries
- Name and contrast the distinctive features of different types of state-market relations and link them to the analytical categories distinguished in the comparative political economy literature;
- Achieve an understanding of different comparative political economy explanations and arguments about what shapes economic policy and causes it to shift;
- Acquire a more in-depth knowledge of a specific area of economic policy making through the writing of the essay.

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Skills:

- Make reasoned arguments on the relationship between different types of political-economic institutions and different economic outcomes and policies, such as macroeconomic policies, economic growth, welfare policies, trade policies, and regulatory policies.
- Apply the theories developed in comparative political economy to empirical cases which have not yet been assessed in the literature.
- Compare and contrast variations in key political and economic variables over time within countries as well as among countries with different institutional settings and different level of development

Values and attitudes:

- Produce written materials that indicate in a precise and honest manner what is your own work and what is attributable to others
- Demonstrate tolerance, expressed as respect for the opinions of colleagues, so that orderly discussion in classes is possible.
- Show consideration for the rules and regulations of the University.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Teaching pattern:

Teaching component	Teaching type	Contact hours (scheduled)	Self-directed study hours (independent)	Placement hours	Total student learning hours
Lecture	Lecture	10	40		50
Seminar	Seminar	10	90		100
Totals		20	130		150

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WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessments

The assessment includes a combination of coursework and exam:

- One 2000 words essay at the end of the term
- One 1-hour long in-class written assignment in the middle of the term

Assessment pattern:

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Essay (2000 words)	Written assignment	50%	30	N/A
1 hour in-class written assignment)	Written assignment	50%	30	N/A

Assessment criteria

Assessment Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes students need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully and Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes students need to demonstrate to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria for module assessments will be made available to students prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available from the module leader.

Feedback on assessment

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Following an assessment, students will be given their marks and feedback in line with the Assessment Regulations and Policy. More information on the timing and type of feedback that will be provided for each assessment will be available from the module leader.

Assessment Regulations

The Pass mark for the module is 40%. Any minimum qualifying marks for specific assessments are listed in the table above. The weighting of the different components can also be found above. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component or the module.

INDICATIVE READING LIST

- Ben Clift (2014), *Comparative Political Economy. States, Markets, and Global Capitalism*, Palgrave Macmillan
- Barry Weingast and Donald Whittman, eds. (2006), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Economy*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Frieden, Jeffrey A. (2006). *Global Capitalism: Its Fall and Rise in the Twentieth Century*, W. W. Norton and Company
- Hall, Peter (1997). "The Role of Interests, Institutions, and Ideas in the Comparative Political Economy of the Industrialized Nations." In Mark Irving Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman (eds). *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*, Cambridge University Press
- Esping-Andersen, Gosta (1990). *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Polity Press
- Iversen, Torben (2006). *Contested Economic Institutions: The Politics of Macroeconomics and Wage Bargaining in Advanced Democracies*, Cambridge University Press
- Hicks, Alexander (1999), *Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism: A Century of Income Security Policies*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Martin, Cathie Jo and Duane Swank (2012), *The Political Construction of Business Interests: Coordination, Growth. And Equality*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Mosley, Layna (2003), *Global Capital and National Governments*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Pontusson, Jonas (2005), *Inequality and Prosperity: Social Europe vs. Liberal America*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Swank, Duane (2002), *Global Capital, Political Institutions, and Policy Change in Developed Welfare States*, New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Hall, Peter and David Soskice (2001), *Varieties of Capitalism, the Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Olson, Mancur (1984), *The Rise and Decline of Nations*. Yale University Press.
- Schumpeter, Joseph A. (1975), *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*, New York, Harpers
- Garrett, Geoffrey (1998). *Partisan Politics in the Global Economy*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Thelen, Kathleen (2014), *Varieties of Liberalization and the New Politics of Social Solidarity*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Boix, Carles (1999). *Political Parties, Growth and Equality: Conservative and Social Democratic Economic Strategies in the World Economy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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- Adolph, Christopher (2013), *Bankers, Bureaucrats, and Central Bank Politics: The Myth of Neutrality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Stokes, Susan, Thad Dunning, Marcelo Nazareno, and Valeria Brusco (2013), *Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism: The Puzzle of Distributive Politics*, Cambridge University Press.
- Ansell, Ben and David Samuels (2014), *Inequality and Democratization: An Elite-Competition Approach*, Cambridge University Press
- Hellwig, Timothy (2015), *Globalization and Mass Politics: Retaining the Room to Maneuver*, Cambridge University Press.
- Culpepper, Pepper (2011), *Quiet Politics and Business Power. Corporate Control in Europe and Japan*, Cambridge University Press
- North, Douglas .C. (1990). *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lindblom, Charles (1977), *Politics and Markets: the World's Political Economic Systems*, Basic Books

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