

# **POLITICAL SCIENCE 440B: POLITICAL ECONOMY**

Winter Quarter, 2021-22

Wednesdays 1:30 PM to 4:20 PM

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## **Course Description**

This seminar provides an introduction to the study of political economy. The emphasis of the course is on scientific discovery: what do we know about the interaction of politics and economics in the real world, and how we know it? We focus in particular on the logical consistency and logical completeness of claims and the quality of the evidence that underpins them.

## **Expectations and Policies**

Each week presents readings that address fundamental questions of political economy. We teach this course using the Socratic Method. Each week's reading list is short in order to facilitate the close reading necessary for an informed discussion, and it is our expectation that students will contribute to that discussion.

Students are required to write three short papers (3-4 pages), which present a critical evaluation of one or more of the readings covered in a particular week. These papers are to be disseminated to the seminar in advance of the discussion of that particular reading, so that they can serve as the basis for discussion. They will be graded. So that the papers do not all bunch up at the end of the quarter, the first paper should cover a reading from weeks 2-4, the second paper should cover weeks 5-7, and the third paper should cover weeks 8-9. The first paper is due no later than on January 25 by 5:00 pm. The second paper is due no later than February 15 by 5:00 pm. The third paper is due no later than March 1 by 5:00 pm. In addition, students are required to write a 7-10-page research proposal that identifies an empirical or theoretical puzzle that has not been adequately addressed in the extant literature and that explores an approach to solving it. The final paper is due on March 16 at 5 pm. No late work will be accepted except by prior written agreement.

All papers should be submitted via email to the following addresses: [haber@stanford.edu](mailto:haber@stanford.edu) and [avidit@stanford.edu](mailto:avidit@stanford.edu). One of us will then send you an email acknowledging that we have received, opened, and printed your attachment. If we cannot open your attachment, or if your attachment does not contain a readable paper, we will consider the paper not to have been submitted. All of the short papers should also be circulated to the other students in the course at the same time you send them to us. We will create an email distribution list the first week of the course.

Attendance, Events Outside the Classroom, and the Syllabus:

This class meets at the day and time designated by the university registrar to address the topics and readings specified by the syllabus. It is our practice not to cancel a class meeting unless expressly directed to do so by the university president or provost. It is also our practice not to change the topics on the syllabus, or the readings about those topics, because of events outside the classroom. We expect students to honor this standard of professionalism.

Class attendance is required. There are, however, extraordinary circumstances that may prevent a student from attending a class meeting. We honor decisions on the part of students about how to handle such extraordinary circumstances—and it is our practice to respect the privacy of students regarding those circumstances. As a courtesy, we ask that—if it possible to do so—students send us a short email indicating that an extraordinary event prevents them from attending a class meeting.

### **Evaluation:**

Papers, 30 percent; Research proposal, 30 percent; Class participation, 40 percent.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk; phone: 723-1066; web site <http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oea>.

### **Seminar Schedule:**

#### **January 5: Introduction and Overview of the Course**

Richard Feynman, 1974. “Cargo Cult Science.”

<http://calteches.library.caltech.edu/51/2/CargoCult.htm>

Michael E. Smith. 2015. “How Can Archaeologists Make Better Arguments?” *The SAA Archaeological Record* (September): 18-23.

#### **January 12: Do Institutions Cause Economic Growth?**

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. 2001. “The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation.” *American Economic Review* 91: 1369-1401.

Edward Glaeser, Rafael La Porta, Francisco Lopez de Silanes, and Andrei Shleifer. 2004. “Do Institutions Cause Growth?” *Journal of Economic Growth* 9: 271-303.

David Albouy. 2012. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Investigation of the Settler Mortality Data." *American Economic Review* 102: 3059-76.

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson. 2012. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation: Reply." *American Economic Review* 102: 3077-3110.

### **January 19: Is Economic Growth in Our Genes?**

Quamrul Ashraf and Oded Galor. 2013. "The 'Out of Africa' Hypothesis, Human Genetic Diversity, and Comparative Economic Development." *American Economic Review* 103(1): 1-46.

Jade d'Alpoim Guedes, et. al. 2013. "Is Poverty in our Genes? A Critique of Ashraf and Galor, 'The 'Out of Africa' Hypothesis, Human Genetic Diversity, and Comparative Economic Development." *Current Anthropology* 54: 71–79.

Noah A. Rosenberg<sup>1</sup> and Jonathan T. L. Kang. 2015. "Genetic Diversity and Societally Important Disparities." *Genetics* 201: 1-12.

### **January 26: Causality or Equilibria?**

Stanley Engerman and Kenneth Sokoloff. 2002. "Factor Endowments, Inequality, and Paths of Development Among New World Economies." NBER Working Paper 9259.

Stephen Haber, Roy Ellis, and Jordan Horrillo. 2021. "The Ecological Origins of Economic and Political Systems." [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3958073](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3958073)

### **February 2: How Long is the Reach of the Past?**

Nathan Nunn. 2008. "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123: 139-76.

Timothy Besley and Marta Reynol Querol 2014. "The Legacy of Historical Conflict: Evidence from Africa." *American Political Science Review* 108: 319– 36.

Abhijit Banerjee and Lakshmi Iyer. 2005. "History, Institutions and Economic Performance: The Legacy of Colonial Land Tenure Systems in India." *American Economic Review* 95: 1190-1213.

Morgan Kelly. 2020. "Understanding Persistence." [https://economics.yale.edu/sites/default/files/understanding\\_persistence\\_ada-ns.pdf](https://economics.yale.edu/sites/default/files/understanding_persistence_ada-ns.pdf)

### **February 9: Is there a Resource Curse?**

Michael Ross. 2001. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* 53: 235-61.

Sachs, Jeffrey D. and Andrew M. Warner. 1995. "Natural Resource Abundance and Economic Growth." National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 5398.

Stephen Haber and Victor Menaldo. 2011. "Do Natural Resources Fuel Authoritarianism? A Reappraisal of the Resource Curse." *American Political Science Review* 105:1-26.

Jørgen Juel Andersen and Michael Ross. 2014. "The Big Oil Change: A Closer Look at the Haber-Menaldo Analysis." *Comparative Political Studies*.  
<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/polisci/faculty/ross/publications.html>

### **February 16: Why are Some Citizens More Influential Than Others?**

George Stigler. 1971. "The Theory of Economic Regulation." *Bell Journal of Economics and Management Science* 2: 3-21.

Raymond Fisman. 2001. "Estimating the Value of Political Connections." *American Economic Review* 91: 1095-1102.

Asim Ijaz Khwaja and Atif Mian. 2005. "Do Lenders Favor Politically Connected Firms: Rent Provision in an Emerging Financial Market." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 120: 1371-1411.

Marianne Bertrand, Francis Kramarz, Antoinette Schoar, and David Thesmar. 2018. "The Cost of Political Connections." *Review of Finance* 22 849–76.

### **February 23: Did Globalization Cause Political Realignment?**

David Autor, David Dorn, Gordon Hanson, and Kaveh Majlesi. 2020. "Importing Political Polarization? The Electoral Consequences of Rising Trade Exposure." *American Economic Review* 110: 3139–83.

Giampaolo Bonomi, Nicola Gennaioli, and Guido Tabellini. "Identity, Beliefs, and Political Conflict,"

[http://www.igier.unibocconi.it/files/Identity\\_and\\_Beliefs\\_july24\\_g\\_final.pdf](http://www.igier.unibocconi.it/files/Identity_and_Beliefs_july24_g_final.pdf)

Gavin Wright. 2020. "Voting Rights, Deindustrialization, and Republican Ascendancy in the South," Institute for New Economic Thinking Working Paper 135.

[https://www.ineteconomics.org/uploads/papers/WP\\_135-Wright-VOTING-RIGHTS.pdf](https://www.ineteconomics.org/uploads/papers/WP_135-Wright-VOTING-RIGHTS.pdf)

Yotam Margalit. 2019. "Economic Insecurity and the Causes of Populism, Reconsidered," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 33: 152–70.

### **March 2: When Do States Engage in Redistribution?**

Alberto Alesina and Eliana La Ferrara. 2005. "Preferences for Redistribution in the Land of Opportunities." *Journal of Public Economics* 89: 897-931.

German Feierherd, Luis Schiumerini, and Susan Stokes. 2017. "When Do the Wealthy Support Redistribution? Inequality Aversion in Buenos Aires," *British Journal of Political Science* 50: 793-805.

Torben Iversen and David Soskice. 2006. "Electoral Institutions and the Politics of Coalitions: Why Some Democracies Redistribute More than Others." *American Political Science Review* 100: 165-81.

**March 9: What Have We Learned?**

**March 16: Final Paper Due**