Content
The course introduces some of the core theories and key concepts in political economy by focusing on the uneasy relationship between capitalism and democracy. The course will ask a number of “big questions” about politics and economics, such as: Under which conditions is capitalism compatible with democracy? How does the disproportionate power of business affect democracy? Which are the relative strengths and weaknesses of politics versus markets in bringing about economic growth and socioeconomic equality? How does economic globalization and European integration affect democracy? In order to address these and similar questions, the course will review liberal, Marxist, sociological and institutional approaches, and draw on the experiences of European capitalist democracies, East and West.

Learning outcomes
At the end of the course, students will have acquired a basic understanding of some core theories and key concepts in, as well as selected approaches to political economy. The course enhances critical thinking and multidisciplinary orientation, and contributes to the mastery of academic writing and oral skills. Learning outcomes are supported by the course’s requirements and assessed accordingly.

Course requirements and evaluation:

1. Attendance and in-class participation. Each session will consist of a lecture followed by a class discussion. Attendance and participation in the discussion are crucial (20 % of the grade).
2. Three position papers. Position papers are small essays on the weekly readings. They should shortly summarize the readings, reflect on the major arguments, and include questions for further discussion. Position papers can compare the readings to other readings of the class, or apply the readings to an empirical
case. The papers should be 4-5 pages long, and are to be distributed electronically to the whole class latest by noon the day prior to the class (Moodle). Students might be asked to shortly present their papers in class (20 % of the grade). Late work will not be accepted (40 % of the grade).

3. Short questions. Students who do not submit a position paper in a given week, are required to submit three short questions on the weekly reading (8 x 3 questions all in all). The questions have to be submitted electronically latest by noon the day prior to the class (Moodle). Late work will not be accepted (10% of the grade).

4. One review paper of ca. 2000-2500 words. Students are required to choose one topic of the course, identify a major work associated with the topic, and review it critically. The work can be a monograph, special journal issue, or edited book, and students can chose from the recommended literature or come up with their own suggestions. The topic and book has to be agreed upon with the instructor. A critical review is more than a simple summary. It should a) embed the work in the broader debate, b) identify its major arguments, findings, and methods, c) and critically evaluate its merits, shortcomings and contributions to the debate. Students are required to consult at least 3 additional sources (journal articles or books) when completing their review. (30 % of the grade)

Topics and Readings

________________________

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION**

________________________


________________________

**WEEK 2: HOW DID EUROPE DEMOCRATIZE? (CLASSICS)**

________________________

Recommended:


---

**Week 3: How Did Europe Democratize (Recent Approaches)**


Recommended:


---

**Week 4: The (Im)possibility of Democracy and Capitalism in Eastern Europe**


Recommended:


---

**Week 5 Markets and (Social) Democracy (Classical Debates)**


**Recommended**


**WEEK 6: SOCIAL DEMOCRACY**


**Recommended**


**WEEK 7: DEMOCRATIC CORPORATISM**


**Recommended Reading**


---

**WEEK 8 FROM DEMOCRATIC CORPORATISM TO SUPRANATIONAL PLURALISM**


Recommended


---

**WEEK 9 BUSINESS AND DEMOCRACY**


Recommended:


---

**WEEK 10: INEQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY**


**Recommended Readings**


---

**WEEK 11: THE EURO CRISIS AND DEMOCRACY**


**Recommended**


Week 12: The Future of Democratic Capitalism


*Recommended:*
