

INTL 190 - Winter 2018

Tuesday, 9:00AM-11:50AM  
Robinson Building Complex, Room 1401

## **Autocracy, Democracy, and Prosperity**

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Office Hours: Monday 11:30AM-1:30PM, office SSB #365.

### **Course Description**

This course considers the interplay between factor endowments, political institutions and economic performance. It focuses on the connection between representative political institutions and the emergence and expansion of markets.

### **Format**

The class will meet one a week for the duration of the quarter. Class sessions will be conducted as a seminar. Each meeting will be devoted to a new theme/idea related to the link between political institutions and economic performance. The topics to be discussed in class are paired with the readings listed below. You will notice that I have limited the number of readings each week. I want us to focus on the key concepts of the arguments made, the logic used, and how the arguments are tested. You should read the materials keeping this aim in mind. In most cases, understanding the readings will take patience more than anything else. Nonetheless, some basic knowledge of economics and statistics would be useful.

### **Assignments**

Attendance, readings, and class participation are mandatory. I expect all participants to be familiar with the required readings and participate in class discussion on a weekly basis. All readings for a given date should be done before the beginning of class. Every student should sign up to write a critical response memo during the quarter. It should not exceed two typed, double-spaced pages. This response should: 1) summarize the theoretical arguments of the readings; 2) present the evidence given by the author to support his/her claims; 3) discuss whether you find the argument persuasive or not, and the reasons for your position. The student will also be responsible for leading the discussion of the readings for that session. There are three assignments that pertain to the course's research paper (see below). Each student is expected to write an original

research paper (approximately 20-25 pages in length) related to the relationship between political institutions and economic prosperity. The specific topic must be approved by the instructor. We will be discussing the format of the paper, citations, and other details throughout the course. Finally, every student should prepare an oral presentation of his/her research paper.

### **Grading**

Attendance and class participation is worth 15% of the final grade, the critical response memo accounts for 10% of the final grade, the three assignments are worth 15%, the presentation 10%, and the final paper accounts for the remaining 50%. The final draft of the paper is due on Friday March 23rd by 5:00 PM (you can turn the papers in early). The paper should be submitted through Turnitin. Late papers will not be accepted. Extensions, incompletes, etc. will be given in accordance with UCSD policy. Except under very pressing circumstances, they will be discouraged.

### **Attendance Policy.**

No absence for 10 weeks: +5 bonus points

One pre-informed absence: no penalty

Two absences: B or below except for special circumstances

Three or More Absences: C or below

### **Course Policies**

*Academic Integrity.* Students in this course are expected to comply with UCSD's Policy on Integrity of Scholarship. Plagiarism is considered a dishonest practice and a serious academic offense. Hence, there will be a zero-tolerance policy with respect to these practices: any student violating the obligation of academic integrity during the term will automatically fail the class. Copies of the current version of the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, also commonly referred to as the Academic Dishonesty Policy, may be found on the Academic Senate webpage: <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/AcademicIntegrity/AcademicIntegrity.htm>

*Disabilities.* If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, you need to notify both me and the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify the OSD, call (858) 534-4382 to schedule an appointment.

### **Course Materials**

Readings are drawn from two books available for purchase, and from articles available off the Web through TritonEd.

## Required Books

De Soto, Hernando. 2000. *The Mystery of Capital*. New York: Basic Books (hereafter: De Soto).

Easterly, William. 2002. *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. Cambridge: MIT Press (hereafter: Easterly).

## Course Schedule and Readings

### *Week 1 (January 9) - Introduction*

Easterly: Chapters 1, 2, and 3.

### *Workshop: Writing a research paper*

Assignment #1: Due (1/16) Write a 2-page, double spaced memo describing your research interests, as it pertains to this seminar. Discuss the specific topic that you will select for the research paper, and what the reasons are for this choice.

### *Week 2 (January 16) - Incentives and Growth*

Easterly: Chapters 8, 9, and 10.

### *Workshop: Developing an Argument*

### *Week 3 (January 23) - Property Rights and Growth*

De Soto: Chapters 2, 3, and 5.

### *Workshop: How/where to find relevant sources to address your research question?*

### *Week 4 (January 30) - Spontaneous Order*

De Soto: Chapter 6.

Sugden, Robert. 1989. "Spontaneous Order," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol 3, 4: 85-97.

### *Workshop: Research Design I*

### *Week 5 (February 6) - Power and Prosperity*

Lane, Frederic C. 1958. "Consequences of Organized Violence," *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 18, 4: 401-417.

Olson, Mancur. 2000. *Power and Prosperity*. New York: Basic Books, Ch. 1.

*Workshop: Research Design II*

Assignment #2: Due (2/13). Write a double-spaced, three-page memo summarizing your preliminary research. Your memo should contain a brief description of your question and argument, your proposed contribution, and preliminary findings with proper documentation of sources.

*Week 6 (February 13) - Credible Commitments*

Dixit, Avinash and Barry Nalebuff. 1991. *Thinking Strategically*. New York: Norton, Chapter 6.

Root, Hilton L. 1989. "Tying the King's Hands: Credible Commitments and Royal Fiscal Policy during the Old Regime," *Rationality and Society*, Vol. 1, No. 2: 240-258.

*Workshop: Data Collection and Analysis*

*Week 7 (February 20) - Politics, Policies and the Economy*

Krueger, Ann O. 1990. "Government Failures in Development," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 4: 9-23.

Bad Governments (Easterly, ch. 11)

Predatory Governments (Easterly, ch. 12)

*Workshop: How to write a good introduction to your paper.*

Assignment #3: Due (2/27). Following the instructions from the workshop, write an introduction to your research paper. It should be no longer than 2 double-spaced pages, with citations and references. Please submit a complete bibliography and list of sources.

*Week 8 (February 27) - Autocracy, Democracy, and Prosperity*

Przeworski, Adam and Limongi, Fernando. 1993. "Political Regimes and Economic Growth," in *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 7: 51-69.

Przeworski, Adam, Michael E. Alvarez, Jose Antonio Cheibub, and Fernando Limongi. 1996. "What Makes Democracies Endure?," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 7: 39-55.

*Workshop: Documenting and referencing sources.*

*Week 9 (March 6) - Which Institutions for Prosperity I*

Person, Torsten, and Guido Tabellini. 2004. "Constitutions and Economic Policy," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* Vol. 18: 75-98.

**Class Presentations.**

*Week 10 (March 13)- Which Institutions for Prosperity II*

Keefer, Philip. 2004. "What Does Political Economy Tell Us About Economic Development - and Vice Versa?," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 7: 247-272.

**Class Presentations.**