Political Sociology and Economy
Winter semester, 2017.
PhD seminar (4 credits) CEU
Tuesday & Thursday 9 – 10.40 am

András Bozóki bozokia@ceu.edu & Attila Fölsz folsza@ceu.edu
Professor of Political Science
Teaching weeks 7-12.
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Teaching weeks 1-6.

Course description
This is a doctoral seminar building on the comparative politics, political economy and political theory MA courses.
Part I acquaints students with the most important current topics and concepts of comparative political economy, as a distinct branch of political economy. Classes cover some most important theoretical approaches about the role of socio-political structures and institutions on economic development and about the linkages between political and economic institutions.
Part II discusses basic questions in political sociology mostly focusing on the holders of power and the way power is exercised in a society. In this seminar, sociological analysis is applied to the political field, and attention is paid to social determinants and sources of political power, state formation, theories of the state, political and economic elites. The relationship between political transformation and elite change will also be discussed, just as the structure vs agency debate.

Course objectives
The main aim of the course is to help students understand the social and economic embeddedness of political processes and to familiarize them with some of the most fundamental approaches in the domain of political sociology and political economy, as well with its contemporary currents. It will allow students to understand the different theoretical approaches to the study of power, state, civil society, elites, and the role of economy in influencing policy making. The seminar program is designed in such a way that maximizes the interactions between different schools of thoughts.

Learning outcome
During the course students enhance their capacity of critical thinking and ability to express their own opinions. They are expected to learn how to analyze and interpret political processes and political behavior from sociological and political economic perspectives and, at the same time, understand the political impact on social and economic structures on citizens social and labor market position and their attitudes, aspirations and values.

Requirements and assessments
Since this is a reading seminar, students are expected to do the reading thoroughly before the class meeting for which it is assigned, and to participate actively in class meetings. Seminars are based on close reading of the texts and active participation of students to ensure lively group discussion on each topic. Classes are designed to be highly interactive and to give students a chance to develop their oral and written ability to marshal analytical arguments concerning issues at hand.
Students will be asked to give shorter presentations on selected readings in order to introduce the topic for further discussion. Presenters are expected to write a short handout for others by the beginning of the class.
Evaluation
- activity (in-class participation + weekly written questions and comments) 2 x 10 = 20 %
- in class presentation, handout 2 x 15 = 30 %
- mid-term exams in-class, closed book 2 x 25 = 50 %

PART ONE:
POLITICAL ECONOMY

Class 1: January 10. Introduction


Further readings:

Class 2 & 3. January 12, 17. Economics, Politics and Society

Peter Gourevitch: Politics in Hard Times. (Ithaca, New York; Cornell University Press, 1986).Chapters 1, 2 and 6, pp. 17-71; 221-241

Further readings:
Polanyi, K. (1944), The Great Transformation, Boston: Beacon Press, ch.10

Class 4 & 5: January 19, 24. Political systems and economic development

Albert O. Hirschman, “The Turn to Authoritarianism in Latin America and the Search for its Economic Determinants”. In: David Collier, Fernando Henrique Cardoso (eds), The New Authoritarianism in Latin America. Princeton University Press, 1979, pp. 61-98
Further readings:


Class 6 & 7: January 26, 31. Political institutions and economic development


Further readings:


Pontusson, J., From Comparative Public Policy to Political Economy: Putting Political Institutions in Their Place and Taking Interests Seriously, Comparative Political Studies, 28, 1 (Spring 1995), 117-147


Class 8 & 9: February 2, 7. Development patterns and capitalist diversity


Further readings:


Theda Skocpol, “Bringing the State back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research”, in Bringing the State Back In , edited by Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1985), pp. 3-43


Bob Jessop, Bringing the State Back in (Yet Again): Reviews, Revisions, Rejections, and Redirections, manuscript (2000)

Class 10 & 11: February 9, 14. Institutional complementarities and the varieties of capitalism


Peter Hall and Kathleen Thelen, “Institutional Change in Varieties of Capitalism”. Socio-Economic Review, 7, 2009, 7-34


Further readings:


Herbert Kitschelt, Peter Lange, Gary Marks and John D. Stephens (1999 eds.): Continuity and Change in Contemporary Capitalism. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press 8


Class 12: February 16. 1st midterm exam
PART TWO
POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

WEEK 7. February 21. Interpretations of Society


Further readings

February 23. Power I.


Further readings
WEEK 2. February 28, March 2. Power II.


Further readings


Further readings


WEEK 4. March 14, 16. The State II.


Optional readings
Hannah Arendt 1958. „Totalitarian Imperialism” In. The Origins of Totalitarianism


WEEKS 5-6. March 21, 23, 28. Elite Theory and Historical Transformations


Optional readings


March 30. 2nd midterm exam