POSC 545, Critical Issues in Politics and Policy: Comparative Political Economy

Professor Sellers

Summer 2014

This course offers an overview of the literature in comparative political economy, including the politics of the economy as well as a range of related public policies. The course will be organized around pairings of literature on common themes in developed countries, on the one hand, and developing countries on the other. Assignments will consist of brief discussion postings for each segment and a term paper due at the end of the semester. Readings will be tailored to the regional and thematic interests of students who enroll; the list below is subject to consolidation and changes depending on student preferences. Seminar meetings will be arranged flexibly to accommodate summer travel schedules.

Tentative list of topics (subject to student interest; some topics may be consolidated into a single session):

1. General Approaches to Political Economy
2. Institutions in Political Economy
3. Interest intermediation (Corporatism, pluralism, etc.)
4. Varieties of Capitalism in the Developed World
5. Varieties of Capitalism in the Developing World
6. Economic Geography of Capitalism and Regional Development
7. The Political Economy of Development: Frameworks
8. Development and Underdevelopment in Historical Perspective
9. The State and Economic Development in the Developed World
10. The State and Economic Development in the Developing World
11. Political Economy of the Welfare State in the Developed World
12. Political Economy of the Welfare State in the Developing World
13. Political Economy of Environmental Policy