

**GV907-7-FY
Political Economy
2023**

Lecturer and Module Supervisor

Dr Nicole Rae Baerg

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Room:

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 3pm-4pm & Thursdays 4pm-5pm

Module Administrator

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Module available for Study Abroad students: Yes No

ASSESSMENT: This module is assessed by 100% coursework

INSTANT DEADLINE CHECKER

Must be submitted by 09:45am on the day of the lecture

Assignment Title	Due Date	Coursework Weighting*	Feedback Due
Critical Writing Assignment 1	09.45am Week 6	20%	Week 8
Critical Writing Assignment 2	09.45am Week 9	20%	Week 11
Research Paper Preregistration	09.45am Week 11	60%	2 weeks

* A note about weightings: We need weightings of coursework to **add up to 100%**. The university system automatically calculates the aggregate mark based on whether there is an exam or not and adjusts accordingly.

STUDY ABROAD ASSESSMENT

This class can be taken by study abroad students. Assessment is the same for all study abroad students.

TOP READS

All readings per week are **compulsory and *** readings are recommended**

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This is a graduate course on political economy. The course bridges together topics in international relations, comparative political economy, and economics. The goals of the course are to (a) introduce students to contemporary scholarly research on political economy topics, (b) introduce students to strategic models in political science using substantive applications, and (c) stimulate students to form original ideas for promising quantitative research projects in the area of contemporary political economy

The course is broken into a number of themes. In these weeks, we will examine how domestic and international politics drive trade, investment, financial, and immigration policies and outcomes. We will also look at the relationship between political institutions and economic outcomes as well as the effects of economic phenomenon on institutions. The class emphasizes the theoretical core and some current debates in the field but also aims to expose students to some nuts and bolts of topics related to political economy (broadly defined) and chief methods by which scholars acquire knowledge of the subject.

MODULE & AIMS

Students will require, use and develop the following key skills:

- Transfer of ideas: students will be helped to follow and assess quantitative research in other modules – parties and elections, comparative politics, IR, and so on;
- Improving independent learning and performance: Students will learn to address their own research topics in a quantitative framework with an eye towards scholarly publication;
- Communication, interaction, and peer review: Classes involve not only questions from me but also group discussions; students are required to give formal feedback to other students in written form;
- Writing: Students learn how to theorize, generate empirically testable hypotheses, and report on and discuss results of quantitative analyses.

MODULE OUTCOMES

By the end of the module students should achieve the following learning outcomes:

- read, understand, and evaluate quantitative analyses and scholarly work published in the leading journals;
- understand evaluation methods for particular research questions, research designs, and variables;
- use various statistical methods, from to multivariate regression models, experiments, and measuring variables of interest;

- able to formulate a plan for quantitative research and document that plan and to work in small teams on research;

MODULE STRUCTURE AND TEACHING

The module will run over 10 weeks. This module will be delivered with a two-hour weekly seminar.

The module is the core module for students on the MA/MSc/MRes in Political Economy and can be taken as an option by students on other Masters courses in the Department of Government.

What we expect of you during lecture and classes:

- Having done the required reading.
- To pay attention and take notes as necessary.
- To think about the readings and lectures notes before the class, and be ready to discuss them: try to identify the key assumptions in the texts; map the structure of the argument; underline the conclusions. Highlight to yourself points you don't understand. Ask yourself whether you agree with the text, whether you can identify weaknesses or gaps in the argument, and what could someone who disagrees with it argue against it.
- To offer your participation as required (answering questions, asking questions etc.). Learning about and discussing these texts is a communal endeavour and it is a matter of good citizenship to contribute. Further, part of what we want you to achieve, and what we mark you for, is clear and confident oral presentation. You are expected to answer questions, raise new points, and contribute to the progression of discussion in class.

ASSESSMENT

This module is assessed by 100% coursework.

Coursework will consist of 2 critical writing assignment (20% each) and a scientific paper preregistration form which completes the .Rmd file I give you (60%) approx 3500. Critical writing assignments will be given to you by the instructor two weeks in advance of the deadline. **Students can use all course reading material (open book) to answer the questions but must work alone. Group work is prohibited for this assignment.** The 2 critical writing assignments should be handed in at the start of class on the week that they are listed in the above table (week 6 and week 9). Feedback is given within two weeks of the submission deadline.

The preregistration plan assessment involves filling out a preregistration plan for research. The instructor will give you a .Rmd file (R markdown file) and you are responsible for filling in the various sections. **Students can choose to work with one other “co-author” or work alone. Students will need to download the software R if they haven’t already.** Students that choose to work in pairs agree that the grade given by the instructor applies to both authors so please be sure that you share the work equally.

COURSEWORK SUBMISSION

How to submit your assignments using FASER

You will be able to access the online submission system via your myEssex portal or via <https://FASER.essex.ac.uk>. FASER allows you to store your work-in-progress. This facility provides you with an ideal place to keep partially completed copies of your work and ensures that no work, even drafts, is lost. If you have problems uploading your coursework, you should contact ltt@essex.ac.uk. You may find it helpful to look at the FASER guide <http://www.essex.ac.uk/it/elearning/faser/default.aspx>. If you have any questions about FASER, please contact your administrator or refer to the handbook.

Under NO circumstances is your coursework to be emailed to the administrators or the lecturer. This will NOT be counted as a submission.

Coursework deadline policy for postgraduates

The university has guidelines on what is acceptable as extenuating circumstances for later submission of coursework. If you need to make a claim, you should upload your coursework to FASER and submit a late submission of coursework form which can be found here: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/late-submission.aspx>. This must be done within seven days of the deadline. FASER closes for all deadlines after seven days. The Late Submissions committee will decide whether your work should be marked and you will be notified of the outcome.

If you experience significant longer-term extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your work either by the deadline or within seven days of the deadline, you should submit an Extenuating Circumstances Form for the Board of Examiners to consider at the end of the year <http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/ext-circ.aspx>.

Extensions

PGT students may apply for an extension if they have a deadline approaching that they know they will not be able to meet. ONLY the Graduate Director has authority to grant extensions. Extensions are only approved IN ADVANCE of the deadline. Students must apply to the Graduate Director, via the Graduate Administrator, using the Extension form available on Moodle or from the Graduate Administrator. You

MUST provide a reason for the request and EVIDENCE that supports your application.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence and whether done wittingly or unwittingly it is your responsibility. **Ignorance is no excuse!** The result of plagiarism could mean receiving a mark of zero for the piece of coursework. In some cases, the rules of assessment are such that a mark of zero for a single piece of coursework could mean that you will fail your degree. If it is a very serious case, you could be required to withdraw from the University. It is important that you understand right from the start of your studies what good academic practice is and adhere to it throughout your studies.

The Department will randomly select coursework for plagiarism checks and lecturers are very good at spotting work that is not your own. **Plagiarism gets you nowhere; DON'T DO IT!**

Following the guidance on referencing correctly will help you avoid plagiarism. Please familiarise yourself with the University's policy on academic offences: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/academic-offences.aspx>.

Extenuating circumstances for late submission of coursework

The university has guidelines on what is acceptable as extenuating circumstances for later submission of coursework. If you need to make a claim, you should upload your coursework to FASER and submit a late submission of coursework form which can be found here: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/late-submission.aspx>. This must be done within seven days of the deadline. FASER closes for all deadlines after seven days. The Late Submissions committee will decide whether your work should be marked and you will be notified of the outcome.

If you experience significant longer-term extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your work either by the deadline or within seven days of the deadline, you should submit an Extenuating Circumstances Form for the Board of Examiners to consider at the end of the year <http://www.essex.ac.uk/students/exams-and-coursework/ext-circ.aspx>.

READINGS

Module Outline

Week 2: Political Economy

Diermeyer, Daniel and Keith Krehbiel. (2003). "Institutionalism as a Methodology." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 15(2): 123-144.

Wellhausen, R. L., Feir, D., & Thrall, C. (2021). The Promise of Economic Integration: Evidence from the First Bank in an American Indian Nation. *Center for Indian Country Development (CICD) at the Federal Reserve of Minneapolis*.

*** Bittle, J. (2023) 'Where Will They Go?', *Commonweal*, 150(4), pp. 46–48. Available at: [link](#) (Accessed: 6 September 2023).

Week 3: Voting, Enfranchisement, and Regimes

Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. (2000). "Why Did the West Extend the Franchise? Democracy, Inequality and Growth in Historical Perspective." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 115: 1167-1199.

Svolik, Milan. (2013). "Learning to Love Democracy: Electoral Accountability and the Success of Democracy." *American Journal of Political Science*. 57(3): 685-702.

Spirling, Arthur. (2016). "Democratization and Linguistic Complexity: The Effect of Franchise Extension on Parliamentary Discourse, 1832–1915," *Journal of Politics*, 78(1): 120-136

Week 4: Lobbying

Grossman, Gene M., and Ethan Helpman. (1994). "Protection for Sale." *American Economic Review*, 84 (4): 833–850.

Bonica, Adam. (2016). "Avenues of Influence: On the Political Expenditures of Corporations and Their Directors and Executives." *Business and Politics*, vol. 18, no. 4, pp. 367–394.

Weschle, Simon. (2021). "Parliamentary Positions and Politicians' Private Sector Earnings: Evidence from the UK House of Commons." *The Journal of Politics* 83.2 000-000.

Week 5: Democracy, Regime Type and Trade

Olson, Mancur. (1993). "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development," *American Political Science Review* 87(3): 567-576.

***Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson. (2001) "The colonial origins of comparative development: An empirical investigation." *American Economic Review* 91, no. 5: 1369-1401.

Kono, Daniel Y. (2006). "Optimal Obfuscation: Democracy and Trade Policy Transparency," *American Political Science Review* 100(3): 369-384.

***Milgrom, Paul, Douglass North, and Barry Weingast. (1990). "The Role of Institutions in the Revival of Trade: The Medieval Law Merchant, Private Judges, and the Champagne Fairs." *Economics and Politics* 2 (March): 1-23.

Boix, Carles, and Milan W. Svolik. "The foundations of limited authoritarian government: Institutions, commitment, and power-sharing in dictatorships." *The Journal of Politics* 75.2 (2013): 300-316.

Week 6: Political Careers

Mattozzi, Andrea., & Merlo, Antonio. (2008). Political careers or career politicians?. *Journal of Public Economics*, 92(3-4), 597-608.

Baerg, Nicole, Gray, Julia., & Willisich, Jacob. (2021). Opportunistic, not optimal delegation: The political origins of central bank independence. *Comparative Political Studies*, 54(6), 956-988.

***Eggers, Andrew C., and Jens Hainmueller. (2009). "MPs for sale? Returns to office in postwar British politics." *American Political Science Review*: 513-533.

Cruz, Cesi, Julien Labonne, and Pablo Querubin. (2017). "Politician family networks and electoral outcomes: Evidence from the Philippines." *American Economic Review* 107.10: 3006-37

***Ritchie, Melinda N., and Hye Young You. (2021) "Women's advancement in politics: evidence from congressional staff." *The Journal of Politics* 83.2: 000-000.

Week 7: Committees

Cirone, Alexandra, and Brenda Van Coppenolle. (2018) "Cabinets, committees, and careers: the causal effect of committee service." *The Journal of Politics* 80.3 948-963

Baerg, Nicole Rae, and Will Lowe. (2018). "A Textual Taylor Rule: Estimating Central Bank Preferences Combining Topic and Scaling Methods." *Political Science Research and Methods*

Clayton, Amanda, Diana Z. O'Brien, and Jennifer M. Piscopo. (2019). "All male panels? Representation and democratic legitimacy." *American Journal of Political Science* 63, no. 1: 113-129.

Week 8: Emigration and Immigration

Abramitzky, Ran, Leah Platt Boustan, and Katherine Eriksson. (2012). "Europe's Tired, Poor, Huddled Masses: Self-Selection and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration," *American Economic Review* 102(5): 1832-56.

Malhotra, Neil, Yotam Margalit, and Cecilia Hyunjung Mo. (2013). "Economic Explanations for Opposition to Immigration: Distinguishing Between Prevalence and Conditional Impact." *American Journal of Political Science*, 57(2): 391-410.

Shin, Adrian J. "Tyrants and Migrants: Authoritarian Immigration Policy." *Comparative Political Studies* 50.1 (2017): 14-40.

Week 9: Is there a Resource Curse?

***Smith, Alastair. (2008). "The Perils of Unearned income." *The Journal of Politics* 70.03: 780-793.

Harris, Adam S., Rachel Sigman, Jan-Hinrik Meyer-Sahling, Kim Sass Mikkelsen, and Christian Schuster. (2020). "Oiling the bureaucracy? political spending, bureaucrats and the resource curse." *World Development* 127: 104745.

Nikolova, Elena, and Nikolay Marinov. (2017). "Do public fund windfalls increase corruption? Evidence from a natural disaster." *Comparative Political Studies* 50.11: 1455-1488.

Doyle, David. (2015). "Remittances and Social Spending." *American Political Science Review* 109.04: 785-802.

***Singer, David. (2010). "Migrant Remittances and Exchange Rate Regimes in the Developing World." *American Political Science Review*, 104(2): 307-323.

*** Lebel, Louis, Phimphakan Lebel, Chanagun Chitmanat, and Patcharawalai Sriyasak. "Benefit sharing from hydropower watersheds: Rationales, practices, and potential." *Water resources and rural development* 4 (2014): 12-28.

Week 10: Political Agents and Agencies

Staton, Jeffrey K. and Georg Vanberg. (2008). "The Value of Vagueness: Delegation, Defiance, and Judicial Opinions." *American Journal of Political Science*, 58 (3): 504-519.

Popova, Maria. (2010). Political competition as an obstacle to judicial independence: Evidence from Russia and Ukraine. *Comparative Political Studies*, 43(10), 1202-1229.

Strong, Christine, and Constant L. Yayi. (2023). "The political affiliation of central bankers and government debt: Evidence from Africa." *International Review of Economics & Finance* 85: 603-620.

Week 11: International Institutions

Johns, Leslie. (2007). "A servant of two masters: communication and the selection of international bureaucrats." *International Organization* 61.02: 245-275.

Gray, Julia. (2009). International Organization as a Seal of Approval: European Union Accession and Investor Risk. *American Journal of Political Science*.

Fang, Songying, and Randall W. Stone. (2012). "International organizations as policy advisors." *International Organization* 66(04): 537-569.