Course Overview
Political Science 441 surveys major issue areas and debates in the fields of International and Comparative Political Economy. It is targeted to Ph.D. students in political science, though graduate students from other fields and ambitious and well-prepared undergraduates are welcome. Forewarned is forearmed: the reading load is heavy, and I expect that each member of the course will be prepared to discuss each of the readings.

Broadly, the subfields of International and Comparative Political Economy involve the study of how politics, emphasizing power, material interests, institutions, and non-material factors (like ideas, norms, and social conventions), shape and are shaped by market forces (transactions involving goods and services, money and financial assets, firms and factories, and workers). Because I do not regard the disciplinary distinction between IPE and CPE as particularly important, the course includes topics and readings from both subfields.

If there are readings/topics that you would like to cover that are not on this version of the syllabus, please bring them to my attention. I also reserve the right to make changes (with the caveat that you will have plenty of warning if I choose to shuffle readings around). The syllabus is an outline, not a contract, and it is subject to change.

Course Requirements and Grading
Active and thoughtful engagement with the material is essential to success in this course. There are four ways in which I try to measure your engagement with and mastery of the course material:

(1) Participation in the course discussion will account for 25% of your final grade. The reading load is substantial and the course will be driven by discussions rather than lectures. For these reasons I strongly urge that you come regularly, on time, and well prepared – you must keep up with the readings and be ready to contribute to the conversation.

(2) All students are required to serve as the authors’ defendant in one course meeting. During the week in which you have been assigned the role of authors’ defendant,
you will be stepping into the shoes of an author of one of the readings assigned for the seminar; you will be responsible for presenting the main arguments and evidence in the reading and will be expected to be prepared to respond to tough questions about the reading that are raised by me or the other members of the group. Your performance as authors’ defendant will account for 10% of your grade.

(3) Each student will write two critical memos that outlines the main argument(s) in one or a set of readings and provides an incisive critique of the material. The critical memos should be submitted via email to me no later than 8 PM the evening before the meeting in which the reading(s) appear. The memos should be in the range of 3-5 pages. The critical memos account for 25% of the final course grade.

(4) For the remaining 40% of your course grade you have two options: (a) you may choose to submit a 15-20 page research proposal that outlines a puzzle that falls within the purview of the class, situates the puzzle in the relevant literature, develops a theoretical argument and observable implications, and sketches how you plan to conduct the research necessary to shed light on the puzzle (what kind of research design will allow you to answer the motivating question?); (b) alternatively, you may write essays based on two field exam-style questions. Like the field exam, you will get the questions and have a short time period in which to compose your responses. Unlike the field exam you will have access to your readings and notes and will not be expected to go much beyond the course readings in constructing your answers.

The due date for the final paper is **Wednesday, June 7**. I should have the paper in my hand by **7:00 PM** on that day. Papers that are submitted after the deadline will be penalized by a half grade (from a B+ to a B, for example) for each 12-hour period that passes after the announced deadline. Barring unusual and challenging personal circumstances, I expect that all students in the course will complete the requirements on time.

If you choose the exam option, we will work out a day and time during finals week in which you will be receive the questions. You will then have 36 hours to complete and submit your essays.

**Recommended Readings**
There is a lengthy list of “additional, recommended” readings following the assigned readings for each week’s seminar meeting. The purpose of the recommendations is to help you (assuming that you are a PhD student in political science) assemble a reading list as you prepare for the qualifying exams in the comparative and IR subfields.
Course Schedule and Reading List

Week 1 (March 31): the past and future of the field


Additional, recommended reading on this topic
Week 2 (April 7): int’l policy coordination and macroeconomic adjustment


*Additional, recommended reading on this topic*


Week 3 (April 14): what drives foreign economic policy openness? The case of the capital account


Additional, recommended reading on this topic


Week 4 (April 21): the puzzle of trade policy preferences


*Additional, recommended reading on this topic*


Week 5 (April 28): sovereign borrowing and creditworthiness


*Additional, recommended reading on this topic*


Week 6 (May 5): varieties of capitalism


Additional, recommended reading on this topic
Wolfgang Streeck and Kozo Yamamura, eds. The Origins of Nonliberal Capitalism: Germany and Japan in Comparison (Cornell University Press, 2005).
Week 7 (May 12): developmental and anti-developmental states


*Additional, recommended reading on this topic*


Week 8 (May 19): old and new perspectives on economic development


Additional, recommended reading on this topic
Week 9 (May 26): commerce and political conflict


*Additional, recommended reading on this topic*