

PS F100X FX1  
**Political Economy**  
Department of Political Science  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
MAYmester 2021

**SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Speight  
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Office Hours: M+F 1-2pm

MAYmester 2021  
MTWRF: 11:00am-1:00pm  
Delivery: WEB

**Course Introduction:**

This course introduces students to concepts and theories related to the political science sub-discipline of political economy. Political economy is the study of the inter-relationship between the economy and politics, as distinct but interrelated fields. This course is divided into five overlapping sections. The first section defines and introduces the capitalism as a political-economic system. The second section introduces students to classic debates in the field of political economy by examining the writings of Adam Smith, Karl Marx and Karl Polanyi. The third section focuses on the development of the American economic system. The fourth part of the class is topical, and examines the political economy of race relations in the United States. The final section introduces students to debates surrounding globalization and the impact of heightened global economic integration. The first two thirds of this class will be offered synchronously online, and the final third will be delivered asynchronously

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon the completion of this class, students will have:

- Defined key concepts in political economy, such as capitalism, states, markets, and private property rights;
- Gained understanding of different academic approaches to conceptualizing and explaining the relationship between the state and the market;
- Become familiar with how the relationship between the state and the market in the United States has changed over time;
- Developed their research, writing and critical thinking skills.

**Required Materials:**

1. Marc Allen Eisner. 2013. *The American Political Economy: Institutional Evolution of the Market and State*. New York: Routledge. (E)
2. Ha-Joon Chang. 2010. *23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism*. London: Penguin Books. (C)

**\*\*\* Other materials will be made available through Blackboard\*\*\***

### **Evaluation:**

<b>Evaluation Format</b>	<b>% of Total Grade</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Participation	10%	NA
Mid-Term Exams*5	5*18%= 90%	May 6 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> + 21 <sup>st</sup>

*Participation (10%):* Students are expected to participate extensively during each class throughout the semester. This means that students are expected to complete ALL of the readings assigned each week, and be prepared to critically discuss them during class time. Due to the condensed nature of any MAYmester course, students are required to be in class and should not miss more than **ONE** class during the course of the semester. Students are responsible for those classes they miss.

*Midterm (5\*15%=75%) Exams:* There will be **FIVE** take-home midterm exams in this class (due **May 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> + 21<sup>st</sup>**). Exams will not be cumulative. All exam responses should be based **ONLY** on **ALL** the readings included for each week. All midterms are due **@11:00am** on their respective due dates.

The take home exams will be comprised of essay format questions (1 or 2 questions). Responses should be between 800 and 900 words in length (although response lengths will be specified question by question). Length requirements do not include the title page and bibliography, which need to be submitted along with your exam-essay response. Responses should be based only on course materials (i.e. **NO outside sources**). Essays should be submitted in WORD or PDF format, be double-spaced, use 12 point Times New Roman font, have margins no larger than 1.25 inches and include a title-page, page numbers, a bibliography and in-text citations (following APSA guidelines, below). Submissions will be evaluated based on the following five (5) criteria:

- *Substantive content:* comprehensive discussion of topic with good use of examples.
- *Analysis:* accurate use of political science concepts; effective use of logical argument to establish points.
- *Research:* use of evidence drawn from the breadth of sources covered each week;
- *Quality of composition and organization of the paper:* grammar, clarity of composition, organization of the paper.
- *Format:* adherence to the word count, limits on direct quotes, citation guidelines, and format for the page layout (e.g., font size, page numbers)

Finally, Students should *limit the use of direct quotations!* The take home exam must be *at least 90% in your own words*, even when you are referring to – and properly citing - other people's ideas. Demonstrate that you understand concepts and arguments by explaining them in your own words.

### **Student Support:**

*COVID-19:* Students should keep up-to-date on the university's policies, practices, and mandates related to COVID-19 by regularly checking this website:

<https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/uaf/uaf-students?authuser=0>. Further, students

are expected to adhere to the university's policies, practices, and mandates and are subject to disciplinary actions if they do not comply.

*Students with disabilities:* Students with disabilities should register with UAF Disabilities Services and follow its procedures for obtaining assistance. If you qualify for modifications or assistance related to disabilities, UAF Disabilities Services will inform me of your needs. I will work with you to accommodate your needs appropriately and fairly.

<p><i>The Writing Centre</i>              801 Gruening Building              (907) 474-5314  <a href="mailto:fywrc@uaf.edu">fywrc@uaf.edu</a>  <a href="http://www.uaf.edu/english/writing-center/">http://www.uaf.edu/english/writing-center/</a></p>	<p><i>The Speaking Center</i>              507 Gruening Building              (907) 474-5470  <a href="mailto:fyspeak@gmail.com">fyspeak@gmail.com</a>  <a href="http://www.uaf.edu/speak/">http://www.uaf.edu/speak/</a></p>
<p><i>Student Support Services</i>              512 Gruening Building              (907) 474-6844  <a href="mailto:trio.sss@alaska.edu">trio.sss@alaska.edu</a>  <a href="http://www.uaf.edu/sss/">http://www.uaf.edu/sss/</a></p>	<p><i>The Office of Disability Services</i>              208 Whitaker Building              (907) 474-5655  <a href="mailto:uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu">uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu</a>  <a href="http://www.uaf.edu/disability/">http://www.uaf.edu/disability/</a></p>
<p><i>Student Health and Counseling Center</i>              210 Whitaker Building              (907) 474-7043 <a href="mailto:uaf-sh-cc@alaska.edu">uaf-sh-cc@alaska.edu</a>  <a href="http://www.uaf.edu/chc/">http://www.uaf.edu/chc/</a></p>	

### **Class Rules:**

*Changes to the syllabus:* In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change. Changes to the syllabus may be made to address practical contingencies (e.g., weather related university closures, unexpected availability of relevant guest speaker), pedagogical concerns (e.g., new assignments), or other similar issues. Students are responsible for announcements posted to Blackboard.

*Medical Leave:* Students who miss exams during the course of the semester **MUST** provide medical documentation. Only excuses accompanied by medical documentation will be accepted.

### *Grades:*

A+ 98-100	B+ 88-89	C+ 78-79	D 60-69
A 93-97	B 83-87	C 73-77	F ≤ 59
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	

*Academic honesty:* Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to plagiarism, cheating on quizzes or exams, falsifying identity or academic records, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Ignorance about what counts as plagiarism or academic dishonesty is not an acceptable excuse. Spot checks of written work will be conducted and other forms of suspected plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be investigated. Any infractions will

be reported and penalized in accordance with departmental and university-wide procedures. For this class, students are required to use APSA in-text citations. Please see the citation guide available at: <https://mk0apsaconnectbvy6p6.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2020/07/Style-Manual-for-Political-Science-July-2020-Revision.pdf>

**University of Alaska-Fairbanks Statement on Academic Honesty:**

Honesty is a primary responsibility of yours and every other UAF student. The following are common guidelines regarding academic integrity:

1. Students will not collaborate on any quizzes, in-class exams or take-home exams that contribute to their grade in a course unless the course instructor grants permission. Only those materials permitted by the instructor may be used to assist in quizzes and examinations.
2. Students will not represent the work of others as their own. Students will attribute the source of information not original with themselves (direct quotes or paraphrases) in compositions, theses and other reports.
3. No work submitted for one course may be submitted for credit in another course without the explicit approval of both instructors.

Alleged violations of the Code of Conduct will be reviewed in accordance with procedures specified in regents policy, university regulations and UAF rules and procedures. For additional information and details about the Student Code of Conduct, see:

[https://www.uaf.edu/catalog/catalog\\_15-16/pdf/04\\_Academics.pdf](https://www.uaf.edu/catalog/catalog_15-16/pdf/04_Academics.pdf)

**Course Outline:**

Part 1: May 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\* May 6<sup>th</sup>: Take Home Mid-Term Exam #1 Due\*\*\*

**Capitalism: A Primer**

Larry Neal. 2014. "Introduction," in (eds.) Larry Neal and Jeffrey G. Williamson, *The Cambridge History of Capitalism Volume 1: From Ancient Origins to 1948*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1-7.

E, Ch. 1

C, Things 1, 12, 19, 21

Part 2: May 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\* May 10<sup>th</sup>: Take-Home Midterm Exam #2 Due\*\*\*

**Classic Perspectives on Political Economy: Smith, Marx and Polanyi**

Adam Smith. 1976 [1776]. *An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (Volume 1), (eds.) R.H. Campbell, A.S. Skinner and W.B. Todd. Oxford: Clarendon Press. Book 1, Ch. 1-2.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. 1955 [1848]. "Manifesto of the Communist Party" in (ed.) Samuel H. Beer, *Marx and Engels: The Communist Manifesto*. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 8-22

Karl Polanyi. 2001 [1944]. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Boston: Beacon Press. Ch. 4-5.

Ben Clift. 2014. *Comparative Political Economy: States, Markets and Global Capitalism*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. 45-56, 64-73.  
C, Things 2, 5, 16

Part 3: May 10<sup>th</sup> + 14<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*May 14<sup>th</sup>: Take Home Midterm Exam #3 Due\*\*\*

**Evolution of the American Political Economy**

E, Ch. 3-7, 10

C, Things 10, 14, 18

Part 4: May 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\* May 18<sup>th</sup>: Take Home Midterm Exam #4 Due\*\*\*

**The Political Economy of Race in the United States**

Michelle Alexander. 2020 [2010]. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York + London. Pages TBA

Michael Powell. 2020. "A Black Marxist Scholar Wanted to Talk about Race: It Ignited a Fury," *The New York Times*. August 18.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/14/us/adolph-reed-controversy.html>

Richard Rothstein. 2017. *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How our Government Segregated America*. New York: Liveright Publishing. Pages TBA

Ta-Nehisi Coates. 2014. "The Case for Reparations," *The Atlantic*. June.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

Part 5: May 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

\*\*\* May 21<sup>st</sup>: Take Home Midterm Exam Due #5 \*\*\*

**States versus Markets: Globalization and the Shifting Loci of Authority**

Jan Nederveen Pieterse. 2020 [2004]. *Globalization and Culture: Global Mélange*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Lanhan: Rowman and Littlefield. Ch. 3

Susan Strange. 1996. *The Retreat of the State: the Diffusion of Power in the World Economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 3-15.

Ben Clift. 2014. *Comparative Political Economy: States, Markets and Global Capitalism*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. 270-274.

Robert J. Franzese Jr. 2019. "The comparative and international political economy of anti-globalization populism," in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.

(E), Ch. 9

(C), Things 7, 8, 22

**ENJOY THE SUMMER!!!!**