

International and Comparative Political Economy

Manuela Moschella

manuela.moschella@unibo.it

1. Overview

International Political Economy (IPE) examines the interplay between politics and economics on a global scale, exploring how international trade, finance, and investment are influenced by political decisions and power dynamics. Comparative Political Economy (CPE), on the other hand, focuses on the differences and similarities in economic systems and policies across countries, analyzing how political institutions shape economic outcomes.

This course is designed to provide students with a practical, hands-on approach to studying significant and complex questions in IPE and CPE. Through a blend of theoretical insights and contemporary case studies, students will engage with critical issues such as institutional change, globalization, and the green transition. By equipping students with a variety of analytical tools and theoretical frameworks, the course aims to empower them not only to understand pressing challenges in political and economic policy but also to critically reflect on how to move from theory to empirical investigation

2. Course Format

The course comprises five seminar meetings, scheduled as follows:

1. Institutions and Economic Growth (January 8, 11 am -1 pm)
2. Growth Models and Capitalism (January 15, 11 am-1 pm)
3. The Making of Globalization (January 22, 11 am -1 pm)
4. The Green Transition and the Politics of Economic Restructuring (January 29, 11 am-1 pm)
5. Economic Policymaking: Interests, Ideas, and Institutions (February 5, 9 am - 11 am)

Class Structure:

- Students are expected to take a proactive approach by thoroughly reading all assigned articles.
- Each student will present and discuss at least one of the readings according to the calendar that will be circulated before the start of the classes.

3. Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand and articulate the key concepts and frameworks of International Political Economy (IPE) and Comparative Political Economy (CPE).
- Analyze the interplay between politics and economics in shaping policies and institutions at both the national and international levels.
- Apply theoretical insights to contemporary global issues, such as globalization, institutional change, and the green transition.
- Develop and refine research questions that address significant challenges in IPE and CPE, and identify alternative paths to empirical investigation.

4. Assessment

The assessment for this course will be conducted jointly with the courses taught by Professors Andreatta and Dian. Students are expected to write a short research memo (1,500 words) explaining the research question of their PhD thesis, following the instructions provided below.

The deadline for submission is **February 28, 2025**.

Content of the Research Memo:

- 1. Research Question (approximately 200 words):**
 - Clearly state your research question.
 - Example: "How do political institutions influence the effectiveness of green transition policies in different national contexts?"
- 2. Significance of the Question (approximately 400 words):**
 - Explain why the research question is important. Discuss its relevance to contemporary debates and issues.

- Address the potential implications of the research findings for scholars in your field.
3. **Broader Social Science Context (approximately 400 words):**
- Situate the research question and empirical research within the larger framework of social science inquiry. Identify the broader question(s) or issue(s) the specific research seeks to address.
 - For example, based on the research question above, you could discuss how your question addresses broader issues related to the role of political institutions in shaping economic outcomes or topics concerning capitalist development.

5. Schedule and readings

1. Political Institutions and Economic Growth (January 8, 11 am -1 pm)

- North, Douglass and Barry Weingast, (1989) "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth Century England," *Journal of Economic History* (December 1989).
- Thelen, Kathleen (2004) *How Institutions Evolve. The Political Economy of Skills in Germany, Britain, the United States, and Japan*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, Chapter 1

2. Growth Models and Capitalism (January 15, 11 am-1 pm)

- Baccaro L, Blyth M, Pontusson J (2022) *Diminishing returns*. Oxford University Press, New York, Introduction.
- Schmidt, Vivien (2002) *The Future of European Capitalism*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, Chapters 1 and 2.

3. The Making of Globalization (January 22, 11 am -1 pm)

- Helleiner, E. (1994) *States and the reemergence of global finance: from Bretton Woods to the 1990s*. Ithaca and London, Cornell University Press, Chapter 1
- Kentikelenis, Alexander and Sarah Babb (2019) "The Making of Neoliberal Globalization: Norm Substitution and the Politics of Clandestine Institutional Change." *American Journal of Sociology* 124(6).

4. The Green Transition and the Politics of Economic Restructuring (January 29, 11 am-1 pm)

- Downey, Leah and Mark Blyth (2024) “Macrofinance the Green Transformation: Nudging, Attracting, and Coercing Capital Towards Decarbonization”. *Review of International Political Economy*
- Kupzok, Nils and Nahm (2024) *Green Macrofinancial Bargains: How Economic Interests Enable and Limit Climate Action*. *Review of International Political Economy*.

5. Economic Policymaking: Interests, Institutions, and Ideas (February 5, 9 am - 11 am)

- Hall PA (1993) Policy Paradigms, Social Learning, and the State: The Case of Economic Policymaking in Britain. *Comparative Politics* 25, 275-296.
- McNamara, Katherine (1998) *The Currency of Ideas: Monetary Politics and the European Union*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, Chapter 1 and 2