

Advanced Topics in Political Economy

Master in Social Sciences

Course 2023-2024

Professor: [Amuitz Garmendia](#) (Office: 18.2.E.04)

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Class Day: Mondays

Hours: 10:00 – 13:00

Office Hours: Fridays

Hours: 9:00 – 12:00

Course Objectives

The objective of this second year course is to introduce students to the discussion and analysis of a number of Advanced Topics in Political Economy. Students will be exposed to a selection of topics that, whereas it is by no means exhaustive, will present them a panoply of current debates, mainly in the political economy of democracies, although the rise of authoritarianism in democracies and issues related to autocratic politics will also be discussed. Advanced academic research will be presented with the aim of expanding their analytical skills. The ultimate goal is to ensure that students understand, engage and can contribute to current research activity in the discipline.

Course Structure

The course has an advanced research seminar structure. There will be 2 to 3 required readings and some additional recommended pieces for every session. Students are expected to come to class having read the material and prepared to participate in every class discussion.

Course Evaluation

The grade of this course will be based on the individual performance of each student in the following three activities:

1. **Analytical assessment of the readings (30 %):** Every week each student is expected to provide a short (1-2 pages) assessment of the readings. Students will always

answer question A in their assessments and will choose between answering B and C afterwards:

A. What is the main contribution of the readings?

B. The empirical methods chosen in the readings? Why have the authors chosen them? Are there potentially better empirical approaches that the authors could have used?

C. What research project would you propose to move the research on this area forward?

The analytical assessment should consider all readings assigned, but it is possible to pay particular attention to a single reading.

2. **Class Participation (30 %):** Active class involvement is an important part of the success of this course. Students are expected to participate in class discussions, not only by presenting their ideas but by politely engaging with others’.

3. **Final Paper (40 %):** Each student is expected to write a short research paper related to any of the topics covered in the course. The paper must: a) state a clear research question, b) motivate the importance of the question empirically, c) discuss the contribution of the paper relative to prior work, d) present a research design, e) report empirical analyses. These can be both descriptive and hypothesis testing. The last day of class (May 8th), students will present their paper project and receive feedback on it. The paper is due on the exam date.

<i>Class Participation</i>	◇	30 %
<i>Reading’s Assessment</i>	◇	30 %
<i>Final Paper</i>	◇	40 %
Total	◇	100 %

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (January 29th): Culture in Historical Political Economy

The first three weeks introduce the concept of culture (origins, transmission, persistence, and change) as a valuable analytical asset for research. Increasingly, scholarship in economics and political science has focused on the role of culture as a means of persistence of bad outcomes (and, occasionally, good outcomes too!).

Greif, Avner. (2006). “Family Structure, Institutions, and Growth: the Origins and Implications of Western Corporations.” *American Economic Review* 96(2): 308-312.

Nunn, Nathan and Leonard Wantchekon. 2011. “The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa.” *American Economic Review*, 101(7): 3221-52.

Bicchieri, Cristina. (2017). *Norms in the Wild: How to Diagnose, Measure, and Change Social Norms*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1.

Some Other Recommended Readings

Boyd, Robert and Peter J. Richerson. (1985). *Culture and the Evolutionary Process*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (Chapters 1 and 3).

Putnam, Robert. (1993). *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton University Press (Chapter 5).

Rubin, Jared. "Culture in Historical Political Economy". [Broadstreet Blog](#)

Lowes, Sara. (2022). "Culture in Historical Political Economy". *National Bureau of Economic Research*, no. w30511.

Week 2 (February 5th): Cultural Transmission, Persistence, and Change

Axelrod, Robert. (1997). "The dissemination of culture: A model with local convergence and global polarization." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41(2): 203-226.

Rozenas, Arturas and Yuri Zhukov. (2019). "Mass Repression and Political Loyalty: Evidence from Stalin's ' Terror by Hunger'." *American Political Science Review* 113(2): 569-583.

Dinas, Elias, Martínez Soler, Sergi and Vicente Valentim. (2022). "Social Norm Change, Political Symbols, and Expression of Stigmatized Preferences". *Journal of Politics*, Conditionally Accepted.

Some Other Recommended Readings

Axelrod, Robert. (1986). "An Evolutionary Approach to Norms." *American Political Science Review* 80(4): 1095-1111.

Greif, Avner and David D. Laitin. (2004). "A Theory of Endogenous Institutional Change". *American Political Science Review* : 633-652.

Christakis, Nicholas and James Fowler. (2013). "Social Contagion Theory: Examining Dynamic Social Networks and Human Behavior." *Statistics in Medicine* 32(4): 556-577.

Week 3 (February 12th): The Economic and Political Effects of Culture

Guiso, Luigi, Sapienza, Paolo, and Luigi Zingales. (2006). "Does Culture Affect Economic Outcomes?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20(2): 23-48.

Kulkarni, Parashar. (2017). "The British Academy Brian Barry Prize Essay: Can Religious

Norms Undermine Effective Property Rights?: Evidence from Inheritance Rights of Widows in Colonial India." *British Journal of Political Science*, 47(3), 479-499.

Posner, Daniel. (2004). "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98(4) 529-545.

Some Other Recommended Readings

Tabellini, Guido. (2010). "Culture and Institutions: Economic Development in the Regions of Europe". *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 8(4): 677-716.

Campante, Filipe and David Yanagizawa. (2015). "Does Religion Affect Economic Growth and Happiness? Evidence from Ramadan". *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 130(2): 615-658.

Charnysh, Volha (2019). "Diversity, Institutions, and Economic Outcomes: Post-WWII Displacement in Poland". *American Political Science Review* 113(2): 423-441.

Week 4 (February 19th): Ethnic and National Identity

Building on the importance of common values for the economic and political functioning of a regime, this week delves into the origin, as well as the role, of ethnic or national identities as a manifestation of preferences towards a social group.

Shayo, Moses. (2009). "A Model of Social Identity with an Application to Political Economy: Nation, Class, and Redistribution." *American Political Science Review* 103(2): 147-174.

Charnysh, Volha, Lucas, Christopher, and Singh, Prerna. (2015). "The Ties That Bind: National Identity Salience and Pro-Social Behavior Toward the Ethnic Other." *Comparative Political Studies*, 48(3): 267-300.

Dehdari, Sirius H., and Kai Gehring. 2022. "The Origins of Common Identity: Evidence from Alsace-Lorraine." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 14 (1): 261-92.

Some Other Recommended Readings

Hobsbawm, Eric. (1972). "The Social Function of the Past: Some Questions". *Past and Present* 55: 3-17.

Anderson, Benedict. (1991). *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso Press (Chapter 5).

Akerlof, George and Rachel E. Kranton. (2000). "Economics and Identity". *Quarterly journal of economics* 115(3): 715-753.

Miguel, Edward and Mary Kay Gugerty. (2005). "Ethnic Diversity, Social Sanctions, and Public Goods in Kenya". *Journal of Public Economics* 89: 325-68.

Rico, Guillem and Kent Jennings. (2012). "The Intergenerational Transmission of Contending Place Identities". *Political Psychology* 33(5): 723-742.

Week 5 (February 26th): Out-Groups and Social Affection

The social identification with a group inevitably creates an out-group. Out-groups and extreme situations of animosity towards them represent a recent fruitful line of research when studying multiple economic and political outcomes.

Paluck, Elizabeth and Donald P. Green. (2009). "Prejudice Reduction: What Works? A Review and Assessment of Research and Practice". *Annual Review of Psychology* 60(1): 339-367.

Levendusky, Matthew. (2018). "Americans, Not Partisans: Can Priming American National Identity Reduce Affective Polarization?" *Journal of Politics* 80(1): 59-70.

Dinas, Elias, Fouka, Vasiliki, and Alain Schlapfer. (2021). "Family History and Attitudes toward Out-Groups: Evidence from the European Refugee Crisis". *Journal of Politics* 83(2): 647-661.

Some Other Recommended Readings

McConnell, Christopher, Margalit, Yotam, Malhotra, Neil, and Matthew Levendusky. (2018). "The Economic Consequences of Partisanship in a Polarized Era". *American Journal of Political Science* 62(1): 5-18.

Iyengar, Shanto, Lelkes, Yphtach, Levendusky, Matthew, Malhotra, Neil and Sean J. Westwood. (2019). "The origins and consequences of affective polarization in the United States". *Annual Review of Political Science* 22(1): 129-146.

Wojcieszak, Magdalena and Benjamin Warner. (2020). "Can interparty contact reduce affective polarization? A systematic test of different forms of intergroup contact." *Political Communication* 37(6): 789-811.

Hobolt, Sara, Leeper, Thomas, and James Tilley. (2021). "Divided by the Vote: Affective Polarization in the Wake of the Brexit Referendum." *British Journal of Political Science* 51(4): 1476-1493.

Week 6 (March 4th): Social Sorting

Recent research on social divisions shows the existence of homophily in a range of seemingly nonpolitical domains. This week focuses on the existence of such a trend on individuals actual (geographical) moving behavior.

Gingrich, Jane and Ben Ansell. (2014). "Sorting for Schools: Housing, Education and Inequality". *Socio-Economic Review* 12(2): 329–351.

Maxwell, Rahsaan. (2019). "Cosmopolitan Immigration Attitudes in Large European Cities: Contextual or Compositional Effects?". *American Political Science Review* 113(2): 456-474.

Brown, Jacob and Ryan Enos. (2021). "The Measurement of Partisan Sorting for 180 Million Voters". *Nature Human Behaviour* 5(8): 998-1008.

Some Other Recommended Readings

Tiebout, Charles. (1956). "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures". *Journal of Political Economy* 64(5): 416-424.

Chen, Jowei and Jonathan Rodden. (2013). "Unintentional Gerrymandering: Political Geography and Electoral Bias in Legislatures". *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 8(3): 239-269.

Mummolo, Jonathan and Clayton Nall. (2017). "Why Partisans Do Not Sort: The Constraints on Political Segregation." *Journal of Politics* 79(1): 45-59.

Brown, Jacob. (2021). "Partisan Conversion Through Neighborhood Influence: How Voters Adopt the Partisanship of their Neighbors and Reinforce Geographic Polarization". [Working Paper](#).

Week 7 (March 11th): Geographic Inequalities

Whether subjective or objective, this week examines the role of geographic inequalities when shaping certain particular outcomes such as state capacity, economic segregation, policy responsiveness, political behavior, etc.

Nemerever, Zoe and Melissa Rogers. (2021). "Measuring the Rural Continuum in Political Science". *Political Analysis*, 29(3), 267-286.

Muller-Crepon, Carl, Schvitz, Guy and Cederman, Lars-Erik (2023). "Shaping states into nations: the effects of ethnic geography on state borders." *American Journal of Political Science*, available online.

Ziblatt, Daniel, Hilbig, Hanno, and Daniel Bischof. (2023). "Wealth of Tongues: Why Peripheral Regions Vote for the Radical Right in Germany." *American Political Science Review*, available online.

Some Other Recommended Readings

Michalopoulos, Stelios. (2012). "The Origins of Ethnolinguistic Diversity". *American Economic Review*, 102(4): 1508-39.

Acemoglu, Daron, García-Jimeno, Camilo, and James Robinson. (2015). "State Capacity and Economic Development: A Network Approach". *American Economic Review* 105(8), 2364-2409.

Jacobs, Nicholas and Kal Munis. (2019). "Place-Based Imagery and Voter Evaluations: Experimental Evidence on the Politics of Place". *Political Research Quarterly* 72(2), 263-277.

Flavin, Patrick and Franko, William. (2020). "Economic Segregation and Unequal Policy Responsiveness." *Political Behavior* 42(3):845-864.

Beramendi, Pablo and Melissa Rogers. (2022). *Geography, Capacity, and Inequality: Spatial Inequality (Elements in Political Economy)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (Chapters 4 to 8).

Walter, André and Patrick Emmenegger. (2022). "Ethnic Minorities, Interstate War, and Popular Support for Fiscal Capacity Development". *Comparative Political Studies* 0(0).

Week 8 (March 18th): The Non-Democratic Legacies of Democracies

Reflecting upon some of the previously discussed cultural and economic inequalities, the last three weeks of classes focus on the most acute challenges that democracies face nowadays: overcoming the various manifestations of existing authoritarian legacies, the constant need for effective representation, and the existing incentives for self-defeating strategies by elites.

Dinas, Elias and Ksenia Northmore-Ball. (2020). "The Ideological Shadow of Authoritarianism". *Comparative Political Studies* 53(12): 1957-1991.

Homola, Jonathan, Pereira, Miguel, and Margareth Tavits. (2020). "Legacies of the Third Reich: Concentration Camps and Out-group Intolerance". *American Political Science Review* 114(2), 573-590.

Paglayan, Agustina S (2022). "Education or Indoctrination? The Violent Origins of Public School Systems in an Era of State-Building." *American Political Science Review* 116(4): 1242-1257.

Some Other Recommended Readings

Acharya, Avidit, Blackwell, Matthew and Maya Sen. (2016). "The Political Legacy of American Slavery." *Journal of Politics* 78(3): 621-641.

Lupu, Noam and Leonid Peisakhin. (2017). "The legacy of political violence across generations." *American Journal of Political Science* 61(4): 836-851.

Simpser, Alberto, Slater, Dan and Jason Wittenberg. (2018). "Dead but not gone: Contemporary legacies of communism, imperialism, and authoritarianism." *Annual Review of Political Science* 21: 419-439.

Haas, Nicholas, and Lindstand, Emmy (2023). "My History or Our History? Historical Revisionism and Entitlement to Lead." *American Political Science Review*. 1-25.

Week 9 (April 8th): Failures of Representation in Democracies

Suryanarayan, Pavithra. (2019). "When do the poor vote for the right wing and why: Status hierarchy and vote choice in the Indian states". *Comparative Political Studies* 52(2), 209-245.

Castanho Silva, Bruno and Christopher Wratil. (2021). "Do parties' representation failures affect populist attitudes? Evidence from a multinational survey experiment." *Political Science Research and Methods*, 1-16.

Pereira, Miguel (2021). "Understanding and Reducing Biases in Elite Beliefs About the Electorate." *American Political Science Review* 115(4): 1308-1324.

Some Other Recommended Readings

Tavits, Margit and Joshua Potter. (2015). "The Effect of Inequality and Social Identity on Party Strategies". *American Journal of Political Science* 59(3): 744-758.

Rueda, David and Daniel Stegmueller. (2016). "The Externalities of Inequality: Fear of Crime and Preferences for Redistribution in Western Europe". *American Journal of Political Science* 60(2): 472-489.

Voorheis, John, McCarthy, Nolan, and Boris Shor. (2016). "Unequal Incomes, Ideology and Gridlock: How Rising Inequality Increases Political Polarization". *Working Paper*.

Abizadeh, Arash. (2021). "Counter-Majoritarian Democracy: Persistent Minorities, Federalism, and the Power of Numbers". *American Political Science Review* 115(3): 742-756.

Bonomi, Giampaolo, Gennaioli, Nicola, and Guido Tabellini. (2021). "Identity, Beliefs, and Political Conflict". *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 136(4): 2371-2411.

Week 10 (April 15th): Polarization and Democratic Backsliding

Graham, Matthew and Milan Svobik (2020). "Democracy in America? Partisanship, Polarization, and the Robustness of Support for Democracy in the United States". *American Political Science Review* 114(2): 392-409.

Grumbach, Jacob. (2022). "Laboratories of Democratic Backsliding". *American Political Science Review*: 1-22.

Valentim, Vicente. "Norms of Democracy, Staged Democrats, and Supply of Exclusionary Ideology." *Working Paper*: <https://osf.io/preprints/osf/q4xn9>

Some Other Recommended Readings

Scheve, Ken and David Stasavage. (2017). "Wealth Inequality and Democracy". *Annual Review of Political Science* 20(1): 451-468.

Svolik, Milan. (2018). "When Polarization Trumps Civic Virtue: Partisan Conflict and the Subversion of Democracy by Incumbents". *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 15: 3-31.

Levitsky, Steven and Daniel Ziblatt. (2019). *How democracies die*. Crown.

Luo, Zhaotian and Adam Przeworski. (Forthcoming). "Democracy and its vulnerabilities: Dynamics of democratic backsliding." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*.

Little, Andrew and Anne Meng (2024). Measuring Democratic Backsliding. *PS: Political Science and Politics*: 1-13.

Week 11 (April 22nd): PRESENTATIONS

Week 12 (April 29th): PRESENTATIONS

Week 13 (May 6th): MAKE-UP DAY