

POLI 4062 COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY, FALL 2020
THE POLITICS OF CAPITALISM

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Virtual Class Meeting: 9:00 – 10:20 am on Tuesdays

Weekly Quiz: 9:00 – 10:20 am on Thursdays

Virtual Office Hours: 10:00 – 11:00 am on Wednesdays, or by appointment

Inequality is more important now than ever, for the world is becoming an overtly unequal place. Inequality of both conditions and opportunities is rising around the world to the point where it poses a serious threat to actually existing capitalism. Rising inequality synchronizes with hyper globalization, a growing number of precarious workers, the creation of burnout society, the deepening of identity politics, the rise of demagogic nationalism, and democratic backsliding. The crux of what's going on in the world today lies in global inequality.

Through lectures and discussions, we will consider answer questions, such as: Why are they so rich and we so poor? Why are they so powerful and we so weak? Who are “we” and “they”? How do we compare? What are the historical origins of global inequality? What are the consequences of rising

REQUIREMENTS

This online course is based on both synchronous and asynchronous methods. This means that we will have a virtual class meeting via Zoom for 10:00 am on Tuesdays. Students will take a quiz during the class time for 9:00-10:20 am on Thursday. Power Point slides will be posted after virtual class meetings on Tuesdays so that students should read them as well as the required readings to prepare for weekly quizzes and exams. Hence, students are expected to join virtual class meetings on Tuesdays, take weekly quizzes on Thursdays and the Power Point slides as well as the required readings, and write reaction papers (see below). This is an online course that moves rapidly, so it is extremely important to pay close attention to the course schedule and check the course Moodle regularly.

1) Attendance (3% = 13 virtual class meetings excluding first one \times 1% for each class)
As in-person classes it is imperative to join virtual class meetings regularly in which the text, topics, and categories are discussed, problematized and critiqued. Attendance will be taken for each class. Students may earn credit for their attendance at each class, while repeated and unexcused absence will cause deduction in student's total grade. Do not record a virtual class meeting by circumstances as you do not record an in-

GRADING SCALE

A+	100 ~ 97	B+	89 ~ 87	C+	79 ~ 77	D+	69 ~ 67	F	59 ~ 0
A	96 ~ 93	B	86 ~ 83	C	76 ~ 73	D	66 ~ 63		

II. THE DYNAMICS OF CAPITALISM

Week 6 September 28-October 4 The Fundamental “Laws” of the Capitalist Development
Why is Piketty so popular? Capitalism revisited. Classical economics vs. neoclassical economics.
Critiques of mainstream economics helped curve revisited. Trente glorieuses turning points in history.

- x Reaction paper on Piketty is due: 9:00 am on Tuesday, September 29
- x Virtual class meeting 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, September 29
- x Quiz 4 9:00-10:20am on Thursday, October 1

Week 7: October 5-11 The Fundamental “Law” (Continued)
Conception of capital and wealth. Physical capital vs. human capital. Data. Measurement issues. First and second fundamental “laws.” Elasticity of the substitution between capital and labor.

- x Keep reading/consulting Piketty
- x Virtual class meeting 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, October 6
- x Quiz 5: 9:00-10:20am on Thursday, October 8

Week 8: October 12-18 Inequality and Growth
Tradeoff between efficiency and equity. Effects of inequality on growth: theoretical formulations.
Statistical findings. : H D O W K L Q H T X D O L W \ A S R Z H U a r d C o l l e c t i v i s m \ S o c i a l I s e p a r a t i s m \ S o c i e t a

- x Read: Van der Weide, Roy, and Branko Milanovic. 2018. “Inequality is Bad for Growth for the Poor (but Not for That of the Rich).” *The World Bank Economic Review* 53(3): 507-
- x Virtual class meeting 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, October 13
- x Quiz 6 9:00-10:20am on Thursday, October 15

Week 9 October 19-25 The Structure of Inequality and Democratic Capitalism
Importance of inheritance. Patrimonial capitalism. Political redistribution. Progressive income tax and global wealth tax. Social state. Generic problems with the mainstream model of comparative statics.

- x Keep reading/consulting Piketty
- x Virtual class meeting 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, October 20
- x Second exam: 9:00-10:20am on Thursday, October 22

III. THE POLITICS OF INEQUALITY

Week 10 October 26-November 1 Representative Democracy in an Unequal Society
Rich, middle class, and poor. Who are the rich? Survey method. Policy preferences and policy responsiveness. “The most unsettling graph in American Politics.” Representational inequality. Interest groups and special interests. Money buys votes and policies. Question presentation revisited.

- x Reaction paper on Gilens is due: 9:00 am on Tuesday, October 27
- x Virtual class meeting 10:00-11:20 am on Tuesday, October 27
- x Quiz 7: 9:00-10:20am on Thursday, October 29

Week 11: November 22- Election Week – no meeting, no quiz in this week

Week 12 November 29- Representative Democracy in an Unequal Society (Ed) Structural dependence of the state on capital. Sociological origins of the state. Capture theory. The state in capitalism vs. the capitalist state. Hegemony revisited. Democracy “the best possible political shell for capitalism”?

- x Keep reading/consulting Gilens.
- x Virtual class meeting: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, November 10
- x Quiz 8 9:00-10:20am on Thursday, November 12

Week 13: November 26- Neoliberalism as a Political Project Liberalism and neoliberalism. Mont Pèlerin Society. Protestivals in the 60s. ~~est interdite~~ Trilateral Commission. ~~ces of the 70s~~ From class compromise to class domination. Washington Consensus. TINA (There Is No alternative) ~~o class~~ Doctrine Privatization. Flexibilization. Financialization. “Never let a serious crisis go to waste” ~~Strange~~ death of neoliberalism.

- x Reaction paper on Hardie: 9:00 am on Tuesday, November 17
- x Virtual class meeting: 9:00-10:20 am on Tuesday, November 17
- x Quiz 9 9:00-10:20am on Thursday, November 19

Week 14: November 29- Sociocultural Conditions of “Everyday Life” Disturbing consequences of neoliberal policies. Fundamental liberal ~~Markets~~ society. “The entrepreneur of the self” ~~(M)(B)(C)(E)(G)(H)(I)(J)(K)(L)(M)(N)(O)(P)(Q)(R)(S)(T)(U)(V)(W)(X)(Y)(Z)(AA)(AB)(AC)(AD)(AE)(AF)(AG)(AH)(AI)(AJ)(AK)(AL)(AM)(AN)(AO)(AP)(AQ)(AR)(AS)(AT)(AU)(AV)(AW)(AX)(AY)(AZ)(BA)(BB)(BC)(BD)(BE)(BF)(BG)(BH)(BI)(BJ)(BK)(BL)(BM)(BN)(BO)(BP)(BQ)(BR)(BS)(BT)(BU)(BV)(BW)(BX)(BY)(BZ)(CA)(CB)(CC)(CD)(CE)(CF)(CG)(CH)(CI)(CJ)(CK)(CL)(CM)(CN)(CO)(CP)(CQ)(CR)(CS)(CT)(CU)(CV)(CW)(CX)(CY)(CZ)(DA)(DB)(DC)(DD)(DE)(DF)(DG)(DH)(DI)(DJ)(DK)(DL)(DM)(DN)(DO)(DP)(DQ)(DR)(DS)(DT)(DU)(DV)(DW)(DX)(DY)(DZ)(EA)(EB)(EC)(ED)(EE)(EF)(EG)(EH)(EI)(EJ)(EK)(EL)(EM)(EN)(EO)(EP)(EQ)(ER)(ES)(ET)(EU)(EV)(EW)(EX)(EY)(EZ)(FA)(FB)(FC)(FD)(FE)(FF)(FG)(FH)(FI)(FJ)(FK)(FL)(FM)(FN)(FO)(FP)(FQ)(FR)(FS)(FT)(FU)(FV)(FW)(FX)(FY)(FZ)(GA)(GB)(GC)(GD)(GE)(GF)(GG)(GH)(GI)(GJ)(GK)(GL)(GM)(GN)(GO)(GP)(GQ)(GR)(GS)(GT)(GU)(GV)(GW)(GX)(GY)(GZ)(HA)(HB)(HC)(HD)(HE)(HF)(HG)(HH)(HI)(HJ)(HK)(HL)(HM)(HN)(HO)(HP)(HQ)(HR)(HS)(HT)(HU)(HV)(HW)(HX)(HY)(HZ)(IA)(IB)(IC)(ID)(IE)(IF)(IG)(IH)(II)(IJ)(IK)(IL)(IM)(IN)(IO)(IP)(IQ)(IR)(IS)(IT)(IU)(IV)(IW)(IX)(IY)(IZ)(JA)(JB)(JC)(JD)(JE)(JF)(JG)(JH)(JI)(JJ)(JK)(JL)(JM)(JN)(JO)(JP)(JQ)(JR)(JS)(JT)(JU)(JV)(JW)(JX)(JY)(JZ)(KA)(KB)(KC)(KD)(KE)(KF)(KG)(KH)(KI)(KJ)(KK)(KL)(KM)(KN)(KO)(KP)(KQ)(KR)(KS)(KT)(KU)(KV)(KW)(KX)(KY)(KZ)(LA)(LB)(LC)(LD)(LE)(LF)(LG)(LH)(LI)(LJ)(LK)(LL)(LM)(LN)(LO)(LP)(LQ)(LR)(LS)(LT)(LU)(LV)(LW)(LX)(LY)(LZ)(MA)(MB)(MC)(MD)(ME)(MF)(MG)(MH)(MI)(MJ)(MK)(ML)(MN)(MO)(MP)(MQ)(MR)(MS)(MT)(MU)(MV)(MW)(MX)(MY)(MZ)(NA)(NB)(NC)(ND)(NE)(NF)(NG)(NH)(NI)(NJ)(NK)(NL)(NM)(NO)(NP)(NQ)(NR)(NS)(NT)(NU)(NV)(NW)(NX)(NY)(NZ)(OA)(OB)(OC)(OD)(OE)(OF)(OG)(OH)(OI)(OJ)(OK)(OL)(OM)(ON)(OO)(OP)(OQ)(OR)(OS)(OT)(OU)(OV)(OW)(OX)(OY)(OZ)(PA)(PB)(PC)(PD)(PE)(PF)(PG)(PH)(PI)(PJ)(PK)(PL)(PM)(PN)(PO)(PP)(PQ)(PR)(PS)(PT)(PU)(PV)(PW)(PX)(PY)(PZ)(QA)(QB)(QC)(QD)(QE)(QF)(QG)(QH)(QI)(QJ)(QK)(QL)(QM)(QN)(QO)(QP)(QQ)(QR)(QS)(QT)(QU)(QV)(QW)(QX)(QY)(QZ)(RA)(RB)(RC)(RD)(RE)(RF)(RG)(RH)(RI)(RJ)(RK)(RL)(RM)(RN)(RO)(RP)(RQ)(RR)(RS)(RT)(RU)(RV)(RW)(RX)(RY)(RZ)(SA)(SB)(SC)(SD)(SE)(SF)(SG)(SH)(SI)(SJ)(SK)(SL)(SM)(SN)(SO)(SP)(SQ)(SR)(SS)(ST)(SU)(SV)(SW)(SX)(SY)(SZ)(TA)(TB)(TC)(TD)(TE)(TF)(TG)(TH)(TI)(TJ)(TK)(TL)(TM)(TN)(TO)(TP)(TQ)(TR)(TS)(TT)(TU)(TV)(TW)(TX)(TY)(TZ)(UA)(UB)(UC)(UD)(UE)(UF)(UG)(UH)(UI)(UJ)(UK)(UL)(UM)(UN)(UO)(UP)(UQ)(UR)(US)(UT)(UU)(UV)(UW)(UX)(UY)(UZ)(VA)(VB)(VC)(VD)(VE)(VF)(VG)(VH)(VI)(VJ)(VK)(VL)(VM)(VN)(VO)(VP)(VQ)(VR)(VS)(VT)(VU)(VV)(VW)(VX)(VY)(VZ)(WA)(WB)(WC)(WD)(WE)(WF)(WG)(WH)(WI)(WJ)(WK)(WL)(WM)(WN)(WO)(WP)(WQ)(WR)(WS)(WT)(WU)(WV)(WW)(WX)(WY)(WZ)(XA)(XB)(XC)(XD)(XE)(XF)(XG)(XH)(XI)(XJ)(XK)(XL)(XM)(XN)(XO)(XP)(XQ)(XR)(XS)(XT)(XU)(XV)(XW)(XX)(XY)(XZ)(YA)(YB)(YC)(YD)(YE)(YF)(YG)(YH)(YI)(YJ)(YK)(YL)(YM)(YN)(YO)(YP)(YQ)(YR)(YS)(YT)(YU)(YV)(YW)(YX)(YY)(YZ)(ZA)(ZB)(ZC)(ZD)(ZE)(ZF)(ZG)(ZH)(ZI)(ZJ)(ZK)(ZL)(ZM)(ZN)(ZO)(ZP)(ZQ)(ZR)(ZS)(ZT)(ZU)(ZV)(ZW)(ZX)(ZY)(ZZ)~~