

University of Cologne
Cologne Center for Comparative Politics
Winter Term 2018-19
Course: Models of Capitalism
Module: Basismodul Seminar Politikwissenschaft II (1336SPoWi2) (9 ECTS)
Room: Seminarraum 2, WiSo-Modulbau (110), Universitätsstraße 24
Date: Tue, 10:00-11:30 (weekly) and double session on Jan 29 (08:30-11:30)
Instructor: Dr. Michael Schwan
Contact: schwan@wiso.uni-koeln.de
Office hour: Tue, 16:00-17:00 (by appointment only)

Course description

Analyzing different models of capitalism, whether cross-nationally or longitudinally, is one of the key topics in both comparative and international political economy. Picking up this task, the seminar offers a comprehensive overview of different approaches to comparing capitalism over time and across countries. After clarifying what actually constitutes capitalism and how we can grasp its development, the course focuses on central theories and concepts of comparative capitalisms research: state-led modernization, regulation theory, Varieties of Capitalism and its variations, as well as the growth models perspective. Eventually, the final part of the course deals with different challenges and changes of the last decades, which have had a profound effect on capitalist dynamics and are essential to understanding crises. Most notably, this includes European integration, financialization, de-industrialization and globalization. We will debate a wide range of texts, both conceptual and empirical, highlighting specific aspects of capitalist development and applying different quantitative and qualitative methods.

Requirements and examination

Basic knowledge of relevant theories, concepts and methods of political economy is assumed. Since the standard classroom language is English, participants should be able to read complex texts and make themselves understood. General interest in the topic as well as the willingness to prepare brief inputs and actively engage in discussions are necessary. Active participation is essential for a successful seminar. Thus, thorough preparation of the assigned readings and the motivation to engage in sincere discussions about the texts is indispensable. There are not going to be extensive in-class presentations. Yet, participants are asked to provide inputs on relevant topics. Details are provided in the first session. Final grading is based on an empirical term paper (approx. 6,000 words), in which the participant answers a research question of his or her choice. The term paper is preceded by an outline of the research design, to be discussed with the course instructor on an individual basis and handed in prior to the appointment. Submission deadline for the term papers as pdf file via e-mail is March 1, 2019. All papers are electronically checked for plagiarism.

Each paper has to include the following statement, signed and attached to the main text:

<http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/sites/cccp/Lehre/EidesstattlicheErklaerung.pdf>

Course outline and literature

The following plan sketches an outline and a first look at the content the course will feature. All texts assigned to individual sessions are going to be available via ILIAS. More details will be provided in the first session.

For general background information and overall preparation, the following books are recommended:

- Aglietta, Michel (2015). *A Theory of Capitalist Regulation. The US Experience*. Verso [1976].
- Baccaro, Lucio and Chris Howell (2017). *Trajectories of neoliberal transformation: European industrial relations since the 1970s*. Cambridge University Press.
- Beckert, Jens (2016). *Imagined Futures. Fictional Expectations and Capitalist Dynamics*. Harvard University Press.
- Bieling, Hans-Jürgen (2015) (ed.). *The Political Economy of the European Union*. Open Society.
- Blyth, Mark (2013). *Austerity. The History of a Dangerous Idea*. Oxford University Press.
- Boyer, Robert and J. Rogers Hollingsworth (1997) (eds.). *Contemporary capitalism. The embeddedness of institutions*. Cambridge University Press.
- Hall, Peter A. and David Soskice (2001) (eds.). *Varieties of Capitalism. The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*. Oxford University Press.
- Shonfield, Andrew (1965). *Modern Capitalism. The Changing Balance of Public and Private Power*. Oxford University Press.
- Streeck, Wolfgang (2017). *Buying Time. The Delayed Crisis of Democratic Capitalism*. 2nd edition. Verso [2013].
- Van Apeldoorn, Bastiaan (2002). *Transnational Capitalism and the Struggle over European Integration*. Routledge.

DATE	TOPIC AND CORE TEXTS
OCT 09	Introduction
OCT 23	What is Capitalism
OCT 30	How can we compare Capitalism(s)?
NOV 06	Modern Capitalism
NOV 13	Regulation theory and Post-Fordism
NOV 20	Varieties of Capitalism: Mixed-Market Economies
NOV 27	Varieties of Capitalism: Dependent Market Economies
DEC 04	Varieties of Capitalism: State Permeated Economies
DEC 11	The Growth Models Perspective
DEC 18	Changes and Challenges: European Integration
JAN 08	Changes and Challenges: Globalization
JAN 15	Changes and Challenges: Financialization
JAN 22	Changes and Challenges: De-Industrialization
JAN 29	Double Session: Capitalism & Crises and Course Recap