



This is the core course for the Business and Politics track in political science, as well as a relevant elective for business, economics, and history majors. As such it wears many hats. It is designed to introduce basic concepts and theoretical traditions relevant to the study of business, economic policy, and political economy. It is designed to offer a substantive introduction to the ways that firms and political institutions intersect. More broadly, and more importantly, this course is meant to teach critical evaluative and analytical skills.

We will build the course around the idea that the relationship between business and government is evolving. From the industrial revolution to the era of globalization businesses and firms have come to rely upon each other for support and nourishment. The most important characteristic of the industrial-globalization era is economic growth. Unlike in the past when economists were pessimistic about the potential for growth the modern age is optimistic that increasing rates of growth can be sustained in the long term.

This will be the central question that the course poses: how do we sustain the economic growth that has led to American preeminence in the world?

The first part of the course will tackle this question at a theoretical level. We will learn how to conceive of economic growth in abstract terms and how to identify the causal forces that lead to economic growth. The second half of the course will focus on the politics of achieving economic growth, with an emphasis on the policymaking processes in which the government commits to supporting certain goals.

The first part of the course will involve mainly readings and class discussions. I do not expect to lecture in this course so it is important that readings are done prior to class. The second half of the class will kick off with two weeks learning the nuts and bolts of the policy process. We will then divide into five groups and spend two and a half weeks discussing important public policies. Finally in the last week and a half of the semester we will examine the case of business and environmental policy.

Grade Breakdown:

Policy Brief 10% + Midterm Exam 20% + Final Exam 30% + Research Paper 20% + Attendance and Class Participation 20% = 100%

Rules and Regulations:

Attendance and participation are mandatory. Exceptions will be granted only upon prior written approval. I expect you to complete course readings before class and be able to discuss their import. Cheating and plagiarism are violations of university policy and will be dealt with severely. There is often a gray area when completing academic work when it comes to attributing your ideas. Please err on the side of over-attribution. If you have a conversation with your friends that sparks an idea, make a note to that effect. More importantly, if you get an idea or information from a published source, you must acknowledge it. As a rule, you should refrain from quoting directly unless you are quoting a person's spoken words or a couple of written words that precisely capture a particular meaning (for example, Stephen Skowronek described nineteenth-century American government as, "a state of courts and parties").

Note well that when you are conducting research for a paper or an assignment, you should keep in mind that you will need to cite what you refer to or draw from. Write down the page numbers from which you get your information so you don't have to go back later and look it up.

Texts:

Richard Lehne, Government and Business: American Political Economy in Comparative Perspective, 2nd ed. (Washington DC: CQ Press, 2006).

Thomas Friedman, The World is Flat, (New York: Farrar, 2005).

Sheldon Kamieniecki, Corporate America and Environmental Policy: How Often Does Business Get Its Way, (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2006).

Schedule

Module I

8/28 – No readings, Introductions

8/30 – Lehne, Government and Business, Chapter 1

9/4 – Labor Day, No Class

9/6 - Adam Smith – The Wealth of Nations, Book I, Chapter I-III, p. 13-36, Conclusion, p. 264-267. (Page numbers correspond to version published by the Liberty Fund (1976).

9/11 - Adam Smith – The Wealth of Nations, Book V, Part III, Article I, p. 723-758, Part III, Article III and conclusion, p. 788-816.

9/13 - Alexander Hamilton, “Report on Manufacturers” Part I

9/18 - Alexander Hamilton, “Report on Manufacturers”; Ron Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*.

9/20 - Joseph Schumpeter, Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy, Part II, “Can Capitalism Survive?” p. 59-80, 131-142, 156-163.

Module II

9/25 - Paul David, “Clio and the Economics of QWERTY” *The American Economic Review* Vol. 75, No. 2, Papers and Proceedings of the Ninety-Seventh Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association (May 1985), 332-337; Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, pg. TBA

9/27 - Douglass North, Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance, Ch. 1, 9, 10, 11 (p. 3-10, 73-104)

10/2 – Brian Arthur, “Positive Feedbacks in the Economy”; Paul Pierson, “Positive Feedback and Path Dependence”

10/4 - Paul Krugman, “History and Industry Location: The Case of the Manufacturing Belt” *The American Economic Review*, Vol. 81, No. 2, Papers and Proceedings of the Hundred and Third Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association (May 1991), 80-83; *Rethinking International Trade*, pg. TBA

Module III

10/9 – Paul Krugman, *Rethinking International Trade*, pg.

10/11 - Thomas Friedman, The World is Flat, Chs. 1-2.

Research Paper Topics Due

10/16 - Thomas Friedman, The World is Flat, Chs. 5,7,10

10/18 – Midterm Exam

Module IV

10/23 - Lehne, Government and Business, Chapter 6

10/25 - Lehne, Government and Business, Chapter 7

10/30 - Lehne, Government and Business, Chapter 8

11/1 - Lehne, Government and Business, Chapter 9

Research Paper Rough Drafts Due 11/3

Module V

11/6 - Lehne, Government and Business, Chapter 10 (Economic Policy Briefs)

11/8 - Lehne, Government and Business, Chapter 11 (Regulatory Policy Briefs)

11/13 - Lehne, Government and Business, Chapter 12 (Antitrust Policy Briefs)

11/15 - Lehne, Government and Business, Chapter 13 (Tech Policy Briefs)

11/20 - Lehne, Government and Business, Chapter 14 (Trade Policy Briefs)

11/22 – Thanksgiving

Module VI

11/27 – Sheldon Kamieniecki, Corporate America and Environmental Policy, Chs. 1-2

11/29 - Sheldon Kamieniecki, Corporate America and Environmental Policy, Chs. 3-5

12/4 - Sheldon Kamieniecki, Corporate America and Environmental Policy, Chs. 6-8

12/6 – Wrap up, review

Research Papers Due