POLITICAL ECONOMY

Course Information:
Course: PS F100X F91
Credits: 3
Schedule of Classes: Monday, May 11 – Friday, May 22, 2015 (Maymester)
Days / Time: Monday – Friday, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Class Location: 402 Gruening Building

Instructor Information:
Instructor: Dr. Brandon Boylan
E-Mail: bmboylan@alaska.edu
Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 3:00 – 4:00 P.M.
Office Location: 603A Gruening Building

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines the interaction between politics and economics and how various public economic policies have been created and implemented. In particular, it considers how political actors influence the economy and how economic interests shape political behavior. Various individuals and groups have different, sometimes competing, interests in how the economy develops; as such, political economy is a complex and dynamic discipline. The course will evaluate political economy primarily in the context of the United States, with some discussion of international political economy and international development.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of this course, students should have:

• become familiar with important developments in the history of political economy in the United States and elsewhere;
• acquired knowledge of different concepts and contending theories attempting to explain historical events and the current situation in the politics of economic policy in the United States and elsewhere;
• developed skills to become informed and critical consumers of information about the U.S. economy and political system; and
• improved their reading, writing, research, presentation, and critical thinking abilities.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Honesty
You are expected to adhere to the provisions of the “Student Code of Conduct” as outlined in the 2014-2015 UAF catalog, available at http://uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html. In particular, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will lead to (at a minimum) an F for the course. This includes plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or fabrication. Please talk to me if you are unsure about whether or not your approach constitutes academic dishonesty.
USE OF ELECTRONICS
Use of cell phones, laptops, and other electronics is prohibited during class. Failure to comply with this policy will lower your reading, preparation, and participation grade (see below).

CAMPUS RESOURCES
You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the many resources available at UAF to help you succeed in this course. These services include:

- The Writing Center
  801 Gruening Building
  (907) 474-5314
  fywrc@uaf.edu
  http://www.uaf.edu/english/writing-center/

- The Speaking Center
  507 Gruening Building
  (907) 474-5470
  fyspeak@gmail.com
  http://www.uaf.edu/speak/

- Student Support Services
  512 Gruening Building
  (907) 474-6844
  trio.sss@alaska.edu
  http://www.uaf.edu/sss/

- The Office of Disability Services
  208 Whitaker Building
  (907) 474-5655
  uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu
  http://www.uaf.edu/disability/

- Student Health and Counseling Center
  210 Whitaker Building
  (907) 474-7043
  uaf-sh-cc@alaska.edu
  http://www.uaf.edu/chc/

COURSE MATERIALS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

BLACKBOARD
- All supplemental materials are posted on Blackboard.
GRADING SCALE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤ 59</td>
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COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Reading, Preparation, and Participation (40 points)

You must come to class prepared to engage in class and contribute to discussions about assigned readings, lectures, and documentaries. The effectiveness of the course is determined largely by how well you engage course material, assess key concepts, and participate. Your grade is calculated by how much and how well you contribute to class discussions. The use of cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices during class is prohibited and will lower your grade. Absence from class will also lower your grade.

Current Event Assignments (40 points – 20 points each)

On two occasions, you must come to class prepared to present on a current event of your choice related to political economy for five to ten minutes. For this assignment, you must submit a hard copy of the article and a short paper which analyzes the article’s topic through the lens of course material. Do NOT simply summarize the article for its own sake but assess the article with key terms, concepts, and theories that you have learned in class. Papers should:

- be at least two double-spaced pages in length (it can be longer);
- have 1-inch margins on all sides; and
- be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font.

The first current event assignment is due on Thursday, May 14, and the second is due on Friday, May 22. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Research Paper and Presentation (40 points)

You will write a research paper on any topic related to political economy, and you will be given some class time to work on your research at the library. Your paper must:

- include a cover page with your name, the course title, your paper title, and the date;
- be at least five double-spaced pages in length (not including the cover page and bibliography);
- have 1-inch margins on all sides;
- be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font;
- include descriptive headings;
- include page numbers, centered at the bottom of the page (the cover page is NOT page 1 – the first page of your writing is!); and
- include a bibliography

Your paper is due on Wednesday, May 20. Late papers will not be accepted.
You will give your presentation in the afternoon of Wednesday, May 20. It should last no more than ten minutes in length.

Exams (80 points – 40 points each)

You will have two exams – a midterm on Friday, May 15 and a final on Friday, May 22. The midterm will cover Chapters 1-7 of the Eisner book, and the final will cover Chapters 8-11 of the Eisner book and Chapters 1, 6, and 11 of the Balaam and Dillon book. Make-up exams will not be given.

Total: 200 points
CLASS SCHEDULE

Homework for Monday, May 11:
- Read: Eisner, Chapters 1 and 2

Monday, May 11

Morning (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)
- Introduction to the course
- Lecture: “Making Sense of the Political Economy”
  - Reading: Eisner, Chapters 1 and 2
  - Group discussion and responses

Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00 P.M.)
- Review list of possible topics for final paper and presentation
- Video: “Alaska Gold” (53 minutes, PBS Frontline)
  - Group discussion and responses

Homework for Tuesday, May 12:
- Read: Eisner, Chapter 3

Tuesday, May 12

Morning (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)
  - Reading: Eisner, Chapter 3
  - Group discussion and responses

Afternoon (12:45 – 3:00 P.M.)
- Meet in room 301 in the library for an introduction to library resources and databases

Homework for Wednesday, May 13:
- Read: Eisner, Chapters 4 and 5

Wednesday, May 13

Morning (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)
  - Reading: Eisner, Chapters 4 and 5
  - Group discussion and responses

Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00 P.M.)
• Video: American Experience: FDR - First Days in Office (Chapter 14), Shifting the Balance of Power (Chapter 15), Devotion of Ordinary Citizens (Chapter 16), Re-elected (Chapter 17), and The Rising Threat of Fascism (Chapter 18) (57 minutes, PBS)
  • Group discussion and responses

Homework for Thursday, May 14:
• Read: Eisner, Chapters 6 and 7
• Write: Current event assignment

Thursday, May 14

Morning (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)
• Lecture: “The Evolution of the American Political Economy”
  • Reading: Eisner, Chapters 6 and 7
  • Group discussion and responses

Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00 P.M.)
• Current event assignment

Homework for Friday, May 15:
• Study: Mid-term exam

Friday, May 15

Morning (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)
• Midterm exam on Eisner, Chapters 1-7

Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00 P.M.)
• Conduct research for final paper in library (12:30 – 2:30 P.M.)
• Report back on research in regular classroom (2:30 – 3:00 P.M.)

Homework for Monday, May 18:
• Read: Eisner, Chapters 8 and 9

Monday, May 18

Morning (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)
• Lecture: “Neoliberalism and Its Discontents”
  • Reading: Eisner, Chapters 8 and 9
  • Group discussion and responses

Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00 P.M.)
• Conduct research for final paper in library (12:30 – 2:30 P.M.)
• Report back on research in regular classroom (2:30 – 3:00 P.M.)

Homework for Tuesday, May 19:
Tuesday, May 19

Morning (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)
- Lecture: “Neoliberalism and Its Discontents”
  - Reading: Eisner, Chapters 10 and 11
  - Group discussion and responses

Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00 P.M.)
- Video: “Money for Nothing: Inside the Federal Reserve” (104 minutes; Netflix)
  - Group discussion and responses

Homework for Wednesday, May 20:
- Read: Balaam and Dillon, Chapter 1
- Finish: Final paper and presentation

Wednesday, May 20

Morning (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)
  - Reading: Balaam and Dillon, Chapter 1
  - Group discussion and responses

Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00 P.M.)
- Student presentations
  - Due: Final paper and presentation

Homework for Thursday, May 21:
- Read: Balaam and Dillon, Chapters 6 and 11

Thursday, May 21

Morning (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)
- Lecture: “International Trade and Development”
  - Reading: Balaam and Dillon, Chapters 6 and 11
  - Group discussion and responses

Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00 P.M.)
- Video: “Stealing Africa” (58 minutes, Guldbrandsen Film)
  - Group discussion and responses

Homework for Friday, May 22:
- Study: Final exam
- Write: Current event assignment
Friday, May 22

Morning (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.)

• Final exam on Eisner, Chapters 8-11 and Balaam and Dillon, Chapters 1, 6, and 11

Afternoon (12:30 – 3:00 P.M.)

• Current event assignment