



COURSE SYLLABUS

PSCI 335 POLITICAL ECONOMY SPRING 2026

**1/12 to 5/8, 2026
TTH 9.30am-10.45am
SS 142**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Barbara Laubenthal

Office Location: SS-162

Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4pm, Thursday 11-12pm and by appointment (in-person or zoom). Please send me an email if you would like to make an appointment.

Email: Barbara.Laubenthal@etamu.edu

The best way to contact me is via email.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course materials

The course uses textbook chapters and articles that are mostly accessible through the university library and will be uploaded to D2L. A comprehensive list of the literature used in this course can be found after the work plan.

Course description

This course focuses on theoretical and empirical intersections of politics and economy. It analyzes institutions and processes that shape U.S. domestic political economy and its relationship to the global political economy. Emphasis will be placed on major political actors including Congress, the President, and the Federal Reserve Board as well as current issues such as immigration and its economic effects, and current trade policies.

Over the semester, the course moves from classical economic thought and key concepts to an analysis of the relationship between political systems and economic performance, the U.S. welfare model in comparison to Western Europe welfare states, and economic dimensions of current immigration flows. Later modules examine the “dark side” of political economy—including corruption, illicit trade, and transnational criminal networks—before turning to international economics and the U.S.'s role in global economic institutions. Here, we will use topics such as food, clothing, and social media as starting points to analyze how global economic power is built, circulated and contested.

Course objectives

- Understand the contours of political economy as a subfield of political science.
- Explain major theoretical traditions in political economy and their evolution from classical economic thought to contemporary frameworks.
- Integrate empirical evidence and theories to analyze contemporary issues at the intersection of politics and economics.
- Design and conduct a small research project including the development of relevant research questions and writing a scholarly paper.

Assignments

Two response papers: 20%

Moderation of discussion: 10%

Presentation: 10%

I-Peel Research Project: 20%

Final paper: 30%

Participation: 10%

Communication with the class

I will regularly **post announcements on D2L** and message you through D2L email. Please make sure to regularly check D2L and the email address that is connected to your D2L account.

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material or have other issues that you would like to discuss, please contact me. I am here to help!

Attendance

Class attendance is required. Students have three unexcused absences; each unexcused absence after the third will result in a two-point deduction from your participation grade. Excused absences require documentation

GRADING

Grading scale

A 90-100%; B 80-89.9%; C 70-79.9%; D 60-69.9%; F Below 60%

Schedule and work plan

Week 1	Introduction	
Week 2	The international political economy of everyday life	Braslett et al. 2022 https://i-peel.org/

Theories and concepts of political economy

Week 3	Classical approaches and concepts of political economy	Caporo/Levine 1992 Hamilton et al. 2013
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Politics and economies in democratic and non-democratic systems

Week 4	Economies in non-democracies	Egorov/Sonin 2022 Stankov 2020
Week 5	Political economy and democracies	Benhabib/ Przeworski 2005

Welfare states and inequality

Week 6	The political economy of the welfare state	Hancke et al. chapter 7 Esping-Anderson 1990 Noble 1997
Week 7	Inequality	Hurrelmann et al 2011

Government actors

Week 8	Congress, parties and the national policy process	Hacker et al 2021
Week 9	The Presidency	Hacker et al 2021

The Political economy of immigration

Week 10	Borders and work	Rivera 2015
Week 11	Economic effects of immigration	O'Connor 2020

Week 12	Migration and social inequalities	Faist 2016
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The dark side of political economy

Week 13	Transnational criminal activity	Broude/Teichman 2009
Week 14	Political economy of corruption	Tramelsi 2024

International Dimensions

Week 15	Global political economy I	Brasnett et al. 2022
Week 16	Global Political economy II	Brasnett et al. 2022

Week 17	Finals week	
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Readings

Ahlers, A. L., Andersson, M., Köllner, P., & Stichweh, R. (Eds.). (2021). *Democratic and authoritarian political systems in 21st century world society: Vol. 1 – Differentiation, inclusion, responsiveness* (1st ed.). transcript Verlag.

Benhabib, J., & Przeworski, A. (2006). The political economy of redistribution under democracy. *Economic Theory*, 29(2), 271–290.

Brasnett, J., Elias, J., Rethel, L., & Richardson, B. (2022). *I-PEEL: The international political economy of everyday life*. Oxford University Press.

Broude, T., & Teichman, D. (2009). Outsourcing and insourcing crime: The political economy of globalized criminal activity. *Vanderbilt Law Review*, 62, 1–?. Hebrew University International Law Research Paper No. 02-08. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1111399>

Caporaso, J. A., & Levine, D. P. (1992). *Theories of political economy*. Cambridge University Press.

Dustmann, C. (2003). Return migration, wage differentials, and the optimal migration duration. *European Economic Review*, 47(2), 353–367.

Dustmann, C., Glitz, A., & Frattini, T. (2008). The labour market impact of immigration. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 24(3), 477–494.

Hacker, J. S., Hertel-Fernandez, A., Pierson, P., & Thelen, K. (Eds.). (2021). *The American political economy: Politics, markets, and power*. Cambridge University Press.

Hamilton, A., Corduneanu-Huci, C., & Ferrer, I. M. (2013). *Understanding policy change: How to apply political economy concepts in practice*. World Bank. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/11879>

Jadoon, A., & Milton, D. (2025). Risk and reward: How shadow economies impact the financial practices of militant organizations. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 37(8), 1106–1124. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2024.2381211>

Noble, C. (1997). *Welfare as we knew it: A political history of the American welfare state*. Oxford University.

Ramos Obando, R. (2024). "War tax": Central American gangs and their informal tax system.

Working Paper of the Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance (No. 2024-03). <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4876019>

Stankov, P. (2020). *The political economy of populism: An introduction* (1st ed.). Taylor & Francis.

Trabelsi, M. A. (2024). The impact of corruption on economic growth: A nonlinear evidence. *Journal of Social and Economic Development*, 26, 953–962. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40847-023-00301-9>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.etamu.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<https://inside.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

<https://inside.etamu.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.etamu.edu/counsel

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

AI Policy in this course

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

For this course, students are prohibited from using AI to complete all assignments. Any use will result in a 0 for said assignment.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web

url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.