Course: Development Economy: Comparative Political Economy of Development

SECS-P/01

Credits: 4

Tentative Schedule:
1st Semester

Teachers, Email: Andrea Vindigni, andrea.vindigni@unige.it

URL: unige.it/off.f/2018/ins/30705

Assistants for Exercises & Simulation Lab Experience:

TBF

Education Objectives:

The course provides the basic concepts and tools of comparative political economy in order to study the functioning of different types of economies and political systems.

The course aims at introducing students to the recent research, both theoretical and empirical, in economics and other social sciences, concerning the political causes of the success, or failure, of the states.
In particular, we will focus the attention on the interaction between political and economic institutions and development, emphasizing: how the states’ economic performance depends on their institutions, and the endogenous emergence of the latter as the outcome of an underlying distributive conflict within the society.

The presumption inspiring the course is that institutions (broadly defined) are the key to explain why states follow different development paths.

The main questions addressed by course, and closely related, are:

1. How are political institutions (with a special emphasis on democratic institutions) classified, how do they function, and what political and economic consequences do they have.
2. Why do some nations prosper, whereas other nations fail?
3. Why, in particular, Italian nationhood has been said to be a failure?

Note: We will focus mainly, but not only, on the historical experience of the Western World (e.g. Europe and the US), and pay special attention to the nature of political institutions in place (e.g. absolutist regimes, constitutional monarchies, different forms of democracy), over a relatively long period of time (i.e. beginning with some Ancient Civilizations). The exposition will not necessarily follow a chronological order, but rather a logical one as much as possible.

Course Program & Elements:

Course, PART 1: Democracy (happy ending)

Class 1 & 2. Introduction to the class: institutions and the problem of commitment.


Class 3 and 4. Commitment, fiscal policy, property rights and growth.

- Hoffann, Philip and Jean-Laurent Rosenthal “Divided We Fall: The Political Economy of Warfare and Taxation.”
Class 5. Politics and science.
CGG (Centre for Globalisation and Governance) part I.

Class 6, 7 and 8. The modern state and democratization.
CGG part II.

Class 8, 9 and 10. Varieties of democracies (general theory).
CGG part III.

Class 10, 11 and 12. Varieties of democracies (patterns of outcomes).
CGG part IV.

Course, PART 2: why nations fail?
Class 13. The question of why some countries prosper and others do not.
AR, Ch. 1.

Class 14. Wrong answers: geography and culture.
AR, Ch. 2.

Class 15. Institutions, incentives and growth. European colonialism.
AR, Ch. 3 and 9.

Class 16, 17, 18. Politics in time: critical junctures and the dynamics of institutions; virtuous circles.
AR, Ch. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 12.

Class 19. Why nations fail today.
AR, Ch. 13.
Course, PART 3: the case of Italy

**Class 20 and 21. The Original Characteristics.**
- Andrea Gamberini and Isabella Lazzarini (2014), The Italian Reinassance States, part I, pp. 7-237.
- Graziano part I.

**Class 22. The Permanencies.**
- Graziano part II.

**Class 23. Identity and Sovereignty.**
- Graziano part III.

**Class 24. What have we learned?**
  - Review of the whole course

**Teaching Approach:**
  - *Face to face lessons and seminars*

**Evaluation and Final Exam:**
  - *Written Test*

**Timetable:**
  - *To be Finalized (TBF)*

**Time Zone:**
  - *CET (A, GTM+1 winter time, GMT+2 during Daylight Saving Time)*

**Prerequisites:**
  - *The Course does not require specific prerequisites. However, knowledge of political economy, economic policy and international economy could be useful*
References

We will read entirely the following books, which will be the main reference of the course, roughly in chronological order.


Other readings, mainly articles, are reported in the previous syllabus. Only checked readings ("☑") are mandatory.

Web Sites on the Teacher:

Course Description

- unige.it/off.f/2018/ins/30705

Main CV

- cpc-prod.csita.unige.it/output_cv/UkJHX1lu/cv_en.pdf

Others

- works.bepress.com/andreavindigni
- rubrica.unige.it/personale/UkJHX1lu
- voxeu.org/users/andreavindigni0
- http://www.iza.org/person/1119/andrea-vindigni
- http://www.nber.org/people/andrea_vindigni
- legacy.iza.org/en/webcontent/personnel/vitae/vindigni_cv.pdf