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Political Science W3951  
**Varieties of Capitalism**  
Monday 6.10- 8 pm  
Room: 711 International Affairs Building

This course provides a theoretical framework for understanding the variation in economic and social institutions among advanced capitalist economies. Can we meaningfully talk of the German or Swedish model and, if so, what are their distinctive characteristics? In what ways do these economies differ from liberal market economies, such as the United States or the United Kingdom? Do these cross-national differences persist in the face of increased economic integration and globalization? We will explore these questions by examining institutional and policy differences in the following areas: (a) training and skill formation; (b) financial institutions and corporate governance, (c) the welfare state, (d) systems of industrial relations. These institutions affect a variety of economic and political outcomes among advanced industrialized societies, including levels of economic inequality, levels of employment.

**Prerequisites:**

Introduction to Comparative Politics or permission of the instructor.

**Requirements:**

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings and integrate them into class discussion. Class participation is an important component of the final grade. Students will take turn in preparing summaries of our weekly discussion (which will be posted on the web-site of the course).

There are three additional assignments that will be graded. A mid-term exam will account for 30 percent of your grade. Students are expected to complete a research paper for the course that integrates the analytical tools developed in Weeks 2-6 and applies them to the study of economic and policy reforms undertaken by different economies. The focus of the paper should be comparative, i.e. you should identify and explain some variation in policy or economic outcomes among two (or more) economies. To ensure steady progress in your research, I encourage you to discuss your ideas with me early on during the semester. In weeks 13 and 14, you will be asked to present your results (and serve as discussant of other papers presented by your colleagues).
**Grading:**

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

(a) In-class participation and summary of in-class discussion 20 percent
(b) Mid-term exam 30 percent
(c) In-class final presentation 20 percent
(d) Final paper 30 percent

**Materials:**

The following books should be ordered from Amazon.com.


Electronic copies of the additional readings are available via Courseworks.
TOPICS AND READINGS

Readings marked *** are recommended

Part I: Theoretical Foundations

Week 1 (9/10/2012)
Introduction

Recommended reading:

Week 2 (9/17/2012)
The organization of interest groups in advanced industrialized economies


Week 3 (9/24/2012)
Varieties of Capitalism


Week 4 (10/1/2012)
Differences in financial systems


Week 5 (10/8/2012)
The welfare state


Week 6 (10/15/2012)
In-class mid-term

Part II: Explaining the evolution of policies and institutions

Week 7 (10/22/2012)
Political coalitions in the face of economic crises: 2 historical moments


Scharpf, Fritz. 1991. *Crisis and Choice in European Social Democracy*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9. [exact selection of empirical chapters will be discussed with instructor]

**Part III. Recent challenges and political transformations**

**Week 8 (10/29/2012)**

**Industrial Relations**


**(11/05/2012) University Holiday – No class**

**Week 9 (11/12/2012)**

**Deindustrialization and its consequences**


**Week 10 (11/19/2012)**


**Week 12 (11/26/2012)**

Social policy and labor market reforms in postcommunist countries
(Guest presentation: Professor Aurelian Muntean, SNSP Bucharest, Fulbright Scholar, Columbia University)

**Weeks 13 and 14 (12/3/2012 and 12/12/2012)**

In-class presentation of student projects

Final papers are due (via e-mail) on December 14th by 5 pm.
LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.