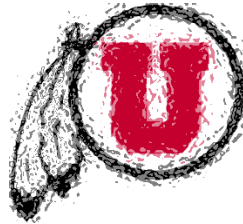


Economics 5540-001, 6540-001
University of Utah
Spring 2016 Semester
Capitalism & Socialism



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CLASS MEETING TIME & PLACE: This class is taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:25 – 1:45 pm in [BU C](#) room 105.

TEXT: This class will not use a formal text. Rather, we will use a combination of articles, several of which are listed in this syllabus. Additional articles will be made available as they become relevant for class.

OFFICE HOURS: I am available for office hours between 1:45 and 2:30 pm on days that we meet for class – by appointment only. I do not have an office on campus – so we can either stay in our classroom to meet, or find another location. Please email or call the morning of your appointment to remind me of the appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will make study of various economic and political systems – concentrating attention on the economic paradigms of Capitalism and Socialism. An historic study of various economic and political systems will preempt analysis of modern systems. Wellbeing outcomes under varying systems will be considered through a development lens. Particular study of wellbeing outcomes will be distinguished for varying groups of society (race, ethnicity, gender, etc.) - with drawn implications from observations/study. Country case-studies will be presented in order to contrast/compare varying outcomes under each system.

PREREQUISITES: There are no specific prerequisites for this course. If you have never taken foundation courses in economics – please come and see me.

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS: We will learn through various mediums/methods in this class including – but not limited to – assigned readings/videos, lecture, discussion, presentations, student debate/presentation, critical thinking, active group discovery, oral criticism, and exams.

GRADING: Your grade in this class will be composed of participation points (10%), a midterm (30%), a country presentation (30%), and a final exam (30%). Participation points will be given subjectively based on attendance, active participation (in discussions and debates), and attitude. I will randomly distribute attendance sheets to assist in determining participation. The midterm and the final will pull from questions given throughout the semester called “Focus Questions”. The midterm is scheduled for Thursday, March 10th – just prior to Spring Break. The final is scheduled for Monday, May 2nd from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Final grades will be assigned according to the following rubric:

GRADING SCALE	LETTER GRADE	GRADING SCALE	LETTER GRADE
94% and above	A	74% - 76.9%	C
90% - 93.9%	A-	70% - 73.9%	C-
87% - 89.9%	B+	67% - 69.9%	D+
84% - 86.9%	B	64% - 66.9%	D
80% - 83.9%	B-	60% - 63.9%	D-
77% - 79.9%	C+	Below 60%	E

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS: Country Presentations will take place on the day stated on the schedule below. Country presentations will involve several group members and must be presented with PowerPoint slides and involve the participation of all group members. You must make a case for the current Political/Economic system that the country has – giving a history of varying systems the country has experienced in the last several decades. You must also present a case against the current political/economic system – highlighting areas of weakness, shortcoming, and inadequacy under the current regime. Finally, you must present a group consensus on how the country might proceed forward – improving the wellbeing of citizens living in this country. Your presentation should take around 20 min, and then allow for an additional 10 min of questions from students.

PRESENTATION DATES:

China: Tuesday, March 22

United States: Thursday, March 24

India: Tuesday, March 29

Norway/Sweden: Thursday, March 31

Brazil: Tuesday, April 5

Japan: Thursday, April 7

Russia: Tuesday, April 12

Cambodia: Thursday, April 14

Germany: Tuesday April 21

FOCUS QUESTIONS: Following each class lecture I will email Focus Questions from the University of Utah faculty server. Students need to ensure that an active email address is listed with the university. If an active email is not listed with the university – you will not receive Focus Questions. Double check the status of your email with the university so that you are not behind. Focus Questions will target the material covered in class incorporating material discussed in various articles covered. Focus Questions are designed to challenge students to think for themselves – using as a baseline, the arguments and discussion threads from lecture. These questions are intended for the purpose of class review and preparation for the midterm and final. Students who do not attend class will have difficulty answering Focus Questions. I strongly suggest that you answer these questions as the class progresses in order to fully prepare you for the exams. Students systematically answering Focus Questions as the semester progresses find that they have prepared a thorough review sheet for the exams. If you don't understand the focus questions, or have difficulty answering them – address the issue immediately (i.e. don't procrastinate). I suggest the formation of student study groups.

ECON 6540: Students enrolled in the graduate 6540 class need to come speak with me after the first day of class. Graduate students will be held to higher standards and will compete for a grade among the graduate students only. While the 6540 class meets with the undergraduate 5540 class for lectures, I expect graduate level work from all graduate students. It is critical to use this class to explore, expound, and elaborate on thesis projects, publishable paper ideas, and writing capacities. In addition to increased requirements and a strong expectation of class participation, graduate students are required to write a 7-10 page Term Paper (research-based) on a topic related to this course. I will elaborate on this in class. If you have questions about this – please come see me early on. You are required to submit an outline of your proposed paper by March 10th. The paper is due on the last day of class, April 26th.

SCHEDULE: We will meet 29 times throughout the semester. There will be no class on February 2, February 4th, March 15th or March 17th. Important dates are delineated in the schedule below. **NOTE:** *the schedule is tentative and is subject to change.* It is your responsibility to have required material read prior to coming to class. If we fall behind on the material, you will not be responsible for the material not covered in class.

DAY	DATE	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	CRITICAL DATES/LINKS
Tuesday	January 12, 2016	Introduction/Syllabus	Classes Start
Thursday	January 14, 2016		Engerman and Sokoloff (2002)
Tuesday	January 19, 2016		
Thursday	January 21, 2016	Development Paradigms	Temin (1997)
Tuesday	January 26, 2016		Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson (2004)
Thursday	January 28, 2016		Diamond (1997)
Tuesday	February 2, 2016		
Thursday	February 4, 2016	<i>No Class Meeting</i>	Movie Assignment: Guns, Germs & Steel
Tuesday	February 9, 2016		Feudalism and Household Production
Thursday	February 11, 2016	Economic Systems Across Time	Alternatives to Varieties of Capitalism
Tuesday	February 16, 2016		Parenthood, Gender, and Work-Family Time in the United States, Australia, Italy, France, and Denmark
Thursday	February 18, 2016	Defining the Economy	The Care Economy? Gender, Economic Restructuring, and Job Polarization in the U.S. Labor Market
Tuesday	February 23, 2016		
Thursday	February 25, 2016	Colonialism, Imperialism and	Globalization and Social Progress
Tuesday	March 1, 2016	Globalization	

Thursday	March 3, 2016	The Role of Government	Entrepreneurship and the Role of Government in Post-Socialist Economies: Some Institutional Challenges
Tuesday	March 8, 2016		The Role of Government in Work-Family Conflict
Thursday	March 10, 2016	MIDTERM, Term Paper Outline Due (6540)	
Tuesday	March 15, 2016	SPRING BREAK	
Thursday	March 17, 2016		
Tuesday	March 22, 2016	The Success & Failure of Capitalism: Growth Opportunities, Wellbeing Crises, Depressions and Wars	Cognitive Capitalism and Contemporary Politics: A World Historical Perspective
Thursday	March 24, 2016		The Indian Transition
Tuesday	March 29, 2016		The Spirits of Capitalism and Socialism
Thursday	March 31, 2016		Towards Transnational Academic Capitalism
Tuesday	April 5, 2016		Capitalism and US Policy at the Mexican Border
Thursday	April 7, 2016		The Structural Crisis of Global Capitalism and the Prospects for World Revolution in the 21st Century
Tuesday	April 12, 2016	The Success & Failure of Socialism: Equality, Wellbeing, Growth Incentives, and Stagnation	The Soviet Communist Party and the Other Spirit of Capitalism
Thursday	April 14, 2016		Two Paths to Inequality in Educational Outcomes: Family Background and Educational Selection in the United States and Norway
Tuesday	April 19, 2016		Can Welfare States be Sustained in a Global Economy? Lessons from Scandinavia
Thursday	April 21, 2016		Beyond GDP
Tuesday	April 26, 2016	Review for Final	Last Day of Class, Term Paper Due (6540)
Monday	May 2, 2016	FINAL	10:30 am – 12:30 pm

VIDEO ASSIGNMENTS: You will need to view Jared Diamond’s “Guns, Germs, and Steel” video which is available free online in 3 parts:

- Part 1: [Out of Eden](#)
- Part 2: [Conquest](#)
- Part 3: [Into the Tropics](#)

It is also suggested (not mandatory) that you view Michael Moore’s 2009 film “Capitalism: a Love Story” and “Inequality for All” a 2013 film by Jacob Kornbluth. Both of these films will help to inform various perspectives relevant in this course.

POLICIES: You cannot miss an exam and take a makeup exam unless I give you permission to do so before the exam. Without my permission, you will earn a zero on any exams that you miss. To get my permission to take a makeup exam, you must give me notice before the class takes its exam (if at all possible), and before you take the makeup exam, you must supply written evidence of your reason for missing the in-class exam. If the reason is illness, a note from a doctor will be sufficient. I will let you know if I think your reason is good enough to warrant letting you take a makeup exam. If your reason is that you are participating in a university-sponsored activity, I will always allow you to take a makeup. Otherwise, I will make the decision on a case-by-case basis. In addition, there are limited circumstances in which I may let you take an exam early. There will be no makeup final exams given after the date listed on the schedule unless there is a medical emergency (that can be verified), or unless you are called up for military duty. If you cannot take the final exam because you are under arrest at the time, I will consult with my Department Chair about the appropriate procedure to follow. If you had a last-minute automobile breakdown or other transportation failure, I expect you to get to class as quickly as possible, and take the exam at that time. In such a situation, I may or may not extend your time to finish the exam.

Incompletes will be given only for reasons of illness or a family emergency. You must supply written evidence for the reason. According to university regulations, you must be passing the class at the time you get an incomplete.

Cheating on exams and other forms of academic dishonesty may lead to expulsion from the class, failure of the class, or more severe penalties. I must submit a report of all incidents of academic dishonesty to your dean for inclusion in your file.

ADA Statement: “The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.”

Rights and Responsibilities: “All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of that Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.”

NOTE: *The schedule and syllabus are subject to change!*