Objective:

While a course in political economy can be presented from a variety of perspectives, this seminar will explore some of the most influential theories found in the tradition of political economy. It will introduce students to a variety of perspectives for studying the theories of the state, particularly as they apply to broad societal phenomena. Our purpose is to bridge the social sciences, to begin to explore the fundamental tenets of public and private action as they impact the role of government and public administration. Students are expected to develop a sophisticated understanding of the relationship between politics, economics and society as they apply to the administrative state.

Required Materials (Books):


Required Materials (Articles):


Course Requirements:

There are two primary assignments in this course. The first, due at midterm (March 26), is a comprehensive review of the Clark book. Each student will produce a 15-20 page (double-spaced) review of the book. The second will be a general review essay under the title “Private and Public Action and the Role of the State.” Students will be free to use references from the course and other materials in preparing this essay. The essay will be a minimum of 25 pages (double-spaced), although students can write well beyond this page limitation. In addition, students will be evaluated based on the quality of their contributions to the class discussion of the material. Quality will be demonstrated only by reading the assigned materials. The final grade will be determined as follows: Book Review, 30%; Final Paper, 50%; Class Attendance/ Participation, 20%.

Class attendance and participation is strongly recommended. Students should have read the material and be prepared to appropriately discuss it.

Lecture Schedule

January 22  
Introduction: Class overview and expectations by Dr. Alozie  
Required Readings: None

January 29  
The Role of the State (Classical vs. Keynesian views)  
Required Readings:  
Clark, Chapters 1-6  
Smith, Introduction and Book I  
Sherman & Evans, Chapter 22  
Mankiw, “Quick Refresher Course”

February 5 & 12  
Durkheim and Weber  
Required Readings:  
Giddens, Part 2 and 3

February 19 & 26  
The Foundations of Socialism  
Required Readings:  
Giddens, Part I  
Schumpeter, Parts I and III
March 5 & 12
**Synthesis: Capitalism, Socialism and Social Theory: Evaluating the Survival of Capitalism/ The Perils of Socialism**
Required Readings: Giddens, Part 4
Schumpeter, Parts II and III

March 16 – 23
**Spring Break – No Class**
NO OFFICE HOURS

March 26
**Economic and Political Arrangements**
Required Readings: Lindbloom, Politics and Markets
Schumpeter, Part IV

**Midterm Paper Due**

April 2 & 9
**Rationality and Social Theory**
**Individual and Collective Action**
**Organizations and Society**
Required Readings: Clark, Chapter 7
Mancur Olson (all)
Stinchcombe, “Structure of Social Organizations”
Lowenberg, “Neoclassical Econ…”

April 16
**Law and Society**
**The Welfare State**
Required Readings: Piven and Cloward (all)
Clark, Chapter 9

April 23 & 30
**Urban Political Economy**
**Politicization of the Economy**
Required Readings: Jacobs (all)
Tufte (all)

**Final Paper Due 23**

April 30
**Instruction Ends**