

Comparative Political Economy Short Course
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Recent work in comparative political economy has debated the role of economic inequality in settings as diverse as public spending, democratisation, and political polarization. This class teaches students the classic models of inequality and redistribution and provides a series of applications of these models. The first session introduces these formal models to students, building up the basic framework for applied analysis. The remaining four sessions each take on a well-known recent application: risk, insurance, and wealth; the impact of non-economic and identity motivations; the demand for skills and education; and regime change. By the end of the class students should be familiar with important recent debates in political economy and understand the strengths and weaknesses of standard models of inequality and redistribution. In several of the classes I will discuss the models in my own published work. The reason for doing this is (a) I know this material best! and (b) I will discuss the challenges and choices facing researchers as they think about how to model and test their ideas.

Class One: Formal Models and Redistribution

- Dennis Mueller, *Public Choice III*, Chapter 3
- Adam Przeworski *States and Markets* Chapters 10 and 11
- Allen Meltzer and Scott Richard, 'A Rational Theory of the Size of Government', *Journal of Political Economy*, 1981.

Class Two: Risk, Insurance and Ownership

- Karl Ove Moene and Michael Wallerstein, 'Inequality, Social Insurance and Redistribution', *American Political Science Review*, 2001.
- Philipp Rehm, 'Social Policy by Popular Demand', *World Politics*, 2011.
- Philipp Rehm, Jacob Hacker and Mark Schlesinger, 'Insecure Alliances: Risk Inequality and Support for the Welfare State', *American Political Science Review*, 2012.
- Ben Ansell, 'The Political Economy of Ownership', *American Political Science Review*, 2014.

Class Three: Altruism and Group Identity

- Kenneth Scheve and David Stasavage, 'Religion and Preferences for Social Insurance', *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 2006.
- Moses Shayo, 'A Model of Social Identity with an Application to Political Economy: Nation, Class and Redistribution.' *American Political Science Review*, 2009.
- Noam Lupu and Jonas Pontusson, 'The Structure of Inequality and the Politics of Redistribution', *American Political Science Review*, 2011
- Matthew Dimmick, David Rueda, and Daniel Stegmueller, 'The Altruistic Rich? Inequality and Other-Regarding Preferences for Redistribution in the US', at <http://www.daniel-stegmueller.com/files/DimickRuedaStegmueller2014.pdf>

Class Four: Skills and Education

- Gary Becker, 'Investment in Human Capital: A Theoretical Analysis', *Journal of Political Economy*, 1962.
- Marius Busemeyer and Christine Trampusch, 'Comparative Political Science and the Study of Education', *British Journal of Political Science*, 2011.
- Torben Iversen and David Soskice, 'An Asset Theory of Redistribution', *American Political Science Review*
- Ben Ansell, 'Teachers, Traders, and Tyrants: Democracy, Globalization, and Public Investment in Education', *International Organization*, 2008.
- Ben Ansell, 'University Challenges: Explaining Institutional Change in Higher Education', *World Politics*, 2008.

Class Five: Regime Change

- Carles Boix, *Inequality and Democracy*. 2003 Chapter 2
- Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *The Political Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. 2006. Chapter 6
- Ben Ansell and David Samuels, *Inequality and Democratization: An Elite Competition Approach*. 2014. Chapter 4 (will provide copies).
- Adam Przeworski, 'Democracy as an Equilibrium' *Public Choice*, 2005.