

University of Cologne  
Cologne Center for Comparative Politics  
Summer Term 2019  
Lecture: Comparative Political Economy: Theories and Methods  
Module: Basismodul Politikwissenschaft II (1336BPoWi2) (6 ECTS)  
Room: Hörsaal H112, IBW-Gebäude (211), Herbert-Lewin-Straße 2  
Date: Tue, 10:00-11:30 (weekly) + double session on June 18, 10:00-13:30  
Instructor: Dr. Michael Schwan  
Contact: [schwan@wiso.uni-koeln.de](mailto:schwan@wiso.uni-koeln.de)  
Office hour: Tue, 16:00-17:00 (by appointment only)

### **Description**

This lecture deepens students' knowledge in theories and methods of comparative political economy. It discusses analytical approaches and methods used in the comparative analysis of capitalism, with a special focus on the relationship between states and markets (or political and economic power) in the governance of labor and financial markets. We discuss classical authors of Comparative Political Economy (CPE), such as Smith and Marx, and newer concepts of labor and business power. Moreover, the lecture broadens students' understanding of some of the most important challenges political economies are facing such as financialization, debt, skills, migration, labor-market dualization and globalization. The lecture also intensively discusses different empirical applications of both quantitative and qualitative methods to test hypotheses or to generate and refine existing theories. The course confronts different analytical and theoretical frameworks with their respective strengths and weaknesses.

### **Prerequisites**

Sound knowledge of basic concepts and methods of political science is required. Prior knowledge of political economy is an asset. Participants are asked to engage in active discussions based on preparatory readings. Classroom and exam language is English.

### **Formalities**

Registration via KLIPS 2. All obligatory readings and course materials are made available via ILIAS.

### Outline and literature

A detailed syllabus with all assigned readings and suggested background texts will be provided in the first session. All literature and slides are going to be available via ILIAS.

DATE	TOPIC AND CORE TEXTS
APR 02	<b>Introduction</b>
APR 09	<b>No Session</b>
APR 16	From Smith to Marx
APR 23	Labor and Capitalism I
APR 30	Labor and Capitalism II
MAY 07	Business and Capitalism
MAY 14	Globalization of Capitalism
MAY 21	<b>GUEST LECTURE (TBA)</b>
MAY 28	Skills and Capitalism
JUN 04	Migration and Capitalism
JUN 18	<b>Double session:</b> Financial Markets and Finance Capital (incl. documentary)
JUN 25	Debt and the Eurozone Crisis
JUL 02	<b>Recap and evaluation</b>
JUL 09	<b>Examination</b>