ECON 5990-491: Special Studies: Comparative Economic Systems

Course Description:
This course analyzes and compares different economic systems and provides students with an understanding of their organization, operation and performance, both in theory and in practice. The course begins its analysis by establishing a historical context, exploring the transition from feudalism to capitalism, and the rise of market society in Western Europe. In this part we also cover debates on free markets vs. interventionism. We then move to an exploration of different schools of thought in economics, followed by a discussion of industrialization and developmental state. The fifth section provides a regional analysis of comparative economic systems in Europe, East Asia and Africa. The sixth section focuses on the importance of institutions for development followed by section seven, which studies the rise of Neoliberalism. The final section provides an introduction to the political economy of food, hunger and famines. Students are expected to do the all assigned readings during the scheduled time period as there will be short-essay quizzes at the end of each section.

Course Dates:
January 2 – April 30, 2021
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: December 4, 2020

Site Director:
This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or email our online site coordinator at aponline@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Firat Demir, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: Dept. of Economics, 436 CCD1, 308 Cate Center Drive
Norman, OK 73019-2103
Telephone Number: 405-325-5844
E-mail Address: fdemir@ou.edu
Web: http://firatdemir.oucreate.com
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail or Zoom. Students should email the professor to schedule an appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Bookstore Website at https://ou.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php. There is no longer a physical bookstore, the store will remain, but textbooks will not be stocked. The website has book selling, renting, buying, returning, and order tracking capabilities. If you need help with an order, or if you have any questions contact the toll-free phone at 1-(855)-790-6637, agents are available from 9a – 5p (EST) Monday – Friday. For more information or questions about textbooks, feel free to contact asyllabi@ou.edu. Text prices are available online

2. Materials posted on the OU Canvas system: Access Canvas at https://canvas.ou.edu, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.

OU Email:

All official correspondence from instructors will be sent only to students’ ou.edu address.

Online Orientation:

The College of Arts and Sciences offers an online orientation for students who are enrolled in online or blended courses. The purpose of the orientation is to ensure that students are well prepared both technically and practically to take online courses. The orientation can be found on their website at: http://www.ou.edu/content/cas/online/student-online-orientation.html

The College of Arts and Sciences Online and Academic Technology Services office is here to assist you with any questions, problems, or concerns you may have. For assistance visit their website at http://www.ou.edu/content/cas/online/student-information.html or contact them by telephone at: (405) 325-5854 or email: casonline@ou.edu

Course Objectives:

- To provide students with historical, theoretical and empirical knowledge regarding comparative economic systems.
- To enable students to develop necessary skills to apply the methods and models to policy making as well as to current economic debates.

Course Outline:

1. The Rise of market society, laissez faire and interventionism
   - Hunt, Property and Prophets, Chs: 1-3
   - Polanyi Chs: 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
2. Modernism and Modernization
   - M. Berman, All that is Solid Melts into Air, Ch.2
3. Alternative schools of thought in economics
   a. Neoclassical economics
      - International Handbook of Development Economics, Ch. 13 (S. Rashid)
      - Hunt, Property and Prophets, Ch. 8
   b. Keynesianism
      - Hunt, Property and Prophets, Ch. 12
      - Watch: “J. M. Keynes: What Did We Learn from the Great Depression?” (from the “Economics, USA” TV series)
   c. Marxism
      - Hunt, Property and Prophets, Ch. 6 -7
   d. Institutional Economics
   e. Watch: Germinal (by Claude Berri) (due February 28) (watch after finishing all readings in section 3)
4. Industrialization, industrial policy and the logic of developmental state
5. Economic development experiences
   a. European Capitalism
   b. The East Asian experiences
   c. Africa’s growth tragedy
      • Easterly, W. The White Man’s Burden, pp. 269-293.
      • Watch: Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death (by Peter Bate) (due March 21)

6. Institutions: Do they matter at all?
   • Lecture notes
   • Chang, Bad Samaritans, Ch. 9. pp. 167-188.
   • *Chang, H-J. (2010). Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark: How development has disappeared from today’s ‘development’ discourse. In S. Khan & J. Christiansen (Eds.), Towards New Developmentalism: Market as Means rather than Master

7. Neoliberalism
   • Watch: The Inside Job (by Charles Ferguson) (due April 10)

8. Political Economy of Food, Hunger and Famine
   • Davis, Mike. Victorian Holocaust, Chs. 11, 12
- Watch: Bicycle Thieves (by Vittorio De Sica) (due April 30)
- Watch (optional): Poison Squad (due April 30)

Course Schedule

January
1. The Rise of market society, laissez faire and interventionism (January 2- 23)
   a. Rise and fall of market society: Hunt, Property and Prophets, Chs. 1-3 & Polanyi Chapters. 3, 4, 5, 6
   b. Laissez faire & Interventionism: Polanyi Chapters: 11, 12, 13. Quiz 1 (January 23)
2. Modernization (January 24- 31)
   Berman, Ch.2. Quiz 2 (January 31)

February
3. Alternative schools of thought in economics (February 1-20)
   a. Neoclassical economics
   b. Keynesianism
   c. Marxism
   d. Institutional economics Quiz 3 (February 20)
4. Industrialization, industrial policy and the logic of developmental state (February 21-28)
   Quiz 4 (February 28)
   Reaction paper 1: Germinal (due February 28)

March
5. Economic development experiences (March 1-21):
   a. European capitalism
   b. The East Asian experiences
   c. Africa’s growth tragedy Quiz 5 (March 21)
   Reaction paper 2: Congo (due March 21)
6. Institutions (March 22-31)
   Quiz 6 (March 31)

April
7. Neoliberalism (April 1- 9)
   Reaction paper 3: The Inside Job (by Charles Ferguson) (due April 10)
8. Political economy of food (April 9-20)
   Quiz 7 (April 20)
   Reaction paper 4: Bicycle Thieves (due April 30)
   Optional Reaction paper: Poison Squad (due April 30)

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:

There will be 7 quizzes in the form of short essays from assigned readings. You can use outside resources, but I expect your answers to specifically refer to assigned readings and make connections between current and previous readings. They will be posted on Canvas and you will have ten days to complete them (they will be posted on the dates listed in the ‘Course Schedule’). Therefore, you should complete the assigned readings before the end of each section. You are expected to use all required readings in each section to answer the questions. I will drop the lowest graded quiz from your final grade calculation. There are also four reaction paper assignments based on four movies (Germinal, Congo, Inside Job, Bicycle Thieves). A fifth one is optional for extra credit (3%) (the Poison Squad). You are expected to
obtain copies of these movies yourselves for viewing (the Poison Squad is available from PBS). Each maximum 4 (single-space) pages. Make sure to get hold of these movies ahead of time.

**Final Examination:**
The final exam will in take-home format with essay questions and will be given one week before the last day of class (April 23rd).

**Term Paper**
The term paper should be on a problem or issue that is related to our class readings, or any topic dealing with comparative economic issues and systems. It should be focused, analytic, reflect critical thinking of materials read and must be well-documented with complete references given (at least 10 sources). Internet material should be used with care and very sparingly (Wikipedia is not acceptable). A 1-2 page proposal of your paper is due on **February 1, 2021** and the final paper is due on **April 22, 2021**. Both the proposal and the final copy of your paper need to be submitted online through **Canvas**. More details on term paper are provided on Canvas.

**Grading:**
This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short quizzes</td>
<td>See course schedule</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction papers</td>
<td>See course schedule</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take home final</td>
<td>April 30, 2021</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>April 22, 2021</td>
<td>33%</td>
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**Notice:** Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

**Policy for Late Work:**
Please contact the professor regarding his/her policy for late work

**Attendance Policy:**
In addition to interaction via Canvas and email contact, students are required to contact the instructor via email or telephone **before** the beginning of the course term for an initial briefing. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Canvas, although students may contact the instructor via telephone, postal mail, email, or fax as needed.

**Incomplete Grade Policy:**
A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

**Technical Support Information:**
If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: [http://webapps.ou.edu/it/](http://webapps.ou.edu/it/) or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/FAQS/pregnancy-faqs.html.
Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office’s website at http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Firat Demir, Ph.D.

Education
- Ph.D. in Economics, University of Notre Dame, 2006.

Current Positions
- Professor, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma, 2018 – present.
- Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma, 2012 – 2018.
- Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma, 2006 – 2012.

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
- ECON 5633 International Economics – Finance
- ECON 5990 Comparative Economic Systems
- ECON 5853 World Economic Development

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- Open Economy Macroeconomics
- Development Economics
- Political Economy

Representative Publications and Presentations

Publications in Refereed Journals

Representative Honors and Awards Received
- Fulbright Award, University of Montenegro, 2015-2016; Vilnius University, 2021

Major Professional Affiliations
- American Economic Association
- Eastern Economic Association
- Southern Economic Association