The tradition of a political economy approach to the study of politics goes back to Aristotle -- that is, it is as old as the study of politics itself. What is the relationship between the economic base of society and the limits of decision-making in the political superstructure? To what extent can state decisions in that political realm impact on the economic base? Is the distinction between economic base and political superstructure tenable?

In Canada, political economy has occupied an important position in scholarship throughout this century. Men like Innis and Mackintosh working in an essentially "neo-classical" framework established the school, it received a renewed impetus in the late 1960s and early 1970s through "left-nationalists" like Watkins, Drache and Naylor, and in recent years has seen the development of a vibrant Marxist school.

This course has three goals. First, to familiarize students with political economy as an approach to the study of politics. Second, to survey the main tenets of this school as its has been applied to Canada, with particular attention to political economy controversies in the 1970s and 1980s. Finally, to leave students with an ability to use the method of political economy, or at least to recognize and analyze that method when it is encountered in later years.

The fall term will begin with an historical and theoretical overview of the origins of the school of political economy, touching on Aristotle and focussing on the rise of "classical" political economy (Adam Smith and David Ricardo in particular) in the context of the bourgeois revolutions which were dismantling feudalism and laying the groundwork for the spread of capitalism. The Marxist critique of classical political economy will follow, and we will conclude with the "neo-classical" response to Marxism. This will serve as a theoretical basis for examining the Canadian scholars who developed political economy in this country, beginning with the neo-classical writers, and working our way through the left-nationalist and Marxist alternatives.
The winter term will use the analytic tools developed in the fall to approach important issues in Canadian political economy -- Canada's place in the world system, the question of "dependency", the nature and impact of foreign ownership, the question of the development of capitalism in the nineteenth century, the impact of arms spending on the Canadian and the American economies, the role of nationalism in Canadian politics and its relationship to political economy, etc.

Requirements:

There are two assignments in each term, one essay and one exam. In the fall, the essay will be a 1,000 word critique of two or more related books and articles (15%). Students will be required to present a brief summary of their findings orally to the class. The Christmas Exam will be worth another 15%. In the Second term, a more substantial essay will be required (2-3,000 words) on one of the themes we will be discussing that term (30%). This too, will be presented orally as a class seminar. There will be a final exam worth 30%. The final 10% will be compiled from the class presentations and overall class participation.

Required Texts:

Studies in Political Economy Number 6 (SPE 6), Autumn 1981, Special Issue.


Recommended Texts:


Daniel Drache and Duncan Cameron, eds., The Other Macdonald Report (Toronto: James Lorimer & Company, 1985).


John McCallum, Unequal Beginnings: Agriculture and Economic Development in Quebec and Ontario until 1870 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1980).

Gary Teeple, Capitalism and the National Question in Canada (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1973).


Marcel Rioux, Quebec in Question (Toronto: James Lorimer & Company, 1978).

SYLLABUS

Week 1, Sept. 11 and Sept. 13
Introduction to the Course and The Origins of "Political Economy"
* Smith, Book Two, Chapter III, "Of the Accumulation of Capital", pp. 429-449.

Week 2, Sept. 18 and Sept. 20
The Crisis of Feudalism and the rise of Classical Political Economy
* Smith, Book Three, All four Chapters, pp. 479-520.
* Ricardo, Chapter XX, "Value and Riches, Their Distinctive Properties", pp.182-191.

Week 3, Sept. 25 and Sept. 27
"Classical" Marxism, and the Neo-Classical Challenge
* Marx, Capital, Volume 1 (Markham: Penguin Books, 1976), Part One, Chapter 1, Sections 1 to 3a inclusive, pp.125- 153;

Week 4, Oct. 2 and Oct. 4
The Origins of Capitalism in Canada 1) The Neo-Classical View
* W.A. Mackintosh, "Economic Facotrs in Canadian History" in Easterbrook and Watkins, pp. 1-15;
* M.H. Watkins, "A Staple Theory of Economic Growth" in Easterbrook and Watkins, pp. 49-73;
* G.W. Bertram, "Economic Growth in Canadian Industry, 1870-1915" in Easterbrook and Watkins, pp. 74-98;

Week 5, Oct. 11
The Origins of Capitalism in Canada 2) The Left-Nationalist View
No Class Oct. 9, Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 6, Oct. 16 and Oct. 18
The Origins of Capitalism in Canada 3) The Marxist View
   * Leo Panitch, "Dependency and Class in Canadian Political Economy" in SPE 6, pp. 7-34;
   * McCallum, pp. 54-122;
   * Pentland, pp. 130-175.

Week 7, Oct. 23 and 25
The Quebec Question
   * Rioux, pp. 1-111.
   * Stanley B. Ryerson, "Quebec: concepts of class and nation" in Teeple, pp. 211-228.

Week 8, Oct. 30 and Nov. 1
Harold Innis
   * H.A. Innis, "The Importance of Staple Products" in Easterbrook and Watkins, pp. 16-19;
   * Innis, "The Fur Trade", in Easterbrook and Watkins, pp. 20-27;
   * Innis, The Fur Trade in Canada (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1962), pp. 3-8, 341-402;
   * David McNally, "Staple Theory as Commodity Fetishism: Marx, Innis and Canadian Political Economy" in SPE 6, pp. 35-64;
   * Ian Parker, "'Commodity Fetishism' and 'Vulgar Marxism': On 'Rethinking Canadian Political Economy'" in Studies in Political Economy 10 (Winter, 1983);

Week 9, Nov. 6 and Nov. 8
H. Clare Pentland
   * Pentland, pp. 1-129;
   * Allan Greer, "Wage Labour and the Transition to Capitalism" in Labour/Le Travail 15, Spring 1985, pp. 7-22.

Monday, Nov. 6: GUEST LECTURER, Robin Wylie, University of Saskatchewan, "The Political Economy of Confederation".

Week 10, Nov. 13 and Nov. 15
The Rise of Left-Nationalism 1) The NDP Intelligentsia Comes of Age
   * Jim Laxer, "Introduction to the Political Economy of Canada" in (Canada) Ltd., pp. 26-41;
   * Mel Watkins, "Resources and Underdevelopment" in (Canada) Ltd., pp. 107-126;
   * Watkins, "Contradictions and Alternatives in Canada's Future" in (Canada) Ltd., pp.250-269;
   * Charles Lipton, "Canadian Unionism" in Teeple, pp. 101-120;
   * H.E. Bronson, "Continentalism and Canadian Agriculture" in Teeple, pp. 121-140.

Monday, Nov. 13: ESSAYS DUE.

Week 11, Nov. 20 and Nov. 22
The Rise of Left-Nationalism 2) From the NDP to the Land of Cain

Monday, Nov. 20: ESSAYS RETURNED.

Week 12, Nov. 27 and Nov. 29
Mon., Nov. 27: LAST CLASS. Fall-term review and Exam preparation.
Wednesday, Nov. 29: In-class fall-term exam.
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

Department of Political Studies

POLS 314 — Canadian Political Economy

1989/90 Spring Term

Instructor: Paul Kellogg
Office: M-C E326
Telephone: 542-5716

Office Hours:
Monday, 11:30-1:00
Wednesday, 10-11:30

Class Hours:
Monday 1:00 - 2:30
Wednesday 11:30-2:00

Class Location:
M-C C420

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Students are advised that incomplete standing will be granted only with the permission of the chairman of undergraduate or graduate studies (as appropriate) and only where there is a clear demonstration of need. Applications for "Incomplete" standing must be made in the first instance to the instructor on the form available in the General Office. The simple fact of nonsubmission of work does not constitute an application and will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.

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Assignments this term
30% - Research Essay (2,000 - 3,000 words) and class seminar based on research
30% - Final Exam

2ND TERM SYLLABUS

Week 1, Jan. 8 and Jan. 10
The dilemma of the new political economy. The key tenets of the new political economy of the 1970s and the 1980s. The changing face of Canada and the world economy.

Week 2, Jan. 15 and Jan. 17
1. Canada in the World Economy. 2. The impact of foreign ownership

Week 3, Jan. 22 and Jan. 24

Week 4, Jan. 29 and Jan. 31
Canada and the crisis of U.S. Hegemony

Week 5, Feb. 5 and Feb. 7
SEMINAR 1: Outline the case for the FTA. Are the issues of "market-size" and "globalization" important considerations in assessing the FTA? Are there not alternatives to increased economic integration with the United States? 
SEMINAR 2: Compare and Contrast the FTA with "1992" in Europe. Is the World moving towards free trade? What are the dangers of a rise of regional trade blocs? 

Week 6, Feb. 12 and Feb. 14
SEMINAR 3: Assess the impact of the FTA on Canadian sovereignty. Why is this (or why is this not) an important question for Canadian political economy? Would a move away from the FTA necessitate a move towards import controls and Canadian protectionism? 
SEMINAR 4: Assess the impact of the FTA on social services in Canada. Many critics of the trade deal argued that the move towards a "level playing field" would necessarily involve, at some point, an attack on Canada's welfare state, which by many indicators, is more developed than that in the United States. Are these fears justified? What policy options are available to deal with this issue? 
Readings: Daniel Drache and Duncan Cameron, eds., The Other Macdonald Report (Toronto: James Lorimer & Company, 1985), all.

READING WEEK

Week 7, Feb. 26 and Feb. 28
SEMINAR 5: Compare the industrial performance of Canada in the 1970s and 1980s to one or more "small" advanced capitalist powers. (That is, Switzerland, Sweden, Austria or Australia, but not the United States, Japan, Germany, France or the U.K.). How does such a comparison confirm or confound the key tenets of what has come to be known as "the new political economy"?
SEMINAR 6: Compare and contrast the positions of the three major parties towards the FTA. Which do you find the most persuasive and why?.

Week 8, Mar. 5 and Mar. 7
SEMINAR 7: It has been argued that women stand to suffer most from the implementation of the FTA. Assess this claim. 
SEMINAR 8: There is some evidence that attitudes to the FTA differ somewhat in Quebec as compared to English Canada. Assess the reasons for such a different attitude and survey the reaction to these attitudes by anti-FTA intellectuals such as Reg Whitaker and Philip Resnick.
SEMINAR 9: Is there such a thing as a political economy of culture? If so, how can this be applied to Canada? Assess the impact of the FTA in this context.


MON. MAR. 5: ESSAYS DUE

Week 9, Mar. 12 and Mar. 14
SEMINAR 10: Is Canada an imperialist power? Discuss with reference to other OECD countries.

SEMINAR 11: Is Canada an imperialist power? Discuss with reference to the Caribbean.


Week 10, Mar. 19 and Mar. 21
SEMINAR 12: Assess the role of the state in recent developments of Canadian capitalism. What is the relationship between the state and society, both in theory and as it has played itself out in recent history?

SEMINAR 13: How do issues affecting women intersect with the key frameworks developed in the Canadian political economy literature?


Week 11, Mar. 26 and Mar. 28
SEMINAR 14: Have native people been written out of many of the works of the new political economy? How can an understanding of issues that concern native people be connected to the frameworks of political economy?

SEMINAR 15:


Week 12, Apr. 2 and Apr. 4
Review lectures: 1) The legacy of the three paradigms. 2) Problems for the future.