Recent literature in political science emphasizes the strong complementarities tying systems of economic production, social welfare institutions, and political arrangements. Much of this literature is known as the "varieties of capitalism." This seminar reviews some of this literature, with particular emphasis on the relationship between social policy and economic institutions. We examine studies of advanced capitalist democracies as well as developing and transitional economies. The seminar seeks to provide an introduction to the major theoretical frameworks and analytical tools used for research in this area.

The readings will be available on Reserves Direct or on the seminar Blackboard site.

You are required to write a short (2-3-page) paper each week addressing a single central issue raised by the week’s readings. The paper should succinctly identify the contribution of each reading to that particular question, and relate the readings to one other with respect to their treatment of it. The issue chosen may concern a theoretical or methodological point. The paper should address the way the issue is framed, the nature of the evidence used to draw conclusions, and the implications of the issue for research in the field. The paper should not attempt to summarize the week’s readings, but rather to address their bearing on the particular question or problem selected.

Each student will be allowed to skip two of the weekly papers. The paper is to be handed in at the beginning of each week’s seminar session.

There will also be a final exam in the form of a take-home, open-book essay. The exam will be similar to the type of question you might encounter on a qualifying exam. The exam will test your ability to develop an extended argument based on a synthesis of the readings.

Each student’s participation in discussion is crucial to the seminar. Accordingly, quality of participation overall will be weighted 30% in determining the final grade. The weekly papers will be weighted another 30% and the final exam carries 40%.
Schedule of topics and readings:

August 28. Introduction to the seminar

Sept. 4. Institutional Complementarities.
   Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, chs. 11-13, pp. 130-162

Sept. 11. the Varieties of Capitalism
   Kathleen Thelen, "Varieties of Labor Politics in the Developed Democracies," in Hall and Soskice, eds., *Varieties of Capitalism*.

Sept. 18. Class, Parties, and Social Policy

Sept 25. Women, Families, Gender and Welfare

Oct. 2. Governing Labor Markets
   Peter Swenson, *Capitalists Against Markets* (Oxford UP, 2002), ch. 2 (pp. 17-44).

Oct. 9. 6. The Political Economy of Skill
   Kathleen Thelen, *How Institutions Evolve: The Political Economy of Skills in Germany, Britain, the United States, and Japan*, (Cambridge UP, 2004), chs. 1, 6 (pp. 1-38, 278-296).

Oct. 16. Inequality and Redistribution
   Lane Kenworthy and Jonas Pontusson, "Rising Inequality and the Politics of Redistribution in Affluent Countries," *Perspectives on Politics* 3(3) (2005): 449-471.

Oct. 23. US exceptionalism?


Oct. 30. Liberalization, Democratization, and Retrenchment


Haggard & Kaufman, ch. 5

Nov. 6. Other Worlds: Latin America


Nov. 13. Russia & East Europe
Haggard & Kaufman, Development, Democracy, and Welfare States, chs. 4 & 8


Thomas Remington, Politics of Inequality in Russia, ch. 2.

Remington, Marques, McElroy, "Skill Formation in Russia." (Paper)

Nov. 20. East Asia


Dec. 4. Globalization, Policy Diffusion, and Migration


Haggard & Kaufman, "Conclusion"