Basics

My main goal is for you to learn the literature with the aim of writing a research paper in this field of political economy. The course will focus on the empirical studies related to corruption, regulation, privatization, public investment, political connections, and lobbying. The topics vary widely, but they all share a common theme in that they provide a rigorous analysis of the effects of institutions and politics. The empirical studies like these on the course reader are the main emphasis in the literature now.

Each week will focus on three papers. We will discuss the research question, the data and methods, and the major findings of the papers. Our meetings will be organized as a seminar. I will lead the discussion, but all students should come to class prepared to discuss.

At the end of the quarter you will write a research proposal, outlining a research topic, a review of the relevant literature, one or more research questions, potential data sources, and methodologies. You need to email your research proposal by Friday of finals week.

Course grading will be based on class participation (50%), and your research proposal (50%).

All papers are available on the course website.

Course topics and readings

**Week 1: Introduction**

Discuss Syllabus and introduction to Institutional and organizational analysis


**Week 2: State Capacity**


Additional reading


**Week 3: Labor coercion and its economic implications**


Additional reading:


**Week 4: Decentralization and corruption**


Additional reading


Week 5: Party politics and Elections


Additional reading of interest


Week 6: Political Connections and firms


Additional reading of interest:


Week 7: Politics and barriers to development: insights from British history


Additional reading


Week 8: Provision of schooling


Week 9: Privatization and State ownership


Additional reading of interest:


**Week 10: Public Investment and infrastructure**


Estache, Antonio. "Institutions for Infrastructure in Developing Countries: What We Know and the Lot We still Need to Know." EDI-RA1 Working Paper (2016).

Additional reading of interest: