In this course, we will develop an understanding of some of the political and economic institutions of several advanced capitalist countries (and their on-going evolution), attempting to link the varying institutions to differing economic and social outcomes. In particular, this course will emphasize the ability of different institutional structures to overcome distributional and efficiency problems inherent in market economies.

Communication is one of the most sought-after skills among both academic and non-academic employers. For this reason, assignments in this class are designed to build communications skills in economics, at the same time as building the usual skills in economic analysis.

Students will participate in two, short, in-class presentations (10% of grade each).

One empirical homework assignment and one 3-5 page paper on an assigned topic will be due on September 30 and November 11 (20% of grade each).

There will be an in-class midterm exam on October 14 and a final (20% of grade each).

The reading in this class is extensive. You alone are responsible for locating and completing the readings in time for class and for coming to class prepared to discuss the readings.

You may want to purchase two of the books: We will be reading fairly extensively from two books: David Kennett, *A New View of Comparative Economics* (buy this used from Amazon. It is cheaper that way than including it in the packet), and will be reading all of Georg Menz, *Varieties of Capitalism and Europeanization* (try Amazon for this too!).

Other readings are available in a course packet, available from www.universityreaders.com

Schedule:

I) Introduction: Comparing and Evaluating Systems

Aug 26: Introduction
    Kennett, Ch. 1, pp. pp. 24-41

Sept. 2: Theoretical Background: Economic Institutions
    Przeworski, Chs. 1-4
Sept 9: Performance Measured.


Sept. 16: Theoretical Background: Political Institutions


Sept. 23: Economics of Cooperation and the Economic Role of Cooperative Institutions


II) Case Studies

Sept. 30: The United Kingdom: Liberal and Liberalizing Markets

Paper 1 due.

Kennett, Ch. 8

Malcom Sawyer, The UK Economy, Chs 9-10.

Oct. 7: UK Continued

Sawyer, Ch. 8


Oct. 14: In-Class Midterm

Oct. 21: Germany: Social Market Economy

Martin Schnitzer, Comparative Economic Systems, 8th ed. (South Western College Publishing), pp. 89-107. Ch. 5.

Jochen Claesen, *Reforming European Welfare States*, chs 4-5 pp. 23-76 only.

Oct. 28: Sweden: Social Welfare State

Kennett, Ch. 7


Nov. 4: Inter-European Dynamics: Convergence?

Georg Menz, *Varieties of Capitalism and Europeanization*  
Entire book.

Nov. 11: Japan: Coordinated Capitalism?

Paper 2 due

Kennett, Ch. 12

Masahiko Aoki, Gregory Jackson, and Hideaki Miyajima, *Corporate Governance in Japan*, chs. 1, 3

Nov. 18: Japan, continued.

Masahiko Aoki, Gregory Jackson, and Hideaki Miyajima, *Corporate Governance in Japan*, chs. 14


Nov. 25: Alternative Organizational Forms

