The Purpose of the Course
This course is designed to help to develop an understanding of the principles of the interaction between politics and economic policy making. It shows the variety of distinctive models of capitalism in the contemporary world, and discusses the issue of convergence versus divergence in the globalising economy. Both theoretical debates and the results of empirical research will be discussed during the course.

The central questions under consideration are: how to explain variations in economic policy and performance across nations, and what kind of lessons for the transforming societies can be drawn. In this context several processes characteristic of the post-communist transformation will be discussed, among them: privatisation, changing labour relations, corporate governance. Beside the basic models of advanced economies and Central-East European transformation, the case of China will be considered.

The expected outcomes of the course bring together two perspectives. The one is the overview of advanced capitalist economies in terms of their major institutional settings. In this respect, it is expected that students will understand major differences between them, as well as major forces promoting and objecting globalisation. The other perspective put in this context the transforming economies of the Central-Eastern Europe, and demonstrate the scope of manoeuvre in their policy-making and outcomes of the institutional change.

Students attending the course are expected to participate actively in class discussions on the basis of the selected readings and prepare at least one oral presentation for the class meeting. The term essay of about 3000 words will be due at the end of the term. The essay topic chosen by the student should be initially discussed with the course instructor.

Topics and Readings:

1. Convergence versus Divergence: Tendencies in the Globalizing World Economy and in Transforming Economies. Is 'Glocalization' the suitable term?

Readings:

Recommended:
2. Labour-Capital Relations: Sources and Outcomes of National Diversity "within" Western Europe.
Readings:
- M. Muller, Development in the Management of Human Resources in Austria, Germany, and Sweden, paper for the 13th EGOS Colloquium, Budapest, July 1995.

Recommended:

3. Tripartism in Central-East and Central-South Europe: In Search of a Model.
Readings:

Recommended:
- L. Neumann, Workplace industrial Relations of Joint-Ventures in Hungary, Paper prepared for the European Conference of Sociology, Vienna, August 1992,

4. The Political Economy of Privatization.
Readings:

Recommended:
  Chapter 2: A Political Bargaining Framework,
  Chapter 3: The Policy Context.
- V. Kabalina, P. Faifbrother, S. Clarke, and V. Borisov: Privatization and the Struggle for Control of the Enterprise in Russia, paper for the 13th World Congress of Sociology, Bielefeld, July 1994.

Readings:

Recommended:

6. Anglo-Saxon and German Models of Political Economy: The Main Line of Comparison.

Readings:

Recommended:

7. Beyond a “European Model”: Italy, Spain, and France

Readings:

Recommended:
- J. Levy, Tocqueville’s Revenge: Dilemmas of Institutional Reform in Post-Dirigist France, PhD dissertation, MIT, 1993,
- B. Hancke: Industrial reorganization in France. WZB Discussion Papers series, January 1996


Readings:

Recommended:
  - Chapter 1: Industrializing through Learning.
  - Chapter 13: From Learner to Teacher.

9. Chinese Reforms: Does China Provide a New Model?
Readings:

Recommended:

10. Contrasting Recent Institutional Development in Advanced Economies with the Evolution of the CEE Countries
Readings:

Recommended:
- R. Hyman, Institutional Transfer: Industrial Relations in Eastern Germany, WZP Discussion Papers Series, 1996

Readings:
- E. A. Iankova, The Transformative Corporatism of Eastern Europe, Politics and Society, manuscript.

Recommended:

Readings:
- P. Jasiński, C. Ross, The Use of Policies for Competition in the Promotion of Structural Change in Transforming Economies, in “Post-Communist Economies”, Vol. 11, No. 2, 1999,