

Syllabus for PS 139-04: Government, Business, and Public Policy
Tufts University, Spring 2012
Thursdays, 9:00-11:30 a.m.
Braker Hall 226

Professor Nimah Mazaheri
Packard Hall 306
Email: nimah.mazaheri@tufts.edu
Phone: (617) 627-5840
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:30 pm, and by appt.

Syllabus draft: 01/18/12

Course Description:

This course examines the relationship between governments, the private sector, and the citizenry in countries around the world. It discusses the relationship between governments and private sectors throughout history and describes the political, regulatory, institutional, market, legal, and civic context in which private sectors function. The course also looks at how business owners and entrepreneurs have shaped political and economic outcomes in both the United States and other countries. The roles of entrepreneurship, credit, and the informal economy are examined in detail. Throughout the course, a central theme is exploring and understanding the nature of government regulation, how regulation affects businesses, and how regulation affects societal welfare.

Course Texts:

The following texts are required and available for purchase at the Tufts bookstore:

1. Sylvia Maxfield and Ben Ross Schneider, *Business and the State in Developing Countries* (1997)
2. Mark Smith, *American Business and Political Power: Public Opinion, Elections, and Democracy* (2000)

All other course readings will be made available through Trunk. Many readings are also available on JSTOR or online. If you have difficulties accessing a text please let me know as soon as possible.

Course Requirements:

Your final grade will be based on the following components:

Class participation (10 percent)
Student presentation and bibliography (15 percent)
Response Papers (5 required; 3 percent each)
Exam 1 (20 percent)
Exam 2 (20 percent)
Research Paper (20 percent)

Information about Student Presentations:

Starting in the second half of the term, students working in teams of two (or three) will make a fifteen-minute presentation to the class. The topic for the presentation is up to you and your partner, but it must relate to the central themes explored in the class and it needs to be checked with me first. Prior to your presentation, you are required to submit to me a bibliography of sources that were consulted.

Information about Response Papers:

You are required to submit five response papers over the term. You can choose when to write the response papers, however two papers must be submitted by 5:00 pm on February 29, 2012 and three papers must be submitted after that date. I will only accept one response paper in any given week so you will need to plan ahead a bit. Each response paper needs to be typed and between 1-2 pages (single-spaced). I will provide some general guidelines for how to write the response papers in class as well as how they will be graded. Response papers must address the readings for a particular day of class, and must be sent to me via email by 5 p.m. on the day *before* class meets. Late response papers will not be accepted.

Information about the Exams:

There will be two exams that count for a total of 40 percent of your final grade. The exams will be taken in class and will consist of short identification questions and essays.

Information about the Research Paper:

A major requirement for this course is a 13-15 page (double-spaced) research paper on a topic that pertains to government and business. All topics should be developed in consultation with me and I encourage you to come to my office hours to discuss your ideas. The topic for your paper cannot be the same as the one used for your presentation. A 1-2 page proposal (double-spaced) outlining your paper is due in class on March 1. Late proposals will result in the final paper being graded down one full letter grade. The proposal should do the following: (1) explain what your research question is; (2) explain your working hypothesis/hypotheses; (3) briefly describe how you will empirically assess your hypothesis. I will then provide feedback on your proposal.

Expectations and Other Notes:

Attendance is mandatory and readings must be completed by the class for which they are assigned. Be sure to always bring your readings as we will refer to them during class.

For any short questions, brief requests, etc., please contact me via email and I will try to respond within 24 hours. For questions about the readings, discussion about research paper topics, etc., I encourage you to visit me during my office hours which are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in Packard Hall room 306. If your schedule conflicts with these times, I am happy to schedule an appointment with you.

If you are requesting an accommodation, as a result of a documented disability, you must register with the Disability Services Office at the beginning of the semester. To do so, call the Student Services Desk at 617-627-2000 to arrange an appointment with Sandra Baer, Program Director of Disability Services.

Please familiarize yourself with the university's handbook on *Academic Integrity*:
<http://uss.tufts.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/Academic%20Integrity.pdf>.

Nearly everyone experiences some degree of anxiety when speaking in public. However, it is an important skill to cultivate while you are in college because it is needed for most jobs. If you are at all concerned about your ability to present to the class, please talk to me so that we can discuss some strategies.

Important Dates:

February 16 – selection of partners for presentation

February 29, 5:00 pm – two response papers must be submitted via email by this date

March 1– research paper proposal due

March 8– exam 1

April 19 – exam 2

TBD – student presentations

May 11, 5:00 pm – research paper due

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Thursday, January 19: Introduction

Introduction to the class; summary of key concepts and terms

Thursday, January 26: Key Concepts; Studying Government and Business

1. Levi. 2010. "World Bank Institute Learning Briefs" (there are five to read)
2. Maxfield & Schneider. 1997. *Business and the State in Developing Countries*, Chapters 1 and 2.

Thursday, February 2: Regulation and Deregulation

1. Breyer. 1982. *Regulation and Its Reform*, pp. 15-35; 389-398.
2. Huntington. 1952. "The Marasmus of the ICC: The Commission, the Railroads, and the Public Interest," *Yale Law Journal*.
3. Djankov, et al. 2002. "The Regulation of Entry," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.
4. Pearson. 2005. "The Business of Governing Business in China: Institutions and Norms of the Emerging Regulatory State," *World Politics*.

Thursday, February 9: Regulation and Deregulation

1. Utton. 1986. "The Economics of Regulating Industry," Chapters 1 and 2.
2. Breyer. 1982. *Regulation and Its Reform*, pp. 222-239; 435-440.
3. Weare. 2003. "The California Energy Crisis: Causes and Policy Options," pp. 1-54.

Thursday, February 16: Government and Business in the U.S.

* *Selection of partners for presentation*

1. Berry and Wilcox. 1996. *The Interest Group Society*, pp. 37-42; 206-215.
2. Smith. 2000. *American Business and Political Power*, Chapters 1-4.

Thursday, March 1: Government and Business in the U.S.

** Research Paper Proposal due in class*

1. Smith. 2000. *American Business and Political Power*, Chapters 5-7.

Thursday, March 8: Government and Business in the U.S.

** Exam 1 **

1. Smith. 2000. *American Business and Political Power*, Chapters 8-9.

Thursday, March 15: Government and Business around the World

1. Thorp and Durand. 1997. "A Historical View of Business-State Relations: Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela Compared." Chapter 8 in *Business and the State in Developing Countries*.
2. Schneider. 1997. "Big Business and the Politics of Economic Reform: Confidence and Concertation in Brazil and Mexico." Chapter 7 in *Business and the State in Developing Countries*.
3. Moore. 2002. "What Makes Successful Business Lobbies? Business Associations and the Rentier State in Jordan and Kuwait," *Studies in Comparative International Development*.

Thursday, March 29: Government and Business around the World

1. Hertog. 2010. "Defying the Resource Curse: Explaining Successful State-owned Enterprises in Rentier States," *World Politics*
2. Fields. 1997. "Strong States and Business Organization in Korea and Taiwan." Chapter 5 in *Business and the State in Developing Countries*.
3. Doner and Ramsey. 1997. "Competitive Clientalism and Economic Governance: The Case of Thailand." Chapter 9 in *Business and the State in Developing Countries*.
4. Mares. 2003. "The Sources of Business Interest in Social Insurance: Sectoral versus National Differences," *World Politics*.

Thursday, April 5: Multi-National Corporations and FDI

1. Li and Resnick. 2003. "Reversal of Fortunes: Democracy, Property Rights and Foreign Direct Investment Inflows in Developing Countries," *International Organization*.
2. Buthe and Milner. 2008. "The Politics of Foreign Direct Investment into Developing Countries: Increasing FDI through Trade Agreements?" *American Journal of Political Science*.
3. Levy and Prakash. 2003. "Bargains Old and New: Multinational Corporations in Global Governance," *Business and Politics*.

Thursday, April 12: Entrepreneurs and SMEs

1. Ebner. 2006. "Institutions, Entrepreneurship, and the Rationale of Government: An Outline of the Schumpeterian Theory of the State," *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.

2. Van der Sluis, Van Praag, and Vijverberg. 2005. "Entrepreneurship Selection and Performance: A Meta-analysis of the Impact of Education in Developing Economies," *World Bank Economic Review*.
3. Van Stel, Storey, and Thurik. 2007. "The Effect of Business Regulations on Nascent and Young Business Entrepreneurship," *Small Business Economics*.
4. Beck, Demirguc-Kunt, and Levine. 2003. "Small and Medium Enterprises, Growth, and Poverty: Cross-Country Evidence." *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3178*.

Thursday April 19: The Informal Sector and the Shadow Economy

* Exam 2 *

1. Perry et al. 2007. *Informality: Exit and Exclusion*, Chapter 1.
2. Beckert and Wehinger. 2011. "In the Shadow: Illegal Markets and Economic Sociology," *MPIfG Discussion Paper*.

Thursday, April 26: The Politicization of Business

1. Sinha. 2005. "Understanding the Rise and Transformation of Business Collective Action in India," *Business and Politics*.
2. Mozaffari. 1991. "Why the Bazar Rebels," *Journal of Peace Research*.
3. Greenwood. 2007. "Bad for Business? Entrepreneurs and Democracy in the Arab World," *Comparative Political Studies*.
4. Tsai. 2005. "Capitalists without a Class: Political Diversity among Private Entrepreneurs in China," *Comparative Political Studies*.

Research paper is due Friday, May 11 at 5:00 pm. You must submit both a hard copy in my mailbox and send it to me as an email attachment.