This 10 weeks course in Comparative Economic Systems is designed to introduce students into the variety of today’s economies, in theory as well as in reality. History and cultural background will help to explain differences in institutions, politics and performance of the related economic systems that exist in the modern world. Thus the course will examine the laissez-faire market economy, the state controlled market economy of different variations, the social market economy, and the command economy of the Soviet type. It will help us to understand the US economy better.

Course objectives:

- Classify economies into the three basic types (with certain subdivisions): capitalism/market economy, planned economy, mixed system (market economy with autocratic political system).
- Understand the essential characteristics of a socialist economy.
- Understand why hybrids are tried to be formed.
- Evaluate the comparative performances of different economic systems.

Course structure:

1. week: An introduction to the study of comparative economics
   Jan 7 Angresano, chapters 1-2
2. week: Historical origins: Ancient Rome and the medieval economy
   Jan 12 & 14 Angresano, chapters 3-4
3. week: The Laissez-faire market economy, England in the 19th century
   Jan. 19 Angresano, chapters 5-6
4. week: Historical origins of the Soviet System
   Jan. 26 & 28 How the Soviet Model worked
   Gregory/Stuart, chapters 1-2, 6-7
5. week: The German command economy 1933-45
   Feb. 2 & 4 Angresano, chapter 7
   The Soviet satellite states, EE & Yug., Cuba
   M. Lavigne, chapters 2-4
6. week: The Continental European economies: The philosophical basis for a guided and/or democratically controlled economy: France, Sweden and Germany
   Feb. 9 & 11 Angresano, chapters 8, 11, 12, 13
   Feb. 9 Questions for mid term exam will be given
   Feb. 11 Topics for final exam paper to be presented and discussed with me
7. week: East Asia: The Japanese and the Chinese economies
   Feb. 16 & 18 Angresano, chapters 9, 10, 18
   Feb. 18 Delivery of mid term essays
8. week: The US economy
   Feb. 23 & 25 Rosefielde, pp. 81-105
9. week: Transformation of the socialist command economies
   March 2 & 4 Angresano, chapter 16
   March 4 Submittance of first draft of final paper
To earn your grade for this course, you are required to write a mid term and to write a term paper as a first and final draft. The mid term exam will be take home, and you will have approximately ten days to write up your essay answers which will be given to you on Febr. 9th. Delivery date for the mid term exam is Febr. 18th. For the final you will be faced with the challenge of writing up a referenced paper (of about 7-10 pages) that deals with a topic related to this course. The topic has to be discussed with me by week six (Wednesday, Febr. 11th: extended office hour). The paper has to be submitted as a first draft by 12:00 a.m. on March 4th, then you will turn in your revised version with at the time of the scheduled final exam (Monday, March 16th during my office hour). Failure to operate on time and to carry on in a professional manner (in particular no copy and paste!) will result in a zero for this assignment. Extraordinary emergencies that caused lateness do not include printer failures, hard drive failures, bad disks, crowded computer labs and the like. They are normal occurrences that you should anticipate and allow for. Lateness for reasons such as these will not be excused.

Attending all classes is mandatory. I will reduce your final grade by one half point for each class that is missed without proper excusion If, for unexcused reasons, three sessions are missed, I will not bother to read exams or term papers.

Please never identify yourself on the front page of any paper you hand in. Instead, put your name only on the bottom of the back of the last page of your paper. This should prevent me from knowing who you are as I start reading and grading your work.

The final grade will be composed as follows: mid term exam 40 %, final paper 60 %.

Recommended literature:
- Lavigne, Marie: The Economics of Transition. From Socialist Economy to Market Economy, St. Martin’s Press, NY 1995
- Schnitzer, Martin C.: Comparative Economic Systems, South-Western Publ., 2004

Please note the House Rules:

PSU forbids consuming of food in classrooms.

As I understand PSU codes: If you disturb my class, which I interpret as my concentration during lectures, I can ask you to leave the classroom for the remainder of that class period. The presence of cell phones, their ringing, and or your sending or receiving sms messages breaks my concentration and therefore disturbs the class. Please keep these points in mind.

If you need me to offer you special considerations as you take this course, these considerations can only be offered if you have the office dealing with students’ disabilities contact me within the first two weeks of the start of this course, specifying the criteria.