The first section of the course will focus on the link between theoretical models and current work in empirical political economy. Topics may include war, ethnic fragmentation, the resource curse, the optimal size of jurisdictions, decentralization, and federalism. Emphasis will be placed on structural estimation techniques where applicable. The second section of the course will focus on endogenous trade policies, and in particular on optimal trade policies under perfect competition and under oligopoly; the political economy of unilateral trade policy; and the economics of international trade agreements. Both theoretical and empirical work on these topics will be discussed.