Professor James A. Robinson
Harvard University
jrobinson@gov.harvard.edu

Kiel Institute Advanced Studies Program: March 2011
Institutions and Development

The main topic of this course is recent developments in political economy, particularly the political economy of institutions. Much recent research has emphasized that institutional differences are the main explanation for varying paths of economic performance. Many of the relevant institutions are collective choices of society and are thus the outcome of a political process. In consequence understanding why institutions differ, persist or change necessitates understanding why different societies are in different political equilibria. The course will be based around my book with Daron Acemoglu *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, Cambridge University Press.

Lecture 1: Facts and questions about economic and political development in the long-run.

Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson (2005) "Institutions as the Fundamental Cause of Long-Run Growth," in Philppe Aghion and Steven Durlauf eds. *Handbook of Economic Growth*, Amsterdam; North-Holland.
Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, James A. Robinson and Pierre Yared (2002) "Income and Democracy," NBER Working Paper #11205.
Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson (2006) *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 2.

Lecture 2: Introduction to political economy. Some basics of collective choice. The role of institutions. De facto and de jure power.

Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson (2006) *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, Cambridge University Press. Chapters 4 and 5.

Lecture 3: Origins of democracy and dictatorship.

Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson (2006) *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, Cambridge University Press. Chapters 6 and 7.

Lecture 4: Persistence and Change of institutions.

Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson (2006) "Persistence of Power, Elites and Institutions," NBER Working Paper #12108.
Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson (2007) "A Model of the Iron Law of Oligarchy," Unpublished.

Lecture 5: Application to the emergence of capitalism in Europe.

Brenner, Robert (1976) "Agrarian Class Structure and Economic Development in Preindustrial Europe," *Past and Present*, 70, 30-75.
North, Douglass C. and Barry R. Weingast (1989) "Constitutions and Commitment: Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in 17th Century England," *Journal of History*, 49, 803-832.
Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson (2005) "Rise of Europe: Atlantic Trade, Institutional Change and Economic Growth," *American Economic Review*, 95, 546-579.
Acemoglu, Daron, Gerard Padró-i-Miquel and James A. Robinson (2005) "From Feudalism to Capitalism," Unpublished.