



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Course Number IBUS 6202/PPPA 6085

Summer 2023

Course Title *Business & the State: Privatization, Nationalization, and Public-Private Partnerships*

Synchronous Meetings

Thursdays, 610pm EDT, 25 May -27 July,

Instructor

Robert Weiner, Professor of International Business, Public Policy & Public Administration, and International Affairs

401A Fungler Hall, 2201 202.994.5981

rweiner@gwu.edu

homepage: <https://iiep.gwu.edu/robert-weiner/>

Course Asst. Holly Vo hhollyvo@gwu.edu

Course Description:

Large-scale government intervention is going to lead to the public sector having a much larger role to play across the world – Moisés Naím, former Minister of Trade & Industry, Venezuela; former executive director of the World Bank. Interview with LBS Wheeler Institute, 20.5.2020, <https://wheelerblog.london.edu/the-reaction-to-the-coronavirus-crisis-will-have-more-consequences-and-touch-more-lives-than-the-trigger/>

The COVID-19 crisis is one of huge changes in government role in the economy. This course examines the state's role in industry and markets, spotlighting interactions between public and private sectors. It complements and builds on traditional Business & Public Policy courses, which employ a USA-centric lens of public sector developing and enforcing rules, and private sector operating within them, trying to influence them, even evading them.

The course departs from this approach in three critical ways.

First, it examines arenas where governments act as players, not just as referees. The focus is on two key dimensions:

(1) Ownership and management. For example, does it matter that this course is offered at GW, rather than a state university, such as George Mason, Maryland, or UDC? If so, how? We pay particular attention to ownership change from public to private sector (privatization) and the converse (nationalization).

(2) Direct cooperation between government and business through public-private partnerships (PPP or P3). PPPs are a hybrid form of (1) of particular interest and importance, wherein ownership is public, but management is private.

The second departure point is politics. Most business-school courses address the technocratic (regulatory, policymaking, taxation) dimensions of the state. This course seeks to place public-private interaction in its political context.

Finally, the course is not limited to the USA. Students who so wish can focus on domestic issues, but our lens is international, hopefully the USA can learn from others' experience, and conversely.

The course focuses on both consequences – how and whether the privatization and public-private partnerships improve financial and operating performance. and causes – the rationales for privatization and supporting policies through three perspectives: (1) Management and corporation governance issues after privatization including the impact of privatization and competition on the capital formation, output pricing, and structural change of privatized firms; (2) Effect of privatization on government efficiency, and the effect of the introduction of competition on the public accountability including allocation, distribution, and stabilization; (3) Impact of privatization on consumers in terms of access, reliability, price, quality and distributional equity.

Learning Objectives:

- ◆ Development of perspectives for analyzing whether and how to privatize/nationalize enterprises, and how to relate enterprise performance to ownership.
- ◆ Familiarity with tools to understand the motivations, workings, and implications of public-private partnerships.

Course Format:

We will use on-campus sessions, case discussions, and readings,¹ Details will depend on current tissues. There is a significant amount of reading, as well as a paper, and take-home exam, so please plan your time accordingly.

¹ Readings on BLACKBOARD or the web.

Academic Honesty:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University's policies on academic honesty and integrity. Using words written by others without proper citation, or passing off someone else's work as your own, constitutes academic dishonesty and will be subject to disciplinary action, including failure of the course. If you have questions regarding the use of materials, please ask.

Work Requirements & Assessment:

Proposal	$\frac{1}{6}$	<u>5 pp. + attachments.</u> The proposal for the project should describe what you plan to do, including description of the issues, justification/motivation of why they are important, scope of analysis (what will you focus on and how you will go about it), information you will need, and how you plan to obtain it.
Project	$\frac{1}{3}$	Research project on lessons learned from privatization and/or public-private partnerships in one or more countries. Individual paper of 10-15 pages or group paper of 15-20 pages, excluding charts, tables, bibliography, appendix, etc. (Group members are individually and collectively responsible for project work, and will receive a common assessment.) Presentation of findings at last mtg, July 27 , part of participation assessment Topic approved through proposal process (see above). Sample proposals and papers on BLACKBOARD > files.
Exam	$\frac{1}{3}$	Open book, out of class (sent June 22; return by 6pm, July 5)
Participation	$\frac{1}{6}$	Students are expected to attend all meetings, except study-abroad conflicts. Participation means speaking in class; attendance is not sufficient. Class participation scored for each session — 1 for at least one comment or question that was productive (concise and salient), 2 for multiple such comments/questions Note: There is a 1-grade penalty for absence at presentation session, ½-grade penalty for late arrival or early departure.

CLASS SESSIONS

Session 1
(May 25)

Introduction to the Course, Political Economy of State Capitalism, Bailouts

Discussion of course expectations, deliverables, and participation.

Reading

Micklethwait and Wooldridge, [The Virus Should Wake up the West](#), *Bloomberg opinion*, April 2020.

Optional Reading

Lazzarini and Mussachio, [Leviathan as a Partial Cure? Opportunities and Pitfalls of Using the State-Owned Apparatus to Respond to the Covid-19 Crisis](#), *Brazilian Journal of Public Administration*, July-August 2020.

Megginson and Fotak, [Government Equity Investments in Coronavirus Rescues: Why, How, When?](#), Working paper Apr 2020

Congressional Research Service, [Federal Assistance to Troubled Industries: Selected Examples](#) R46277, March 2020

Casey, [Bankruptcy & Bailouts; Subsidies & Stimulus: The Government Toolset for Responding to Market Distress](#), *University of Chicago Legal Forum*, 2021

Case Studies: Autos and Airlines

Goolsbee and Krueger, [A Retrospective Look at Rescuing and Restructuring General Motors and Chrysler](#), *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 29(2), Spring 2015.

de Rugy and Leff, [The Case against Bailing out the Airline Industry](#), Mercatus Center Policy Brief, March 2020.

Session 2
(June 1)

Political Economy of State Ownership and Privatization

Reading

Musacchio, Lazzarini, and Aguilera. "New Varieties of State Capitalism: Strategic and Governance Implications," *Academy of Management Perspectives* 29(1), February 2015.

Moulton and Wise, Shifting Boundaries between the Public and Private Sectors: Implications from the Economic Crisis, *Public Administration Review* 70 (3), May-June 2010
<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/123390002/PDFSTART>

Voszka, Nationalization or Privatization? The Fragmentation of the Mainstream, *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics* 88(1), March 2017 **SKIM**

Roberts and Saeed. [Privatizations around the world: economic or political determinants? *Economics & Politics*, 24\(1\), Mar 2012](#)

Case

The TARP Bailouts: Saving the Banking and Automotive Industries HBS 9-218-107, February 2019

Optional Reading

Grosman et al, State Control and Corporate Governance in Transition Economies: 25 Years on from 1989. *Corporate Governance: An International Review*. 24(3), May 2016

Meggison, *The Financial Economics of Privatization* 2005, Ch 1

Session 3
(June 8)

Public-Private Partnerships

Reading

[Buckberg, et al, "Rising Tide of Next Generation U.S. P3s", February 2018 pp. 1-12](#)

Moralos and Amekudzi, "The State of the Practice of Value for Money Analysis in Comparing PPPs to Traditional Procurement," *Public Works Management & Policy*, 13 (2), October 2008

Hare, PPP and PFI: the political economy of building public infrastructure and delivering services, *Oxford Rev Econ Policy*, Spring 2013

Optional Reading

Wettenhall, The Public-Private Interface: Surveying the History, in Hodge & Greve ed. *The Challenge of PPPs: Lessons from International Experience*, 2005

[Parker, "PPP/PFI – Solution or Problem?" *Economic Affairs*, 2009](#)

June 13, 6pm

Proposals due by email

Session 4
(June 15)

Public-Private Partnerships – Funding and Case Study

Kanter and Fox, Finding the Money: An Overview of Infrastructure Finance Challenges and Opportunities, HBS Note 9-314-094, 2014

Case

Hillion and Wee, Public-Private Partnerships: The Project Financing of the Indiana Toll Road, INSEAD Case 190, 2012

Hillion and Wee, Indiana Toll Road (B): Will Winner's Curse Strike Again? INSEAD Case 1216, 2016

Session 5
(dates TBD)

Meetings with instructor (via Zoom)
Feedback on project proposal

Session 6
(June 22)

Firm Ownership, Governance, and Performance

Reading

Background on Corporate Governance (If you are familiar with the subject, skim as a refresher): 1) Eun and Resnick, International Financial Management, 6th ed., 2012, Ch. 4;
2) Larcker and Tayan, Governance Aches and Pains: Is Bad Governance Chronic? *STANFORD CLOSER LOOK SERIES – CGRP54*, April 2016

Meggison, *The Financial Economics of Privatization*, 2005, Chapter 2 and pp. 253-267

Bortolotti and Faccio, *Government Control of Privatized Firms*. *Review of Financial Studies*, August 2009
Marcelin and Mathur, Privatization, Financial Development, Property Rights and Growth, *Journal of Banking and Finance*, 2014

Optional Readings

Ang and Boyer, Finance and Politics: The Wealth Effects of Special Interest Group Influence during the Nationalisation and Privatisation of Conrail. *Cambridge J. of Economics* 31, 2007

Djankov, Mcleish, Nenova and Shleifer, Who Owns The Media? *Journal of Law and Economics*, 46(2), October 2003

Boubakri et al. Privatisation in Developing Countries: Performance and Ownership Effects. *Development Policy Review*, 26 (3), 2008

(June 29)

no class; work on exam (**due July 5, 6pm**)

Session 7
(July 6)

Development Banks: State-owned Financial Institutions TBC
Guest Speaker Jesse Corradi Development Finance Corporation TBC

[Musacchio, et al, The role and impact of Development Banks. World bank working paper, 2017](#) pp. 1-16

[Kenny, et al, "Comparing Five Bilateral Development Finance Institutions and the IFC." CGD Policy Paper, 2018](#)

[Barboza, et al., "What Have We Learned About the Brazilian Development Bank?." *Anais do 48º Encontro Nacional de Economia, 2020*, pp. 1-6](#)

Session 8
(July 13)

Case Study – Global Oil Industry: Privatization & NOCs

Reading

Heller et al, Oil's Power Players, *Foreign Policy*, June 2019 (brief intro to NOCs)

Victor et al, *Oil and Governance: SOEs and the World Energy Supply*, 2012, Ch 1-3.

Heller and Mihalyi, *Massive and Misunderstood: Data-Driven Insights into National Oil Companies*, NRGi, April 2019, Executive Summary, Ch I, V.

CASE Serafeim et al, *Statoil: Transparency on Payments to Governments*. HBS 9-115-049, March 2015

Session 9
(July 20)

Leviathan Invests Abroad – SOMNEs & Sovereign wealth funds

He, Eden, and Hitt, The renaissance of state-owned MNEs, *Thunderbird International Business Review*, 58(2), 2016.

Megginson, Lopez, D. and Malik, The Rise of State-Owned Investors: Sovereign Wealth Funds and Public Pension Funds. *Annual Review of Financial Economics*, 13, 2021(**SKIM**).

Stone and Truman, *Uneven progress on sovereign wealth fund transparency and accountability*, PIIE Brief 16-18, 2016.

Session 10
(July 27)

Presentations

August 3, 6pm

Papers due by email