

## **POLITICS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD** *Economics and Politics*

**Course contact hours:** 45

**Recommended credits:** 6 ECTS – 3 US

### OBJECTIVES

This is an introductory course to the politics of development from a comparative perspective. We will be addressing development issues across different points in time and across different world regions. Two main topics/concepts that will be analyzed throughout the semester are: **development** and the **state**. We will study Latin America, Africa, and Asia, which form part of what is known as the developing world or Third World, a labeling which in fact we will challenge. We will also present a comparative overview of the Latin American, African, and Asian regions in general; and familiarize ourselves with and address the debates surrounding the virtues & vices of market economies (and globalization). A cultural component, (films, related to development politics), will also form part of this course.

### REQUIREMENTS

Fluent English

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Become familiar with developmental issues (world-wide).
2. Conceptualize development, democracy, the state, and globalization.
3. Familiarize (and apply) the comparative method.
4. Identify (and differentiate) the dependent and independent variables of an argument.
5. Be adept at elaborating written arguments making use of an essay format.
6. Be adept at elaborating oral arguments grounded on analytical frameworks and making use of empirical reality to sustain (and verify) arguments.

## CONTENTS

Week	Contents	Exercises*
1	Introduction and Conceptualizing Development	Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion
2	Justice & Poverty	In-class guided questions #1 & Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion
3	Guest Lecture#1	Guest Lecture and In-class Guide Questions#2
4	Poor Economics	In-class essay on Guest Lecture#1 intervention & Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion
5	Quiz#1	In-class Guide Questions#3 & Quiz#1
6	In-class film	In-class film and post-quiz #1 review
7	Democracy & Famines	In-class essay on film & Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion
8	Democracy: 21st Century	In-class Guide Questions#4 & Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion
9	Quiz#2	In-class Guide Questions#5 & Quiz#2
10	Guest Lecture#2	Guest Lecture#2 & post-Quiz#2 review
11	Public Health	In-class essay on Guest Lecture#2 intervention & Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion video to introduce discussion
12	Religion & Development	In-class Guide Questions#6 & Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion
13	In-class Guide Questions	In-class Guide Questions#7
14	Quiz#3	Quiz#3 & post-Quiz#3

\* Subject to change.

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course is HEAVILY based on assigned readings and class discussion. There is going to be very little lecture from my part. Students will be responsible for completing the reading assignments for each day of class, participate in class by answering questions posed by the instructor, by raising questions or comments regarding the course's readings, and/or reacting to questions/comments raised by other classmates. In general, students are responsible for ALL the information sources used in this course. Regarding attendance, the instructor will call the same one at the beginning of each class meeting. You are expected to be in class and responsible for everything discussed in class.

Student's evaluation is based on: daily class attendance/participation, three quizzes, three essays, and seven in-class exercises. Below I include a general description of each of the mentioned student's evaluations for this course. Nevertheless, I shall provide a more detailed explanatory document for each of these evaluations as the semester progresses.

## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

In-class Guide Questions' Exercises: 15%  
Essays: 30%  
Quizzes: 45%  
Attendance/Participation: 10%

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required reading:

Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo (2016). *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. Public Affairs: New York.

Diamond, Jared (1997). "Prologue" {pp. 13-32} in *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. Norton and Company.

Farmer, Paul (2005). *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*. University of California Press.

Thomas Edward Flores and Irfan Noorudin (2016). *Elections in Hard Times: Building Stronger Democracies in the 21st Century*. Cambridge University Press.

Jeffrey Haynes (2014). "Religion and development" in Heloise Weber, *The Politics of Development: A Survey*, Routledge, pp. 103-119.

Sen, Amartya (1999). *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books.

Recommended reading:

Amin, Samir (1997). *Capitalism in the age of globalization: The Management of Contemporary Society*. Zed Books Ltd.

Amin, Samir (2006). *Beyond US Hegemony: Assessing the Prospects for a Multipolar World*. Zed Books Ltd.

Bates, Robert H. (2001). *Prosperity & Violence: The Political Economy of Development*. New York/London: W.W. Norton & Company.

Fanon, Franz (1961). *The Wretched of the Earth*. Grove Press.

Fernández Jilberto, Alex E. and André Mommem, editors (1996). *Liberalization in the Developing World: Institutional and economic changes in Latin America, Africa, and Asia*. London and New York: Routledge.

Goldberg, David Theo, (2002) *The Racial State*. Wiley.

Grosfoguel, Ramón (2003). *Colonial Subjects: Puerto Rican Subjects in a Global Perspective*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Kincaid, A. Douglas and Alejandro Portes, editors (1994). *Comparative National Development: Society and Economy in the New Global Order*. Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Carolina Press.

Olson, Mancur (2000). *Power and Prosperity: Outgrowing Communist and Capitalist Dictatorships*. New York: Basic Books.

powell, John A. (2012). *Racing to Justice*. Indiana University Press.

Rifkin, Jeremy (2010). *The Empathic Civilization*. Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc.

Rifkin, Jeremy (2001). *The Third Industrial Revolution; How Lateral Power is Transforming Energy, the Economy, and the World*. Palgrave MacMillan.

Stiglitz, Joseph E. (2002). *Globalization and Its Discontents*. W.W. Norton & Company: New York/London.

Tilly, Charles (1975). *The Formation of National States in Western Europe*. Princeton University Press.

Unger, Roberto Mangabeira (1998). *Democracy Realized: A Progressive Alternative*. Verso.

Wendt, Alexander (1999), *Social Theory in International Politics*. Cambridge University Press.

Wendt, Alexander (2006) "‘Social Theory’ as Cartesian Science: An Auto-Critique from a Quantum Perspective." In *Constructivism and International Relation*’, edited by Stefano

Guzzini and Anna Leander. London: Routledge.

Alexander Wendt (2015). "Preface to a quantum social science", in quantum mind and social science: unifying physical and social ontology, pp. 1-37. Cambridge University Press.