

IAS 3323: Political Economy of Development

Department of International and Area Studies
University of Oklahoma
Fall 2019

Instructor: Professor Natalie Letsa

Class Schedule: T/Th 1:30 – 2:45pm; Farzaneh Hall 146

Office: Farzaneh Hall, Room 315

Office Hours: Schedule a meeting at: <https://calendly.com/nwletsa>

Email: nwletsa@ou.edu

Course Description

Why are some countries rich and why are some countries poor? Scholars of poverty and development have offered many different approaches to answering this question, and the primary goal of this course will be to understand, unpack, and challenge these different approaches. We will learn about structural, institutional, historical, and cultural approaches to understanding development, with an overarching emphasis on the role of the state. In order to evaluate these foundational theories of economic development, we will focus on the empirical nature of political economy. The course will introduce students to issues of causality as well as provide in-depth case studies from countries across the world.

Required Texts:

- 1) Easterly, William. 2001. *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. The MIT Press.
- 2) Banerjee, Abhijit Vinayak, Roland Bénabou, and Dilip Mookherjee (editors). 2006. *Understanding Poverty*. Oxford University Press.

Assignments and Grading

Assignments in this course are designed for you to learn more about special topics in political economy, practice analytical writing, and demonstrate your knowledge of the course material. The calendar of assignments is below:

Reading Quizzes: Six total (20%); I will drop your lowest score (including a missed quiz)

Group Presentation- Intermezzo: Date TBD (10%)

Midterm: Thursday, October 3 (20%)

Reading Response Paper: Tuesday, November 12 (20%)

Final Exam: Friday, December 13 (30%)

Class Policies: I do not take attendance or base your grade on participation. However, if you choose to be present in class, I expect you to respect the classroom. Your phone should be kept in your bag, and you should use your laptop exclusively for the class; e.g. taking notes, researching an idea or topic we are discussing. I will not accept late assignments unless you have a medical or personal emergency.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to meet university standards for academic honesty on all course assignments. General information about these standards can be found at <http://integrity.ou.edu/>. You may also wish to consult the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity, which is available at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html. If you have questions about how to avoid plagiarism, or about any other aspect of the university's policy on academic integrity, please contact me as soon as possible.

Note for Students with Disabilities: The University of Oklahoma is committed to the goal of achieving equal educational opportunity and full participation for students with disabilities. Consistent with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, The University of Oklahoma ensures that no "qualified individual with a disability" will be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination solely on the basis of disability under any program or activity offered by The University of Oklahoma. Accommodations on the basis of disability are available by contacting the Disability Resource Center in Room 166, Goddard Center [\(405\) 325-4173](tel:405-325-4173)/TDD or [\(405\) 325-3852](tel:405-325-3852) Voice. More information is also available at: <http://www.ou.edu/content/drc.html> . The University of Oklahoma will reasonably accommodate otherwise qualified individuals with a disability unless such accommodation would pose an undue hardship, would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the service, program, or activity or in undue financial or administrative burdens.

Title IX Resources: For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24.7, counseling services, mutual no contact orders, scheduling adjustments and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office [405-325-2215](tel:405-325-2215) (8-5) or the Sexual Assault Response Team [405-615-0013](tel:405-615-0013) (24.7) to learn more or to report an incident.

Writing Center: The Writing Center here at OU is a resource I encourage you to use. Part of good writing is seeking feedback from many different readers. The writing consultants at the Writing Center are able to talk with you about your writing—at any stage in the process and for any course you are taking. You can make an appointment (online or by phone, [405-325-2936](tel:405-325-2936)), or you can drop in whenever they are open. For more information, see <http://www.ou.edu/writingcenter.html> .

Course Schedule and Readings

Week 1: Economic Development in Local and Global Context

Tuesday, August 20

Readings: NONE

Thursday, August 22

Readings: *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, Chapter 1 (pp. 5-19)

Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo, 2006. "The Economic Lives of the Poor." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21(1).

Week 2: Measuring 'Economic Development'

Tuesday, August 27

***Bring your laptop to class today!

Readings: Deaton, Angus. 2006. "Measuring Poverty" (pp. 3-15) in *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee. Oxford University Press.

Thursday, August 29

Readings: Morten Jerven, 2015. *Africa: Why Economists Get It Wrong*. Chapter 4: pages 103-123.

**Reading quiz today

Week 3: The History of 'Development'

Tuesday, September 3

Readings: *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, Chapter 2-3 (pp. 25-70)

Thursday, September 5

Readings: *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, Chapters 6-7 (pp. 101-139)

Week 4: Education and Population

Tuesday, September 10

Readings: *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, Chapter 4 (pp. 87-121)

Intermezzo: Pakistani Ghost Schools

**Reading quiz today

Thursday, September 12

Readings: *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, Chapter 5 (pp. 123-139)

Intermezzo: China's One Child Policy

Week 5: Poverty Traps and Technology

Tuesday, September 17

Readings: *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, Chapter 8 (pp. 141-170)

Duflo, Esther. 2006. "Poor but Rational?" (pp. 367-378) in *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee. Oxford University Press.

Intermezzo: Grameen Bank and Microcredit Debt Traps

Thursday, September 19

Readings: *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, Chapter 9 (pp. 171-193)

Aghion and Aghion. 2006. "New Growth Approach to Poverty Alleviation" (pp. 73-83) in *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee. Oxford University Press.

Intermezzo: The Millennium Villages Experiment

Week 6: Governments and Corruption

Tuesday, September 24

Readings: *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, Chapters 11-12 (pp. 217-253).

**Reading quiz today

Thursday, September 26

Readings: Laffont, Jean-Jacques. 2006. "Corruption and Development" (pp. 161-167) in *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee. Oxford University Press.

Intermezzo: The Kleptocracy of Mobutu Sese Seko

Week 7: Diversity and its Discontents

Tuesday, October 1

Readings: *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, Chapters 13 (pp. 255-283; Feel free to also read the conclusion if you wish).

Miguel, Edward. 2006. "Ethnic Diversity and Poverty Reduction" (pp. 169-184) in *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee. Oxford University Press.

Thursday, October 3

Readings: MIDTERM

Week 8: Historical Causes of Weak Institutions: The Formation of States

Tuesday, October 8

Readings: Tilly, Charles, 1985. “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime,” in *Bringing the State Back In*. Edited by Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol, Cambridge University Press. Pages 169-187.

Intermezzo: The Peace of Westphalia

Thursday, October 10

Readings: Levi, Margaret, 1988. *Of Rule and Revenue*. University of California Press. Chapters 1 and 2: pages 1-40.

Listen to this podcast with Russ Roberts and Barry Weingast (EconTalk, August 2013): http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2013/08/weingast_on_the.html#

**Reading quiz today

Week 9: Historical Causes of Weak Institutions: Geography

Tuesday, October 15

Readings: Gallup, John, Jeffrey Sachs, and Andrew Mellinger, 1999. “Geography and Economic Development.” *International Regional Science Review*, 22(2): 179-232.

Intermezzo: Guinea Worm

Thursday, October 17

Readings: Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson. 2006. “Understanding Prosperity and Poverty: Geography, Institutions, and the Reversal of Fortune” (pp. 169-184) in *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee. Oxford University Press.

Week 10: Historical Causes of Weak Institutions: Colonialism

Tuesday, October 22

Readings: Check out this map: <http://brilliantmaps.com/colonialism-history/>.

Engerman and Sokoloff. 2006. “Colonialism, Inequality, and Long-Run Paths of Development” (pp. 169-184) in *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee. Oxford University Press.

**Reading quiz today

Thursday, October 24

Readings: Mamdani, Mahmood. 1996. *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 2: 37 – 61.

Intermezzo: The “Congo Horrors”

Week 11: Historical Causes of Weak Institutions: Culture and Civil Society

Tuesday, October 29

Readings: Putnam, Robert, 1994. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*, Princeton University Press. Chapter 4: pages 83-120.

Intermezzo: The Protestant Work Ethic

Thursday, October 31

Readings: Inglehart, Ronald and Wayne E. Baker, 2000. "Modernization, Cultural Change, and the Persistence of Traditional Values." *American Sociological Review*, 65(1): 19-51.

Week 12: Taxation, Revenue, and the Resource Curse

Tuesday, November 5

Readings: Ravallion, Martin. 2006. "Transfers and Safety Nets in Poor Countries" (pp. 169-184) in *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee. Oxford University Press.

**Reading quiz today

Intermezzo: Bolsa Familia

Thursday, November 7

Readings: Ross, Michael, 2015. "What Have We Learned about the Resource Curse?" *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18: 239-59.

Intermezzo: Ken Saro-Wiwa

Week 13: Weak States, Rule of Law, and Civil War

Tuesday, November 12

Readings: NONE

Reading Response Paper DUE TODAY

Thursday, November 14

Readings: Christopher Blattman and Edward Miguel. 2010. "Civil War." *Journal of Economic Literature* 48 (1): 3-24, 32-35.

Week 14: International Trade and Globalization

Tuesday, November 19

Readings: Banerjee, Abhijit Vinayak. 2006. "Globalization and All That" (pp. 85-98) in *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee. Oxford University Press.

Intermezzo: The Battle of Seattle

Thursday, November 21

Readings: Bardhan, Pranab. 2006. "The Global Economy and the Poor" (pp. 99-109) in *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee. Oxford University Press.

Week 15: International Aid Revisited

Tuesday, November 26

Readings: *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, Chapter 10 (pp. 195-216)

Thursday, November 28

NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING BREAK)

****Final exam is on Friday, December 13 at 1:30pm*