

# **IAS 3323: Political Economy of Development**

Department of International and Area Studies

University of Oklahoma

Fall 2017

**Instructor:** Professor Natalie Letsa

**Graduate Assistant:** Fatima Khan

**Class Schedule:** MW 1:30 – 2:45pm; Farzaneh Hall, Room 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 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.

## **Assignments and Grading**

Assignments in this course are designed for you to learn more about special topics in political economy, accumulate case knowledge, practice academic writing, and demonstrate your knowledge of the course material. In addition to a midterm and final exam, you will write a research report on a country of your choice, and present your paper to the class. Class participation is worth 15 percent of your grade, and you are expected to contribute to class discussions and activities every week. The calendar of assignments is below:

Assignment #1: Anatomy of a research paper #1 (5%)

*Due: Wednesday, September 20*

Assignment #2: Anatomy of a research paper #2 (5%)

*Due: Any time before Monday, November 20*

Midterm: Monday, October 23 (15%)

Assignment #4: Country research report (25%) and presentation (5%)

*Due: Monday, November 6*

Final Exam: Thursday, December 14 (30%)

## **Course Policies and Resources**

Please note that electronic devices, including laptops, are not allowed in class unless otherwise instructed. In addition, students should *print out all readings* before class and are expected to come to class having read the material and thought through the questions and comments they have for each reading. Written assignments should be turned in both electronically, as well as in hardcopy to my mailbox in Farzaneh Hall, Room 314.

**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](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:4053254173)/TDD or [\(405\) 325-3852](tel:4053253852) 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:4053252215) (8-5) or the Sexual Assault Response Team [405-615-0013](tel:4056150013) (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:4053252936)), 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**

*Monday, August 21*

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

*Wednesday, August 23*

Readings: Clark, Barry, 1998. *Political Economy: A Comparative Approach*, second edition. Praeger: Introduction and Chapter 1: Pages ix – 20.

Bates, Robert, 2010. *Prosperity and Violence: The Political Economy of Development*. W.W. Norton & Co., Chapter 1: pages 17-29.

### **Week 2: Measuring ‘Economic Development’**

*Monday, August 28*

\*\*\*Bring your laptop to class today!

Readings: Leite, Pedro Pereira, 2015. “Economic Development – How We Measure It, How It Varies around the World.”  
<https://globalherit.hypotheses.org/2388>

BBC: “Contrasts in Development”

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/development/contrasts\\_development\\_rev1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/development/contrasts_development_rev1.shtml)

*Wednesday, August 30*

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

Deutsche Bank Research, 2006. “Measures of Well-Being: There Is More to It than GDP” [http://www.dbresearch.com/PROD/DBR\\_INTERNET\\_EN-PROD/PROD0000000000202587.PDF](http://www.dbresearch.com/PROD/DBR_INTERNET_EN-PROD/PROD0000000000202587.PDF)

### **Week 3: The Formation and Functions of States**

*Monday, September 4*

Readings: NO CLASS TODAY (LABOR DAY)

*Wednesday, September 6*

Readings: Scott, James, 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. Yale University Press. Chapter 1: pages 11-52.

Mann, Michael, 1984. "The Autonomous Power of the State: Its Origins, Mechanisms, and Results." *European Journal of Sociology* 25(2): 185-213.

#### **Week 4: The Formation and Functions of States, Continued**

*Monday, September 11*

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.

Herbst, Jeffrey, 2000. *States and Power in Africa*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 1: pages 9-32.

*Wednesday, September 13*

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

#### **Week 5: Geography and Endowments**

*Monday, September 18*

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

*Wednesday, September 20*

Readings: Easterly, William and Ross Levine, 2002. "Tropics, Germs, and Crops: How Endowments Influence Economic Development," *Journal of Monetary Economics*.

Gallup, John and Jeffrey Sachs, 2001. "The Economic Burden of Malaria." *The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 64(1): 85-96.

Assignment #1 DUE: Anatomy of a Research Article

#### **Week 6: Colonialism**

*Monday, September 25*

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

Hoffomn, 2012. "Why Was It Europeans Who Conquered the World?" *Journal of Economic History*, 72(3): 601-33.

*Wednesday, September 27*

Readings: Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson, 2012. *Why Nations Fail*, Crown Publishers. Chapter 1.

### **Week 7: Democracy and Authoritarianism**

*Monday, October 2*

Readings: Lipset, Seymour, 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." *American Political Science Review*, 53: 69-105.

Przeworski, Adam and Fernando Limongi, 1997. "Modernization: Theories and Facts." *World Politics*, 49(2): 155-83.

*Wednesday, October 4*

Readings: Gallagher, Mary, 2002. "'Reform and Openness': Why China's Economic Reforms Have Delayed Democracy." *World Politics*, 54(3): 338-72.

### **Week 8: Taxation, Revenue, and the Resource Curse**

*Monday, October 9*

Readings: NONE; Meet in Library Classroom LL123 for library research presentation.

*Wednesday, October 11*

Readings: Besley, Timothy and Torsten Persson, 2014. "Why Do Developing Countries Tax So Little?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 28(4): 99-120.

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

### **Week 9: Inequality and Redistribution**

*Monday, October 16*

Readings: Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson, 2006. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 2: pages 1-47.

*Wednesday, October 18*

Readings: Hoffman, Kelly and Miguel Angel Centeno, 2003. "The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 29: 363-390.

Roberts, Kenneth, 2002. "Social Inequalities without Class Cleavages in Latin America's Neoliberal Era." *Studies in International Development*, 26(4): 3-33.

## **Week 10: Clientelism and Corruption**

*Monday, October 23*

Readings: MIDTERM

*Wednesday, October 25*

Readings: van de Walle, Nicolas, 2001. *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999*, Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 3: pages 1-19; 113-151.

Doner, Richard, Bryan Ritchie, and Dan Slater, 2005. "Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of Developmental States: Northeast and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective." *International Organization*, 59: 327-61.

## **Week 11: Culture and Civil Society**

*Monday, October 30*

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

*Wednesday, November 1*

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

Robison, Richard, 1996. "The Politics of 'Asian Values.'" *The Pacific Review*, 9(3): 309-27.

## **Week 12: Country Presentations**

*Monday, November 6*

Readings: NONE

Assignment #3 DUE: *Country research report*

*Wednesday, November 8*

Readings: NONE

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

*Monday, November 13*

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

Bates, Robert. 2008. "State Failure." *Annual Review of Political Science*, 11:1-12.

*Wednesday, November 15*

Readings: Wood, Elisabeth, 2003. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1: pages 1-30.

### **Week 14: International Trade and Globalization**

*Monday, November 20*

Readings: Stiglitz, Joseph. 2006. *Making Globalization Work*. W.W. Norton & Co., Chapter 3: pages 61-101.

NOTE: Assignment #2 (*Anatomy of a Research Paper #2*) is due by today.

*Wednesday, November 22*

Readings: NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING BREAK)

### **Week 15: International Aid**

*Monday, November 27*

Readings: Wright, Joseph and Matthew Winters, 2010. "The Politics of Effective Foreign Aid." *Annual Review of Political Science*, 13:61-80.

*Wednesday, November 29*

Readings: Ferguson, James and I. Lohmann, 1994. "The Anti-Politics Machine: 'Development' and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho." *The Ecologist*, 24(5): 176-81.

Moss, Todd, Gunilla Pettersson, and Nicolas van de Walle, 2006. "An Aid-Institutions Paradox? A Review Essay on Aid Dependency and State Building in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Center for Global Development*, Working Paper Number 74: 1-28.  
[https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/5646\\_file\\_WP\\_74.pdf](https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/5646_file_WP_74.pdf)

**Week 16: Why Are Some Countries Poor While Others Are Rich?**

*Monday, December 4*

Readings: NONE; Final Exam Review Session

*Wednesday, December 6*

Readings: Severine Autesserre. 2015. "Trouble in Peaceland." Foreign Policy, October.

Singer, Peter, 2010. *The Life You Can Save: How to Do Your Part to End World Poverty*. Random House, Preface and Part 1: pages xi – 44.

*\*\*\*Final exam is on Thursday, December 14 at 10am*