

IAS 5323: Political Economy of Development

Department of International and Area Studies
University of Oklahoma
Fall 2019

Instructor: Professor Natalie Letsa, nwletsa@ou.edu

Class Schedule: MW 12:30 – 3:10pm; Farzaneh Hall 230

Office: Farzaneh Hall, Room 315

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

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. Finally, we will also discuss in depth the ethical and moral aspects of development, both historically and in modern practice.

Assignments and Grading

Assignments in this course are designed for you to learn more about special topics in political economy, accumulate case knowledge, practice analytical writing, and demonstrate your knowledge of the course material. In addition to a discussion paper and a take-home essay midterm, 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: Discussion Paper, 500-1,000 words (10%)

Due: As Scheduled

Assignment #2: Take-home Midterm (25%)

Due: Wednesday, September 25

Assignment #3: Research Paper

-Country presentation (10%): *Wednesday, November 6*

-First draft: *Wednesday, November 13*

-Peer review (5%): *Wednesday, November 20*

-Final draft (35%): *Tuesday, December 10*

Class Participation: 15%

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. 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: Lived Poverty

Wednesday, August 21

Readings:

- Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo, 2006. "The Economic Lives of the Poor." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21(1).
- Easterly, William. 2001. *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. The MIT Press, Chapter 1: pages 5-19.
- Bates, Robert, 2010. *Prosperity and Violence: The Political Economy of Development*. W.W. Norton & Co., Chapter 1

Week 2: Measuring 'Economic Development'

Wednesday, August 28

***Bring your laptop to class today!

Readings:

- BBC: "Contrasts in Development"
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/development/contrasts_development_rev1.shtml
- Deaton, Angus. 2006. "Measuring Poverty" (pp. 3-15) in *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee. Oxford University Press.
- 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

Week 3: The Origins and History of 'Development'

Wednesday, September 4

Readings:

- Easterly, William. 2001. *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. The MIT Press, Chapter 2, 3, and 6, Pages: 25-70 and 101-120.

Week 4: The Formation and Functions of States

Wednesday, 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.

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

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

Week 5: Geography and Endowments

Wednesday, September 18

Readings:

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

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

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

Note: Midterm will be handed out in class today

Week 6: Colonialism

Wednesday, September 25

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

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

Engerman, Stanley and Kenneth Sokoloff. 2006. "Colonialism, Inequality, and Long-Run Paths of Development" (pp. 3-15) in *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee. Oxford University Press.

Englebert, Pierre. 2002. *State Legitimacy and Development in Africa*. Lynne Rienner. Introduction, p.1-16.

Note: Midterm due in class today

Week 7: Democracy and Authoritarianism

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

Week 8: Taxation, Revenue, and the Resource Curse

Wednesday, October 9

Readings:

- Besley, Timothy and Torsten Persson, 2014. "Why Do Developing Countries Tax So Little?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 28(4): 99-120.
- 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.
- Ross, Michael, 2015. "What Have We Learned about the Resource Curse?" *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18: 239-59.

Week 9: Clientelism and Corruption

Wednesday, October 16

Readings:

- 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.
- 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.

Week 10: Library Research Session

Wednesday, October 23

Readings: NONE

-Meet in Library Classroom LL123 for library research presentation.

Week 11: Culture and Civil Society

Wednesday, October 30

Readings:

- Putnam, Robert, 1994. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*, Princeton University Press. Chapter 4: pages 83-120.
- 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): 309-327.

Week 12: Country Presentations

Wednesday, November 6

Readings: NONE

Assignment DUE: *Country Presentation*

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

Wednesday, 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#

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

NOTE: First Draft of Research Paper is due by today.

Week 14: International Trade and Globalization

Wednesday, November 20

Readings:

- Banerjee, Abhijit Vinayak. 2006. "Globalization and All That" (pp. 85-98) in *Understanding Poverty*, edited by Banerjee, Bénabou and Mookherjee. Oxford University Press.
- Stiglitz, Joseph. 2006. *Making Globalization Work*. W.W. Norton & Co., Chapter 3: pages 61-101.

NOTE: Peer Review is due by today.

Week 15: The Ethics of 'Development'

Wednesday, November 27

Readings

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.

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

Mkandawire, Thandika, 2010. "Aid, Accountability, and Democracy in Africa." *Social Research*. 77(4) pp. 1149-1182.

NOTE: *Final draft of research paper: Tuesday, December 10*