

IAS 5323: Political Economy of Development

Department of International and Area Studies
University of Oklahoma
Spring 2022

Instructor: Professor Natalie Letsa, nwletsa@ou.edu

Class Schedule: Thursdays, 12:00 – 2:40pm; 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.

Required Text:

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, accumulate case knowledge, practice analytical writing, and demonstrate your knowledge of the course material.

Discussion Paper: 10%

Due: As Scheduled

Take-home “Midterm”: 25%

Due: Wednesday, February 17

Reading Response Paper: 20%

Due: Wednesday, March 10

Research Paper

-Country brief (10%): *Thursday, March 31*

-First draft: *Thursday, April 21*

-Peer review (5%): *Thursday, April 28*

-Final draft (30%): *Monday, May 9*

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

Thursday, January 20

Readings:

- Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo, 2006. "The Economic Lives of the Poor." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21(1).
- Bates, Robert, 2010. *Prosperity and Violence: The Political Economy of Development*. W.W. Norton & Co., Chapter 1

Week 2: Measuring 'Economic Development'

Thursday, January 27

***Bring a laptop to class today!

Readings:

- BBC: "Contrasts in Development"
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zs7wrdm/revision/1>
- 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.

Week 3: The Origins and History of 'Development'

Thursday, February 3

Readings:

- Peet, Richard and Elaine Hartwick, 1999. *Theories of Development*. The Guilford Press: Chapter 2: "Economic Theories of Growth and Development," 17-64.

Week 4: Geography and Disease

Thursday, February 10

Readings:

- Diamond, Jared. 2005. "The Shape of Africa." Pages 1-4.
- Gallup, John and Jeffrey Sachs, 2001. "The Economic Burden of Malaria." *The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 64(1): 85-96.
- Gallup, John, Jeffrey Sachs, and Andrew Mellinger, 1999. "Geography and Economic Development." *International Regional Science Review*, 22(2): 179-232.

Note: Midterm will be handed out in class today

Week 5: The Formation and Functions of States

Thursday, February 17

Readings:

Tilly, Charles, 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," in *Bringing the State Back In*. Cambridge University Press. Pages 169-187.

French, Howard. 2021. *Born in Blackness: Africa, Africans, and the Making of the Modern World, 1471 to the Second World War*. Liveright. Chapters 16-20: p. 168-224.

Note: Midterm due in class today!

Week 6: Colonial Conquest & Colonial Rule

Thursday, February 24

***Note: Dr. Martha Wilfahrt (UC Berkeley) will be visiting to give a talk today, "Precolonial Legacies in Postcolonial Politics" at 10:30-11:45am. You are expected to attend and, based on her talk, come up with one discussion question for class. She will be joining us in class to answer your questions! If you cannot attend, I will send you an excerpt from her book to read instead, which will summarize her talk in part.

Readings:

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

Rodney, Walter. 1972. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. Verso Books. Chapter 6: 205-238.

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

Week 7: The Legacies of Colonialism

Thursday, March 3

Readings:

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. 37-61) 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.1-13.

Week 8: Culture & Diversity

Thursday, March 10

Readings:

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

Thompson, Mark, 2001. "Whatever Happened to 'Asian Values'?" *The Journal of Democracy*, 12(4): 154-65.

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

NOTE: Reading Response Paper due today.

Week 9: Weak States, Rule of Law, and Civil War

Thursday, March 24

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.

Week 10: Clientelism and Corruption

Thursday, March 31

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.

NOTE: Country Brief due today.

Week 11: Democracy and Authoritarianism

Thursday, April 7

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 12: Taxation, Revenue, and the Resource Curse

Thursday, April 14

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 13: International Trade and Globalization

Thursday, April 21

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: First Draft of Research Paper due today.

Week 14: International Aid

Thursday, April 28

Readings:

Moyo, Dambisa, 2009. *Dead Aid*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. Chapters 2-3: p. 10-68
Amzat, Ajibola, Maite Vermeulen, and Giacomo Zandonini. “Europe Spends Billions Stopping Migration. Good Luck Figuring Out Where the Money Actually Goes.” *The Correspondent*. December 2019. <https://thecorrespondent.com/154/europe-spends-billions-stopping-migration-good-luck-figuring-out-where-the-money-actually-goes/171168048128-fac42704>

NOTE: Peer Review is due by today.

Week 15: The Ethics of ‘Development’

Thursday, May 5

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.
Mkandawire, Thandika, 2010. “Aid, Accountability, and Democracy in Africa.” *Social Research*. 77(4) pp. 1149-1182.
Ferguson, James and I. Lohmann, 1994. “The Anti-Politics Machine: ‘Development’ and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho.” *The Ecologist*, 24(5): 176-81.

Final draft of research paper due Monday, May 9!