# Politics in Developing Countries, POLS 407 Spring, 2022-2023

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*Office Hours*: By appointment.

*Class Meetings*: Wednesdays, 14:00 – 16:50 @A2-03

# Course Objective:

The dual objectives of this course are, first, to familiarize students with alternative theoretical approaches to studying the politics of development in the contemporary world; and second, to examine a range of scholarly works that exemplify how these abstract theoretical ideas on development are concretized in historical/empirical inquiry. Thus, upon successful completion of the course, students are expected to have i) acquired basic knowledge of the historical formation and socio-economic structure of politics in developing countries; ii) grasped how the interplay of markets, states and societies effects political decision making processes in developing countries; and iii) developed basic skills to use social theory frameworks and international political economy/political sociology perspectives in order to make sense of causal processes and structural dynamics at work in endeavors for achieving development.

# Course Material:

All readings that are assigned in the syllabus are mandatory.

# Readings and Course Web:

Readings will be available in the class web page at LMS. Unless mentioned otherwise, you will not be responsible for any extra readings in partial fulfillment of the requirements of this course. Yet, if they are recommended and made available in the class web page, that means they are important sources of information and knowledge for boosting your performance in your studies in general, and exams in particular.

# Instructional Design:

In each meeting there will be a lecture focusing on a specific topic relevant for the course objectives and learning outcomes.

# Grading:

Attendance and participation 15%

Midterm 35%

Final Exam 50%

# Requirements:

1. Attendance and participation: The details of the rules of attendance and participation will be negotiated further in the first meeting. Nevertheless, the general rule of attendance is that you have to be in the classroom not only bodily but also mentally.
2. Midterm and final exams: The mid-term and final exams will be in-class. They will include short definitional questions as well as short essay questions that will allow the participants to discuss some of the ongoing debates in politics in developing countries.

\* The instructor reserves the right to assign (pop) quizzes in class, if needed.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism carries severe consequences including, but not limited to, failure from the course.

\*\* Syllabus may be subject to change with advance notice based on the needs of the class.

# Tentative Course Schedule:

**February 22**

Presentation of the syllabus and logistics of the course.

# March 1

# Origins of Modern Society – Markets in History

Excerpts from Polanyi, K. *The Great Transformation*.

Wood, E. M. “From Opportunity to Imperative: The History of the Market”.

# March 8

**Social Basis of Economic Development**

Brenner, R. 1985. “The Social Basis of Economic Development”, in Roemer (ed). *Analytical Marxism*, 23-53.

# March 15

**Development: A Text-Book Level Introduction.**

O’Brien, R., and Williams, M. 2016. *Global Political Economy: Evolution and Dynamics*. Ch. 11 \* may be subject to change.

# March 22

**The Internal Constraint**

Roxborough, I. 1981. *Theories of Underdevelopment*. Chapters 1, 2.

# March 29

**The External Constraint**

Chang, H.J. 2007. “Kicking away the ladder: The ‘Real’ History of Free Trade” in Shaikh, A. (ed) *Globalization and the Myths of Free Trade: History, Theory and Empirical Evidence*, 24-49.

# April 5

**The Mainstream Approach – Modernization Theory**

Rostow, W.W. 1959. “The Stages of Economic Growth”.

# April 12

**Mid-term Exam**

# April 19

**The Rise and Fall of State-Led Development: The State**

Amsden, A. 1992. “A Theory of Government Intervention in Late Industrialization”, in Louis Putterman and Dietrich Rueschemeyer (eds.), *State and Market in Development : Synergy or Rivalry?*, 53-83.

# April 26

**The East Asian Miracle vs. the Rest**

Chibber, V. 2006. *Locked-in Place, State-building and Late Industrialization in India*, Chapters 1, 2 & 9, pp. 1-47 & 222-243

# May 3

**The Global Financial Meltdown in 2008**

Read: Shaikh, A., (2010), The First Great Depression of the 21st Century Documentary: *Inside Job* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inside\_Job\_(2010\_film).

# May 10

**Poverty: Neoliberal Premises and Today, Top vs Bottom**

Oxfam Report. 2018. *Reward Work, Not Wealth*, 19-50.

Chancel, L., Piketty, T. Saez, E., Zucman, G., et al. 2021. *World Inequality Report*. Chapters 1, 2.

# May 17

**Inequality: Environment and Gender, Global North vs Global South**

Chancel, L., Piketty, T. Saez, E., Zucman, G., et al. 2021. *World Inequality Report*. Chapters 4, 5.

# May 24

**Putting Development Back into the Agenda**

UNCTAD Trade and Development Report. 2018. *Beyond Austerity: Towards a Global New Deal.* Ch 7.

Chancel, L., Piketty, T. Saez, E., Zucman, G., et al. 2021. *World Inequality Report*. Ch 10.

# And.. Wrapping Up