

Political Economy of Development

PSC 30500 • Spring 2019

Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM
Location: NAC 7/305

Professor Diana Greenwald
Office Hours: Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:30 PM (or by appointment)
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1. Course Description

What does it mean to study *politics* and the *economy* together? In this class, *political economy* refers to the ways in which political institutions and phenomena affect economic outcomes, and, conversely, how economic factors shape politics. *Development* refers to how societies achieve economic prosperity and well-being. We will examine arguments in the existing literature about the reasons for unequal development across countries; the legacies of colonialism; the role of foreign aid and natural resources in political and economic development; the relationship between democracy and development; and the causes and effects of civil conflict, among other things. We will study these themes in a comparative context, whether we are comparing across countries, across regions within the same country, or over time. Additionally, this course will introduce various methods of causal inference and analysis, including both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

2. Assignments and Deadlines

<i>Item</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Percent of grade</i>
Pop quizzes		10%
Take-home exercise #1	February 14	5%
Take-home exercise #2	February 28	5%
Midterm exam	March 19	20%
Take-home exercise #3	April 18	10%
Final research project		
1. Topic approval	<i>Before presentation</i>	5%
2. Presentation	May 2-14	10%
3. Final paper	May 21	25%
Class attendance/participation		10%
		100%

3. Class Attendance and Participation

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class.
- You are permitted one (1) unexcused absence over the course of the semester. Subsequently, all unexcused absences will result in a deduction from your class attendance and participation grade.
- If you need to miss class for religious observance that is not during a university holiday or vacation period, please contact me at least two weeks prior to the date so that your absence may be excused.
- Absences due to illness or emergency will be excused with appropriate documentation (i.e. doctor's note, flight/train/bus ticket, etc). If you are unsure of what constitutes appropriate documentation, please speak with me.
- Absences for professional development or career-related opportunities may also be excused in certain cases and with appropriate documentation.

Class participation is defined broadly, and includes speaking in class, asking questions, actively participating in classroom exercises, listening attentively and respectfully to your peers, and providing feedback on your classmates' presentations (see below). Cell phone use is not permitted in class. Laptops and other devices must be used exclusively for class purposes. If I observe laptop being used excessively for non-class-related purposes, they will be prohibited for the rest of the semester.¹ If you find it hard to ignore internet distractions, I highly recommend downloading an app such as [Freedom](#) that will temporarily block or limit your access to certain websites (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc).

4. Readings

Please consult the schedule below for the assigned readings. I do not require you to purchase any books. I will provide electronic copies of all assigned readings via Blackboard. (Also, note that many resources are available to you for free online via the CCNY library.²) Assignments will draw on both the readings and class discussion. You are unlikely to pass the course if you attend class but do not do the readings. Similarly, you are also unlikely to pass the course if you do the readings but do not attend class.

In this class, we will be reading some advanced social science research. Some of this work draws on quantitative analysis. No pre-existing knowledge of mathematics or statistics is

¹ The only exceptions will be those students whose laptop usage is approved by the AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services.

² For example, follow the links below to access the following books in their entirety: **1)** Abhijit V. Banerjee, Roland Bénabou, and Dilip Mookherjee, eds. 2006. [Understanding Poverty](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press. **2)** Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo. 2012. [Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty](#). New York: PublicAffairs. **3)** Peter Evans. 1995. [Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation](#). Princeton: Princeton University Press. **4)** Morton Jerven. [Poor Numbers: How We Are Misled by African Development Statistics and What to Do About It](#). Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

assumed or required for this course. While we will not have time to cover every research method that we come across in the readings, you will learn to understand *how* authors are using data to test or advance their arguments. Further, some of the take-home exercises (see below) will introduce you to basic quantitative analysis. *If you are struggling with the reading material, please find a time to meet with me early in the semester.*

5. Pop Quizzes

There will be three (3) pop quizzes over the course of the semester. They will each take 10 minutes, will cover the readings assigned for that day only, and will be distributed at the beginning of class. No notes or books will be permitted. If you do not attend class on the day of a pop quiz, you will receive a zero grade on that quiz. (The only exception is for excused absences, for which we can arrange an alternative time for you to take a quiz.)

6. Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will take place in class on March 19. The format of the midterm will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answers, and longer essays. More details will be provided as the date approaches.

7. Take-Home Exercises

You will have **three (3)** take-home writing and analysis exercises. Your response should be approximately 2 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1" margins). Each exercise should take no more than two hours. The exercises will ask you to briefly respond to a prompt, drawing on the readings from the preceding week. You may be asked to conduct some basic analysis, but you will not be asked to conduct any outside research. **UPDATE: The first two assignments will each comprise 5% of your grade, while the third assignment will comprise 10% of your grade.**

8. Final Research Project

The largest assignment of the course is your own research project, culminating in a final paper due on **May 21 (to be submitted on Blackboard by 11:59 pm)**. Your project will address a topic that we have covered in class, or another question with my approval. The assignment has three (3) components:

1. You must send me a one-paragraph summary of the topic for approval *before* your in-class presentation (see below).
2. You will provide an 8 minute presentation of your topic in front of the class between May 2 and May 14. I will provide more details about expectations for the presentation.
3. Your final paper should be 8-10 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1" margins). Specific instructions for the paper will be provided in advance.

9. Office Hours and E-Mail

I encourage you to come early and often to office hours. I will make every effort to respond to e-mail within 24 hours (or, if over the weekend, the next business day). There are two exceptions:

1. Emails sent less than 48 hours prior to the midterm or final paper due date are not guaranteed a response.
2. Questions whose answer is clearly stated on this syllabus are not guaranteed a response.

10. Grade Grievances

If you believe a grade you have received is unfair or in error, you will need to:

- Wait 24 hours after receiving the grade before approaching me.
- Within one week (7 days) of receiving the grade, provide an explanation in writing for why you believe the grade you received was unfair or in error and submit it with the original assignment. The entire assignment will be re-graded, and note that this may raise or lower your grade.

For more information on appealing grades, please consult the Office of Academic Standards' website: <https://www.cuny.cuny.edu/standards/appeals>.

11. Academic Integrity

Plagiarism means presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own. It is one of the most frustrating and depressing things to discover as a professor. Cheating, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarism is very easy to avoid by giving recognition to the original author or website from which the material came. (In this class, we will review proper citation methods for your final paper.) Academic misconduct such as cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero grade and possibly trigger disciplinary action. The CUNY Academic Integrity Policy is available [here](#). If you have made it this far through the syllabus, please [email](#) me a picture of a cute animal.

12. Disability Accommodations

The AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services (AAC/SDS) ensures equal access and full participation to all of City College's programs, services, and activities by coordinating and implementing appropriate accommodations. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations and services, please visit the office in NAC 1/218, or contact AAC/SDS via email (disabilityservices@ccny.cuny.edu), or phone (212-650-5913 or TTY/TTD 212-650-8441).

13. Student Mental Health and Well-Being

Your health and well-being is important to me, your other professors, your colleagues and friends, and the City College community. Please do not hesitate to visit Health and Wellness Services, where you can be linked to relevant services on campus, including the Counseling Resources Center (Phone: 212-650-8222 | Email: wccenter@ccny.cuny.edu); Gender Resources

(Phone: 212-650-8222 | Email: genderresources@ccny.cuny.edu or jsalcedo@ccny.cuny.edu); and other services. Please also consult [this link](#) for mental health resources in the community.

14. Reading and Assignment Schedule

January 29: Introduction
<u>Part 1: Poverty, Growth, and Development</u>
January 31: Poverty Traps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeffrey Sachs. 2005. <i>The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time</i>. New York: Penguin Books. Chapters 1 and 3: “A Global Family Portrait”, “Why Some Countries Fail to Thrive”.
February 5: Incentives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Easterly. 2006. <i>The White Man’s Burden: Why the West’s Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good</i>. New York: Penguin. Chapter 1: “Planners Versus Searchers”. • Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo. 2012. <i>Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty</i>. New York: PublicAffairs. Chapter 3: “Low-Hanging Fruit for Better (Global) Health?”.
February 7: Freedom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amartya Sen. 1999. <i>Development As Freedom</i>. Chapters 1 and 2: “The Perspective of Freedom”, and “The Ends and the Means of Development”.
February 12: NO CLASS / COLLEGE CLOSED
February 14: TAKE-HOME EXERCISE #1 DUE
Structural Inequality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Enzo Faletto. 1979. <i>Dependency and Development in Latin America</i>. University of California Press. Chapter 2: “Comprehensive Analysis of Development.”
<u>Part 2: Social Science Research</u>
February 19: Social Science Research (I) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William R. Clark, Matt Golder and Sona N. Golder. 2018. “What is Science?” in <i>Principles of Comparative Politics</i>. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
February 21: Social Science Research (II) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Collier. 2011. “Understanding Process Tracing.” <i>PS: Political Science and Politics</i> 44(4): 823-830.

February 26: NO CLASS

February 28: TAKE-HOME EXERCISE #2 DUE

Part 3: Geography, History, and the State

Geography and the Environment

- Jared M. Diamond. 1997. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. New York: W.W. Norton. Prologue, Chapter 4, and Chapter 5: “Yali’s Question”, “Farmer Power”, “History’s Haves and Have-Nots”.

March 5: Colonial Extraction

- Nathan Nunn. “[Understanding the long-run effects of Africa’s slave trades](#)”. *VoxEU*. 27 February 2017.
- James C. Scott. 1977. *The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in Southeast Asia*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 4: “The State as Claimant.”

March 7: Institutions (I)

- Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*. New York: Random House. Chapters 1 and 3: “So Close and Yet So Different” and “The Making of Prosperity and Poverty”.

March 12: Institutions (II)

- Evans, Peter. 1995. *Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 3: “States”.

March 14:

- *Midterm review session*

March 19: MIDTERM EXAM

Part 4: Democracy and Public Goods

March 21: Democracy, Autocracy, and Public Goods (I)

- Lily L. Tsai. 2007. Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China. *American Political Science Review* 101 (2): 355-372.

March 26: Democracy, Autocracy, and Public Goods (II)

- Brian Min. 2015. *Power and the Vote: Elections and Electricity in the Developing World*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 5: “Introduction” and “Democracy and Light”.

March 28: Ethnicity and Public Goods

- Edward Miguel. 2006. "Ethnic Diversity and Poverty Reduction." In Abhijit V. Banerjee, Roland Bénabou, and Dilip Mookherjee, eds. *Understanding Poverty*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Part 5: Revenue

April 2: Taxation

- Nicholas Eubank. 2012. "Taxation, Political Accountability and Foreign Aid: Lessons from Somaliland." *The Journal of Development Studies* 48(4): 465-480.

April 4: Foreign Investment

- Thomas Tørsløv, Ludvig Wier, and Gabriel Zucman. "[The missing profits of nations.](#)" VoxEU. July 23, 2018.
- Nicholas Casey and Clifford Krauss. "[It Doesn't Matter if Ecuador Can Afford This Dam. China Still Gets Paid.](#)" *The New York Times*. December 24, 2018.

April 9: The Politics of Aid

- Andrew Boutton and David B. Carter. 2014. "Fair-Weather Allies? Terrorism and the Allocation of US Foreign Aid." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58(7): 1144-1173.

Part 6: Resources, Environment, and Conflict

April 11: Natural Resources

- Michael Ross. 2012. *The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 4: "Petroleum Perpetuates Patriarchy."
- Todd C. Frankel. "[The Cobalt Pipeline.](#)" The Washington Post. September 30, 2016. [Read and watch/listen.]

April 16:

- No new readings assigned: Review April 11 readings

April 18: TAKE-HOME EXERCISE #4 DUE

- No new readings assigned

April 19-28: Spring recess (college closed)

April 30: Civil Conflict (I)

- Robert H. Bates. "State failure". *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 1-12.
- Simeon Djankov and Marta Reynal-Querol. "[Poverty and civil wars.](#)" VoxEU. October 29, 2008.

May 2-14: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

May 21: FINAL PAPER DUE