

# (Comparative and) International Political Economy

## IR B6927 • Spring 2021

Monday, 4:50 to 6:50 pm  
Zoom link here  
Meeting ID: XXX XXX XXX  
Passcode: XXXX

Professor: Diana Greenwald  
Email: [dgreenwald@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:dgreenwald@ccny.cuny.edu)

Office hours: Monday/Wednesday, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, sign up [here](#)

### 1. Course Description

In this class, we will study how political institutions and behavior affect outcomes in the economy, and, conversely, how economic factors shape politics. We will examine existing theories and findings in social science research regarding: the drivers of poverty and inequality; the legacies of colonialism; the relationship between democracy and development; and the political economy of trade, immigration, and the global environment. We will use a comparative approach to understand changes over time, and to explain differences across countries, regions, and subnational political groups. This course will introduce various methods of causal inference and analysis, including both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

### 2. Assessment and Deadlines

<i>Item</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Percent of grade</i>
Exercise #1	Feb 22	15
Exercise #2	Mar 22	15
Group webcast	Apr 12	20
Final research project		
1. Topic proposal	Apr 26	5
2. Presentation	May 10,17	10
3. Final paper	May 21	25
Participation		10
		<b>100</b>

### 3. Class Attendance and Participation

Our class will meet online on Mondays from 4:50 to 6:50 pm, in accordance with the college academic calendar. Attendance will be taken at every online meeting. Recordings of all class meetings will be posted after class on Blackboard.

Absences for illness, emergency, religious observance, and select professional development or career-related opportunities will be excused with appropriate communication. The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced unprecedented challenges for many of us. Your health and safety, and the health and safety of your loved ones, must

be your highest priorities. I simply ask that you do your best to communicate with me about any extended absences you may need to take during the semester. If you are absent for more than two (2) online meetings without explanation, your attendance/participation grade will be affected.

Your attendance/participation grade includes: your attendance record; your preparedness for class; actively participating in class discussions; and engaging with your peers in an attentive and respectful manner. If you find it hard to ignore internet distractions during class, I highly recommend downloading an app such as [Freedom](#) that will temporarily block your access to certain websites (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc).

#### 4. Readings

Please consult the schedule below for the assigned readings. I do not require you to purchase any books, but we will read several chapters from the following books, so you might find them useful:

- Jeffry A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and J. Lawrence Broz. 2017. *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power and Wealth*. New York: W.W. Norton. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. (Henceforth: “FLB”)
- Jeffry A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2019. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. New York: W.W. Norton. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. (Henceforth: “FLS”)

All assigned readings will be available either via Blackboard or linked below. You are unlikely to pass the course if you attend class but do not do the readings. Similarly, you are unlikely to pass the course if you do the readings but do not attend 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 assumed or required for this course. If you are struggling with the reading material, please find a time to meet with me early in the semester.

#### 5. Exercises

You will have two (2) take-home exercises due on **February 22** and **March 22** by 11:59 PM EST. Instructions for each exercise will be posted on Blackboard one week before the due date. For one or more exercises, you will be required to use [Google Sheets](#), Microsoft Excel, or a similar program. Google Sheets is free but requires an active Google account.

Each exercise will ask you to a) review a reading, or set of readings, that have been assigned to-date, and/or b) complete some basic analysis. You will then write a response to a set of prompts. Your response should be approximately 2 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1” margins) excluding any graphs or figures. Each exercise should take no more than 2-3 hours. You are required to complete take-home exercises by yourself.

#### 6. Group Webcast

At the beginning of the semester, you will be assigned to a group with 2-3 of your peers. Your group will meet during class time to select a contemporary issue of comparative or

international political economy in-depth. You will collaborate with your group to conduct your own background research on your issue, drawing from news media and scholarly analysis that you can find online. You will then video-record a group webcast: A live discussion featuring all members of the group. Webcasts must be submitted by **April 12** at 11:59 PM EST. Further instructions for the webcast will be provided on Blackboard.

## **7. Final Research Project**

The largest assignment of the course is your own research project, culminating in a final paper due on **May 21**. Your project must relate to a substantive topic that we have covered in class. It should seek to improve our understanding of something related to comparative or international political economy. In short, think about how relations of power shape economic development or how economic factors shape politics. You may conduct a single-country analysis, a cross-country comparison, or another research design with my approval. The assignment has three (3) components, summarized below. More details will be provided for each component.

- a. You must email me a one-paragraph topic proposal by **April 26** at 11:59 PM EST.
- b. You will deliver an in-class presentation of your topic **on either May 10 or May 17**.
- c. Your final paper should be 8-10 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1" margins). Papers must be submitted on Blackboard by **May 21** at 11:59 PM EST. Because of end-of-semester grading deadlines, late papers will not be accepted.

More detailed instructions will be provided on Blackboard.

## **8. Virtual Office Hours and Email**

A link to sign up for my virtual office hours can be found at the top of this syllabus. Office hour appointments can be held on Zoom or by phone. Office hours are periods of time that professors specifically dedicate to you, the students, to review course material and answer any questions you may have. Please come to office hours as often as you wish. If you cannot attend my regularly scheduled office hours due to a conflict, please email me to find another mutually convenient time to meet. I make every effort to respond to email within 24 hours or, if over the weekend, the next business day. There are two exceptions. First: Emails sent less than 48 hours prior to the midterm or final paper due date are not guaranteed a response. Second: Questions whose answer is clearly stated on this syllabus are not guaranteed a response.

## **9. Grade Grievances**

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

- a. Wait 24 hours after receiving the grade before approaching me.
- b. 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 visit the Office of Academic Standards' website [here](#).

## 10. Academic Integrity

Cheating, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarism means presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own. It 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.

## 11. Accessibility, Health, and Well-Being

At City College, we strive to make classes accessible to every student, regardless of any disability (visible or non-visible; physical, cognitive, emotional, or learning) or any other special circumstances (such as a medical, personal, or housing emergency; family responsibilities; financial difficulties; legal difficulties; or immigration status) that may affect your ability to attend class and complete the coursework. Please speak to your professors in office hours or via email early in the semester or as soon as you're aware that you may need accommodations.

Please let your other professors know if you have registered with the AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services (AAC/SDS) or have any ***special needs, learning differences, or medical conditions*** that may affect your coursework so that we can make the appropriate accommodations. If you believe you may need an accommodation, please do get in touch with the AAC/SDS. You can reach the AccessAbility office through their Zoom virtual front desk (<https://ccny.zoom.us/j/116151245>)

If you need a ***computer, tablet, or wi-fi***, you can request them through an online form ([https://portal.ccny.cuny.edu/depts/oit/cuny\\_loaner/login.php](https://portal.ccny.cuny.edu/depts/oit/cuny_loaner/login.php)). You can also contact the iMedia Center via email ([imedia@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:imedia@ccny.cuny.edu)) or via phone, Monday-Friday 9am-3pm (646-558-8656; wait for the voice prompt to end; enter meeting ID 212-650-5480 and the # sign).

If you have any questions or concerns about your ***immigration status*** or that of your family members, please consult the CCNY Immigration Center for free and confidential advice via phone (212-650-6620) or email ([meetu.dhar@ccny.edu](mailto:meetu.dhar@ccny.edu)).

Your health and well-being is important to me, your other professors, your colleagues and friends, and the City College community. If, for any reason, you are struggling with ***personal issues, anxiety, depression, or stress***, there are a number of resources on campus. CCNY's Counseling Center is now providing remote services to students, including screening and assessment, crisis intervention, individual short-term counseling, group counseling, referral and case management, and workshops. Contact the Counseling Center via their Zoom virtual front desk (<http://ccny.zoom.us/j/2126508222>), phone (212-650-8222), or email ([counseling@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:counseling@ccny.cuny.edu)). The email address is checked during normal business hours. Please include your phone number in the email. See the Counseling Center web page [here](#) for more information and resources. CCNY's Gender Resources has also moved to a virtual platform. For general questions or information about their services,

including supporting survivors of violence and members of the LGBTIA+ community, contact them via email at [genderresources@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:genderresources@ccny.cuny.edu). See the Gender Resources web page [here](#) for more information and resources.

The Colin Powell School offers free, confidential peer mentoring with trained graduate students on issues of stress management and self-care. To sign up, simply send an email ([peernavigationccny@gmail.com](mailto:peernavigationccny@gmail.com)) or sign up online (<https://calendly.com/peernavigation/calendar?month=2020-10>).

If you are dealing with **food insecurity**, please visit Benny's Food Pantry in the Hoffman Lounge on the first floor of the NAC. The pantry is open even during the pandemic. To gain access on weekdays, just call 212-650-8844.

If you are facing an **emergency shortage of funds**, please email Ms. Charlene Darbassie ([cdarbassie@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:cdarbassie@ccny.cuny.edu)) or Dean Andy Rich ([arich@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:arich@ccny.cuny.edu)) in the Colin Powell School Dean's Office. They will tell you how to apply for an emergency grant. Applying is quick and easy.

If you are experiencing or have experienced **domestic violence** or **violence that is sex-based, gender-based, or sexuality-based**; or if you are experiencing or have experienced **discrimination because of gender, sex, sexuality, race, ethnicity, language, religion, disability, or other reasons**, please report it to Diana Cuzzo in the Office of Affirmative Action, Compliance, and Diversity via email ([dcuzzo@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:dcuzzo@ccny.cuny.edu)) or phone (212-650-7330). For a confidential discussion of these and related issues, please contact Sophie English via email ([senglish@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:senglish@ccny.cuny.edu)) or phone (212-650-8905).

If you are struggling in any of your classes, don't hesitate to get extra **academic support**. Just make an appointment with the Academic Resource Center ([www.ccnycuny.edu/sssp/tutoring-arc](http://www.ccnycuny.edu/sssp/tutoring-arc)) or email Garri Rivkin ([grivkin@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:grivkin@ccny.cuny.edu)) in the Colin Powell School office of Academic Support Services.

The CCNY Writing Center ([www.ccnycuny.edu/writing](http://www.ccnycuny.edu/writing)) offers individualized **writing support** to all students. To receive information and support about securing **internships** and planning for your **post-college career**, please contact Debbie Cheng ([dcheng@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:dcheng@ccny.cuny.edu)) and Ashif Hassan ([ahassan@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:ahassan@ccny.cuny.edu)) in the Colin Powell School Dean's Office. Also, take a look at the new Career Handbook that their office has created to help you start thinking about career and professional development (<https://www.ccnycuny.edu/colinpowellschool/career-and-professional-development>).

For a continually updated list of **other pandemic-related resources throughout New York City**, please see this online document:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sg5wJgKU9dUqmt62IGqxtWVccHSRUCChUrBBm3upvH8/edit?ts=5e792358#>

For **advising**, contact the Colin Powell School Advising Office (<https://www.ccnycuny.edu/colinpowellschool/office-academic-advisors>). At their website, you can make a virtual appointment with one of the advisors or you can find their email addresses so you can send them a message.

## 12. Reading and Assignment Schedule

### February 1: Introductions

### February 8: Defining Poverty and Development (I)

- Jeffrey Sachs. 2005. "A Global Family Portrait". *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*. New York: Penguin Books. pp. 5-25.
- Sachs, "Why Some Countries Fail to Thrive", pp. 51-73.
- Christoph Lakner et al. "[Updated estimates of the impact of COVID-19 on global poverty](#)." World Bank Data Blog. January 11, 2021.
- Amartya Sen. 2000. "The Perspective of Freedom." *Development As Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books. pp. 13-34.

### February 15: COLLEGE CLOSED

### February 22: EXERCISE #1 DUE

### Defining Poverty and Development (II)

- United Nations. "[The Sustainable Development Agenda](#)."
  - Read webpage, including "Frequently Asked Questions."
  - On the right sidebar, choose 3 of the 17 goals to read about in detail. (Hover over your chosen goal(s) then click "Read More".)
- Sen, "The Ends and the Means of Development." pp. 35-53.
- Sakiko Fukuda-Parr and Bhumi Muchhala. 2020. "The Southern origins of sustainable development goals: Ideas, actors, aspirations." *World Development* 126: 1-11.

*Recommended:* Watch: Marginal Revolution University. "[AmartyaSen #1 on Capabilities](#)." August 17, 2015.

### March 1: Social Science and Causal Inference Methods (I)

- William R. Clark, Matt Golder and Sona N. Golder. 2018. "What is Science?" in *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- WATCH: "[Correlation vs. Causation: Causal Inference Bootcamp](#)."
- Macartan Humphreys. "[10 Things to Know About Causal Inference](#)." Evidence in Governance and Politics Methods Guide.
- WATCH: "[Introduction to Regression Analysis: Causal Inference Bootcamp](#)."
- WATCH: "[The Relationship Between Economic Development and Property Rights: Causal Inference Bootcamp](#)."

*Recommended:* Chris Segrin. 2010. "Multiple Regression." In *Encyclopedia of Research Design*. Neil J. Salkind, Ed. Los Angeles: SAGE. Pp. 844-849

### March 8: Social Science and Causal Inference Methods (II) & Introduction to International Political Economy

- Andrew Bennett and Jeffrey T. Checkel. "Process Tracing: From Philosophical Roots to Best Practices." *Process Tracing: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool*. pp. 3-37.
- FLB, "Introduction," pp. 1-17.

**March 15: Slavery, Colonialism, and Development (II)**

- Nathan Nunn. "[Understanding the long-run effects of Africa's slave trades](#)". *VoxEU*. 27 February 2017.
- Matthew Lange, James Mahoney, and Matthias vom Hau. 2006. "Colonialism and Development: A Comparative Analysis of Spanish and British Colonies." *Journal of Sociology* 111(5): 1412-1462.

**March 22: EXERCISE #2 DUE****Trade**

- FLS, Chapter 7: "International Trade," part 1. pp. 294-312.
- WATCH: Then & Now. "[World-Systems Theory, Dependency Theory and Global Inequality](#)." July 11, 2016.
- Peter S. Goodman. "More Wealth, More Jobs, but Not for Everyone: What Fuels the Backlash on Trade." *New York Times*. September 28, 2016.

*Recommended:*

- FLS, Chapter 7: "International Trade," part 2. pp. 313-337.
- FLB, Chapter 19: Raymond Hicks, Helen V. Milner, and Dustin Tingley, "Trade Policy, Economic Interests, and Party Politics in a Developing Country: The Political Economy of CAFTA-DR," pp. 297-314.
- Matthew C. Mahutga. 2006. "The Persistence of Structural Inequality?: A Network Analysis of International Trade, 1965-2000." *Social Forces* 84(4): 1863-1889.

**March 27-April 4: SPRING RECESS****April 5: Democracy, Autocracy, and Public Goods**

- Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*. New York: Random House. Chapter 3: "The Making of Prosperity and Poverty".
- Brian Min. 2015. *Power and the Vote: Elections and Electricity in the Developing World*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1: "Introduction".
- Lily L. Tsai. 2007. Solidary Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China. *American Political Science Review* 101 (2): 355-372.

*Recommended:* Evans, Peter. 1995. *Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 3: "States".

**April 12: GROUP WEBCAST DUE****Revenue and Accountability**

- Nicholas Eubank. 2012. "Taxation, Political Accountability and Foreign Aid: Lessons from Somaliland." *The Journal of Development Studies* 48(4): 465-480.
- Brandon de la Cuesta et al. 2019. "Oil and aid revenue produce equal demands for accountability as taxes in Ghana and Uganda." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 116(36): 17717-17722.

*Recommended:*

- Michael Ross. 2012. "More Petroleum, Less Democracy." *The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp. 63-93.
- Thandika Mkandawire. 2010. "Aid, Accountability, and Democracy in Africa." *Social Research: An International Quarterly* 77 (4): 1149-1182.

**April 19: Investment, Immigration, and Development**

- FLS, Chapter 8: "International Financial Relations," part 1, pp. 346-371.
- FLB, Chapter 24: Margaret E. Peters, "Open Trade, Closed Borders: Immigration in the Era of Globalization," pp. 378-393.

*Recommended:*

- FLS, Chapter 8: "International Financial Relations," part 2, pp. 371-383

**April 26: FINAL TOPIC PROPOSAL DUE**

**Money and Finance**

- FLS, Chapter 9: "International Monetary Relations," pp. 386-421.

*Recommended*

- FLB, Chapter 16: Mark Copelovitch, Jeffrey A. Frieden, and Stefanie Walter, "The Political Economy of the Euro Crisis," pp. 252-266.

**May 3: The Environment and the Global Economy**

- Michael Aklin and Matto Mildenberger. 2020. "Prisoners of the Wrong Dilemma: Why Distributive Conflict, Not Collective Action, Characterizes the Politics of Climate Change." *Global Environmental Politics* 20(4): 4-27.

*Recommended:*

- FLS, Chapter 13: "The Global Environment," pp. 540-581.

**May 10, 17: FINAL IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS**

**May 21: FINAL PAPER DUE**