**Political Economy of the Third World Fall 2015**

**AAAS 126b** Tuesdays: and Fridays Mandel G12

Professor Wellington Nyangoni 12:30 to 1:50 pm

Mandel 220

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Friday 3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Thursday By appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An analysis of political and economic issues in the Third World with special emphasis on economic growth, underdevelopment, and strategies for development. The evolution of capitalism and different roles and functions assigned to all “Third Worlds” on the periphery as well as the center. Special attention paid to colonialism, nationalism, the international system, state building, and political change, rural and gender perspectives.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Political Economy of the Third World analyses a wide variety of themes, from rural and urban poverty to environmental and cultural issues. Included are case studies of organizations that have been influenced by current neoliberal policies; poverty reduction policies and strategies, critical perspectives on economic restructuring, interrelationships between trade, and economic development: and modernization. An overview of the Third World’s recent past to explain why neoliberalism has become a predominant policy in the various regions; and analyses of the environment, women’s issues, rural development and globalization.

**COURSE REQUIREMNTS**

Students are required to keep up with the assigned readings for each class. Readings consist of both introductory and specialized analytical texts and journal articles. The class sessions will cover topics and interpretations presented in the readings as well as additional materials introduced by the instructor. The classes will combine lectures and discussions. Students will be called upon to comment on the assigned readings or other aspects of the lectures and to ask questions, and to contribute to class discussions.

A term paper 15 to 20 pages in length is required. The instructor will give paper topics. The purpose of the papers is to engage the student in critical analysis.

A mid-term and cumulative final exam will be given.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

* Comprehend and have a clear understanding of the content of political economy and understand the role of institutions in economic development.
* Use the perspective of political-economy models when analyzing decision-making processes and present it to the audience.
* Link the theoretical concepts of political economy to empirical evidence – apply the knowledge of political economy to new situations and problems.
* Interpret relevant data.
* Have a clearer understanding of the assumptions and values that underpin alternative approaches to political economy.
* Be able to use these approaches to explain, predict and prescribe a range of political and economic outcomes.
* Have a clearer understanding of the different ways to organize production and exchange and how they have varied over time and space.
* Be prepared to pursue further study or work in related topics such as international political economy, economic development or government and business.
* Develop a better understanding of the political and economic forces that shape your personal and professional life.
* Be able to acquire, critique and apply new theories to understand complex material in any social scientific discipline.
* Be able to communicate findings with more effective written and verbal communication skills.

Each class lecture will focus on one substantive question and apply one analytical tool. My goal is to be highly focused in each class on teaching about just a pair of ideas, one substantive and one analytical. In this regard, I am quite aware that over the course of your lives, your interest in international affairs may wax and wane. But the analytical tools that we cover in class should travel with you throughout your life as your interests evolve. In this case, I will thus stress the wider applicability of the analytical tools we cover in each class, which extend well beyond the study of international cooperation. Some of the questions that need to be intelligently answered include:

What is Political Economy? How are Power and wealth related? How can we get rich? What’s good about markets, what’s bad about them? Are good and bad in the eye of the beholder? Can new technology abolish the market? What is rationality? Do you have to be free to be rational? What are the trade-offs between freedom, equality and community? Who are we? Are we really free? Who should we care about when it comes to allocating resources? Why do come countries “develop faster than others”? What does “development” mean in a globalized world? And by the way… globalization proceeds through the unfolding of diversity and freedom of choice – so why is it experienced by so many people as a constriction, an oppression and a loss of freedom?

**DOCUMENTED DISABILITY**

**If you have a document disability and would like to have reasonable accommodation made for you, please see me immediately after class.**

**Academic integrity is central to the mission of education excellence at Brandeis University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignment is specifically authorized for collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another – be it a world class philosopher or your research partner – without proper acknowledgement of the source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the source of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs or ideas found in published volumes, on the internet or created by another student.**

**Violation of University policies on academic integrity, described in Section 3 of *Rights and Responsibilities,* may result in failure in the course or on the assignment, and could end in suspension from the University. If you are in doubt about the instruction for any assignment in this course, you must ask for clarification.**

**If you are working in a group that I have authorized, I will expect you to do your work separately from your friends, classmates, family members, and so on. You are not permitted to have anyone other than your professor to help you on written assignments outside of class. If you have questions, please ask me before you seek help from someone.**

**COURSE GRADING**

A term paper 40%

Mid-term Examination 25%

Final Examination 25%

Class Participation 10%

**REQUIRED BOOKS**

1. Peter Kingstone, The Political Economy of Latin America: Reflections on Neoliberalism and Development, New York and London: Routledge 2011.
2. David Henley, Asia-Africa Development Divergence: A Question of Intent, London: Zed Books 2015.
3. Fantu Cheru and Cyril Obi, The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions, London: Zed Books 2010.
4. Oliver Boyd-Barrett, Media Imperialism, Los Angeles: Sage Publications, 2015.
5. Thomas Oakley, International Political Economy, Fifth Edition, London (Fifth Edition) 2012.

**Weekly Outline and Reading Assignments.**

Week 1: Outline

8/28/2014 Introductory remarks on Course Requirements and Expectations

Weeks 2 and 3

A Theoretical Overview

9/1, 9/4 9/11 and Rosh Hashanah 9/14 and 9/15

* Peter Kingstone, The Political Economy of Latin America, Chapter 1.
* Thomas Oatley, International Political Economy, Chapters 1 to 3.
* David Henley, Asia-Africa Development Divergence: A Question of Intent, Chapters 1 and 2.
* Fantu Cheru and Cyril Obi, The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions, Chapters 1 to 3.

Weeks 4 and 5: Development and Underdevelopment

9/18, 9/22, 9/25 and 9/29

* Wellington Nyangoni, Development and Underdevelopment: The Political Economy of Exploitation in North-South Relations, Malborough, Msasa Publications, 1995. Chapters 1 to 3.
* Oliver Boyd-Barrett, Media Imperialism, Chapters 1 to 3.
* Peter Kingstone, The Political Economy of Latin America, Chapter 2 to 3.
* David Henley, Asia-Africa Development Divergence: A Question of Intent, Chapters 3 and 4.
* Fantu Cheru and Cyril Obi, The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions, Chapters 4 to 6.
* Thomas Oatley, International Political Economy, Chapters 4 to 6.
* Hand out suggested term paper topics by September 29 (September 29 is a Brandeis Monday). Monday Schedule in effect.

Week 6

19/29 and 10/2 (Show documentaries on Africa)

Weeks 7 and 8

East Asian 10/2, 10/6, 10/9 (Show documentary on China) and 10/13 (Show documentary on India to contrast a different Economic Model)

* David Henley, Asia-Africa Development Divergence: A Question of Intent, Chapters 5 to 7.
* Shiping Hua and Rihua Hu. East Asian Development Model: Twenty First Century Perspectives, Routledge 2015. Parts 1 and 2.
* Fantu Cheru and Cyril Obi, The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions, Parts 2 and 3.
* Thomas Oatley, International Political Economy, Chapters 7 to 10.
* Post Midterm Exams on Latte (October 6).

Weeks 9 and 10: The Bretton Woods System

10/16, 10/20, 10/23 and 10/27

* Peter Kingstone, The Political Economy of Latin America, Chapter 3 to 6.
* Thomas Oatley, International Political Economy, Chapters 11 to 16.
* Fantu Cheru and Cyril Obi, The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions, Chapters 5 and 6.
* Thomas Oatley, International Political Economy, Chapters 11 to 16.
* Oliver Boyd-Barrett, Media Imperialism, Chapters 4 to 8.
* Hand in your Midterm Exam on 10/16.

Week 11 and 12: The GATT and the WTO

10/30 and 11/3, 11/6, and 11/10 (Show documentaries on 11/6 and 11/10

* John Gledhill, The New War on the Poor: The Production of Insecurity in Latin America. Chapters 1 to 4.
* Wellington W. Nyangoni, The GATT, Imperialism and Developing Countries, Chapters 1 to 3.

Weeks 13 and 14: Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

11/17, 11/20, 11/24 and 11/27 (Thanksgiving). Show documentary (11/24)

* Wellington Nyangoni, Global Capitalism and the Developing World. Chapter 3.
* Post Final Exam Questions on LATTE - 11/20

Weeks 15 and 16: South to South Trade: A Review

11/11, 11/14, 11/18 and 11/21

* Documentaries on Latin America the Caribbean.
* 12/1 (Term Paper due), 12/4.
* 12/8 Final Exam due in my office no later than 5 p.m.

Books placed on Reserve in Goldfarb Library

* Thomas Oatley, International Political Economy.
* Fantu Cheru and Cyril Obi, The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions.
* David Henley, Asia-Africa Development Divergence: A Question of Intent,
* Oliver Boyd-Barrett, Media Imperialism.
* Peter Kingstone, The Political Economy of Latin America: Reflections on Neoliberalism and Development.
* Shiping Hua and Rihua Hu. East Asian Development Model: Twenty First Century Perspectives.
* Wellington Nyangoni, Development and Underdevelopment: The Political Economy of Exploitation in North-South Relations.
* Wellington W. Nyangoni, The GATT, Imperialism and Developing Countries
* Mohan Malik, China and India: Great Power Rivals.