POLITICS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
POLS 5550

Fall 2017
Wednesday: 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm
McGannon Hall #122

Professor- J.D. Bowen
Office- McGannon #149
Email- jbowen5@slu.edu
Phone- 314.977.4239

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is intended to introduce students to the advanced study of the political and economic development. The key question the course addresses is how states interact with markets, civil society, and other actors in the international system to produce particular economic outcomes. We will study some of the different strategies governments use (or have used in the past) to promote economic development and try to understand why some strategies work better than others in particular contexts.

We will focus on the development of the state as the dominant form of political organization and the role that the state plays in economic development. We will study the state “from above” (from an international perspective where the state has become a- if not the- dominant player in international politics), “from below” (from the perspective of different social groups that exist within states), and “from within” (from the perspective of the various institutions that make up the state). In the process, we will examine how these different approaches to studying the state and economic development intersect with each other in complex ways.

Welcome!

Required texts:

All required and optional texts are available for purchase at the Saint Louis University Bookstore in the Busch Student Center. I have also placed the required books on 3-hour reserve at Pius XII Memorial Library if the library owns them.

Readings that are NOT in the required books are available through the library’s online e-journals website (go to libraries.slu.edu and click on “research” then on “e-journals portal” and follow the instructions for searching for journal articles), or will be sent to you via email as PDF files.

The required books for the course are:


**Course requirements and grading:**

*1-page papers: 10% of final grade (10 papers @ 1% each)*
Each week all students will submit a short paper analyzing the week’s readings. These papers should be *no more than one page* (single or double-spaced) and are due by 11:59 pm the day before class. These papers should be brief, critical reflections on the readings. They should not be summaries of the readings. The purpose of this assignment is twofold: (1) it forces you to read and think critically about the readings before coming to class, and (2) it gives me the chance to see what issues were of particular interest or concern to you and tailor our class discussions around those issues. For this reason it is absolutely crucial that these papers be submitted to me via email (*jbowen5@slu.edu*) and on time (by 11:59 pm the day before class).

***UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL LATE PAPERS BE ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT.***

*Midterm exam and research proposal: 30% of final grade*
The exam will be essay in nature. It will be a take-home exam. It will be sent to you via email at noon on Tuesday, October 24th and will be due on Wednesday, October 25th by 10:00 pm. As part of the exam, you will submit a 1-2 page research proposal which outlines your research question, relevant literature, and methodology for your final research paper. The “exam” portion will count for 2/3 of the grade and the research proposal will count for 1/3 of your grade.

*Draft research paper and workshop: 15% of final grade*
All students will submit a draft of their research paper by Friday, December 4th @ 5:00pm (5% of final grade). We will then hold a research workshop in class on December 6th. All students will present their own research-in-progress (5% of final grade) as well as be prepared to comment on another student’s draft (5% of final grade).
Research paper: 30% of final grade
Research papers should be approximately 20-25 pages. Please turn in a hard copy of your paper. Do not email it to me.
Due: Thursday, December 13th by 7:00 pm.

Class participation: 15% of final grade
Your attendance and active participation are vital to the success of this course. Different students participate in different ways. At a minimum, students should come to class on time having read and thought about the assigned readings for that class. I expect that all students will make a contribution to class discussions through comments, questions, criticisms, and analysis of the assigned readings. In assigning grades, quality of participation will take precedence over quantity of participation (hence, students who participate frequently but without giving much thought to their comments/questions are not at an advantage compared to the student who offers occasional but insightful analysis and questions).

Final letter grades will be assigned that correspond to the following numeric scale:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D</td>
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Attendance and participation:
I do not consider class time to be a time simply to review the assigned readings. We will cover materials during class that are not in the readings (and we will not cover every single point from the readings in class). Class attendance is, therefore, imperative. If you must miss class for an approved reason (e.g.; illness, death or medical emergency in the immediate family, University-sponsored activities), please let me know via email as soon as possible. You are responsible for all materials covered in class, whether you are physically present or not. Make-up exams will be given only under the most extraordinary of circumstances. Late papers will be penalized 10 points per day.

Classroom courtesy:
Out of respect for all of those in class, all cell phones, pagers, and any other noisemaking devices must be turned OFF during the entire class period and during exams. Laptop computers may be used in class provided they do not make noise that disturbs those around you. I reserve the right to ask you to turn off and put away your computer if it is creating a disruption.

Students with disabilities:
Students with disabilities that may impact their classroom performance should contact the Disabilities Coordinator, 977-8885, DuBourg, Room 36. I am happy to make accommodations for students with disabilities, consistent with all laws and University policies.
Academic integrity:

I expect all students to be honest in their academic work. The University reserves the right to penalize any student whose academic conduct at any time is, in its judgment, detrimental to the University. Such conduct shall include cases of plagiarism, collusion, cheating, giving or receiving or offering or soliciting information in examinations, or the use of previously prepared material in examinations or quizzes. Violations will be reported and will be investigated and adjudicated according to the Policy on Academic Honesty of the College of Arts & Sciences. If the charges are found to be true, the student may be liable for academic or disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University. I encourage you to view official University policy on matters of academic integrity at: http://www.slu.edu/x12657.xml

Additional resources:

In addition to the required readings, there is a wealth of additional material that you may wish to consult throughout the semester or in the future. Below is a partial list of resources that you may find useful. Most (if not all) of these can be accessed through the library’s e-journals website.

News magazines such as The Economist and respected dailies such as the New York Times and Washington Post (in the US) generally provide good coverage of contemporary world events.

General journals in Comparative Politics that often cover topics relevant to our course:

Comparative Political Studies
Comparative Politics
Current History
Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy
Journal of Democracy
Studies in Comparative International Development
Third World Quarterly
World Development
World Politics

In addition, there are excellent English-language journals dealing with other regions of the world. Here are a few of the better ones.

*For Latin America:
Bulletin of Latin American Research
Journal of Latin American Studies
Latin American Politics and Society
Latin American Research Review
Journal of Politics in Latin America
NACLA Report on the Americas
*For Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union:
Post-Soviet Politics
Europe-Asia Studies
Slavic Review
Demokratizatsiya

*For Africa:
Journal of Modern African Studies
Journal of Asian and African Politics
Journal of African Economics
Africa Today
Africa Confidential

*For the Middle East:
Middle East Journal
Middle East Policy
British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies
International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies
Harvard Middle Eastern and Islamic Review

*For Asia:
Asian Survey
Journal of Asian Studies
Pacific Affairs
China Quarterly

*For Western Europe:
West European Politics
Comparative European Politics
European Journal of Political Research
Journal of Contemporary European Studies
European Political Science Review

Course schedule:

August 22: Introduction and syllabus
September 6: States and markets

September 13: Modernization, dependency, and the idea of development

September 20: The state as an agent of development

September 27: The neoliberal revolution

October 4: Domestic institutions and the global economy
October 11: “Asian miracles” in context  

October 18: Contemporary state capitalism  

October 25: MIDTERM EXAM

November 1: Discuss research topics

November 8: The political limits of economic reform in the United States  

November 15: The politics of development assistance  

November 29: The politics of economic destruction: Venezuela  

December 6: Research presentations

December 13: Final papers due by 7:00pm.