This advanced upper-level course provides the fundamentals of political economy or political socio-economic development. Our central puzzle throughout the course is: “Why Are We So Rich and They So Poor?” Because the focus of this course is on the “fundamentals,” we take unit of analysis rather broadly, which means that “We” and “They” can be the West/East, regions, countries, political entities, economic systems, societies, “people,” classes, or individuals. As such, answering the question about socio-economic development inevitably involves comparison. In studying this issue, therefore, we will learn why we compare, what to compare, and how to compare.

Traditional political economy studied this topic, by assuming that environments and political institutions are given and neutral with regard to the market allocations; they are there but they do not act. New political economy differs from the traditional approach in its treatment of politics. It accepts that political institutions and their relation to the economy and society are populated by actors who have interests/ideologies/faiths and pursue them. As such, this course is based on the belief that socio-economic development is fundamentally a political phenomenon. Another belief is that political scientists cannot study political economy without knowing some sort of economics, as we cannot study political history without dealing with history. So, we will study economic theories and formulations.

This course has three main purposes: 1) to provide a rigorous analytical framework and various theories and empirics of socio-economic development, 2) to equip students with solid understanding of the origins and historical formations of the capital-nation-state, including broad and important topics like the rise and decline of the West (and the East), and 3) to make sense of the complex relationships between environments, political institutions, and socio-economic development. To do so, this course is divided into four parts: I) The Nature of Socio-Economic Development, II) Theories of Development and Underdevelopment, III) The Structural Transformation and Strategies for Growth, and IV) Broad Comparison from a Long-Term Perspective.
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REARDINGS

Each student is expected to read (before class) all the required readings for each session (see the reading assignments below). Required readings are:


3) Journal articles and book chapters. These readings are posted on Moodle. All students should have a LSU account for access to Moodle through the PAWS desktop.

Students also need to purchase and read the following book to write a final paper (see below).


REQUIREMENTS

Basically, classes will involve lectures and discussions of the reading materials assigned for each session. But, I will introduce and explain some issues and concepts that are not in the readings, so attendance is crucial. This means that a significant amount of material on the examinations will come from class lectures presenting information not discussed directly in the text and other readings. Participation from students is important and will count toward the final grade.

Students are expected to complete:

1) Two in-class examinations (mid-term and final) (25% each)

2) Critical review paper (25%)

You will write a critical review of Diamond’s *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. The text should be no longer than six single-spaced pages. The format and guide of the paper will be discussed in class. **You should submit a hard copy due in class on April 30.**

3) Attendance, participation, and take-home assignments (25%)

It is extremely important to come to class; it is virtually impossible for you to receive a satisfactory grade if you miss several classes. Attendance will be taken for each session. Students may earn credit for their attendance at each class session, while repeated and unexcused absence will cause deduction in student’s total grade. In addition to attending class, students are highly encouraged to ask and answer questions, and to make appropriate comments on issues covered in class. And, there will be several take-home assignments. The nature of the assignments will be discussed in class later.

**NOTE:** If you do not take any of the examinations, if you do not submit the final paper, or if you miss more than twelve classes (half of lectures throughout the semester), you will automatically receive an F. No “make-up” examinations will be given; no late papers will be accepted.
READING ASSIGNMENTS AND SPECIFIC TOPICS

I. The Nature of Socio-Economic Development

Week 1 (01/15)  Introduction
Scope and roadmap of the course.

Week 1-2 (01/17, 01/22)  Meaning, Measures and Trends

Cypher and Dietz, Chapter 1 and 2.

Week 2-3 (01/24, 02/29)  Imperialism, Colonialism, and Capitalism

Cypher and Dietz, Chapter 3.


II. Theories of Development and Underdevelopment

Week 3-4 (01/31, 02/05, 2/07)  Classical and Neoclassical Theories

Cypher and Dietz, Chapter 4.


Week 5 (02/12)  Mardi Gras Holiday – No Class

Week 5-6 (02/14, 02/19)  Developmentalist and Heterodox Theories

Cypher and Dietz, Chapter 5 and 6.
Week 6-7 (02/21, 02/26, 02/28)  New Growth Theory

Cypher and Dietz, Chapter 8.

Week 8 (03/05)  Midterm Exam (in class 10:30 – 11:50 am)

III. The Structural Transformation and Strategies for Growth

Week 8-9 (03/07, 03/12, 03/14)  The State as an Agent of Transformation
Market failure vs. government failure. Export-led industrialization (ELI). Developmental state and embedded autonomy. Fragmented intermediate state. “Miracle” revisited. Efficiency or collusion? Who guards the guardians? Can the East Asia’s success be emulated in other countries?

Cypher and Dietz, Chapter 7.


Week 10 (03/19, 03/21)  Initial Transformation and Strategy Switching

Cypher and Dietz, Chapter 9 and 10

Week 11 (03/26, 03/28)  Assessing the Economic Rise of China and India
Socialism vs. capitalism. Neoliberal turn in the 1980s. “Socialism with Chinese characteristics?” Township and village enterprises (TVEs). State-owned enterprises (SOEs). Foreign direct investment (FDI). The developmental state revisited in comparison with China and India.

Bardhan, Chapter 1 – Chapter 6.

Week 12 (04/02, 04/04)  Spring Break – No Class

Week 12 (04/09, 04/11)  Comparing China and India Continued
The relevance of socialist legacy: “Are the Chinese better capitalists now (than the Indian) because they were better socialists then?” Social capabilities. Increasing inequality. Environmental disaster. How does political regime (democracy and dictatorship) matter? Decentralized governance structure. Accountability failure.

Bardhan, Chapter 7 – Chapter 10.
IV. Broad Comparison from a Long-term Perspective

Week 14 (04/16, 04/18)  Institutions Matter?


Week 15 (04/23, 04/25)  The Rise of the West and the Decline of the East…and Now?


Week 16 (04/30, 05/02)  The Fates of Human Societies: A Very Long-Term View
The role of environments. Importance of Longue durée. Summary and conclusion of the course.

Final paper on Diamond’s Guns, Germs, and Steel due in class on April 30.

Week 17 (05/09)  Final Exam (in class 5:30 – 7:30 pm)