

POLISCI 3358G
THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2025

Instructor: Dr. David Blair

Office: V133, Huron University College

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30-3:30pm and Fridays 1:30-2:30pm, or e-mail me to arrange a meeting at another time.

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Telephone: 519-438-7224, Ext.601

Class Meeting Times: Fridays 10:30am-12:30pm
in Classroom W101, Huron University College.

Prerequisite: Politics 2231E or permission of the instructor.

Course Description

A seminar course that examines the evolution of ideas about economic development and how those ideas shaped the economic strategies adopted by countries in the Global South. The course traces the waves of theorising about economic development from the end of World War II until present, the shifting policy approaches adopted in various developing countries and the role of the international community in influencing those countries' development efforts.

Course Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course are expected to demonstrate:

- an understanding of each of the theoretical approaches to economic development
- the ability to apply each of these theoretical tools in an analysis of the economic development efforts of individual countries in the Global South
- the ability to develop effective research strategies and to critically assess sources of information
- the ability to participate effectively in informed and constructive discussion of scholarly works
- good time management skills and good use of available resources and offers of assistance
- behaviour consistent with academic integrity and social responsibility

Course Materials

All materials for this course are freely available via the Western Libraries search catalogue (for periodical articles), the Course Readings website (for passages from books), the course Brightspace site (indicated in reading list) and links in the list of assigned seminar readings.

Course Requirements

1. A participation grade worth 30% of the final grade, based on the quality and regularity of participation in class discussions. Note that 2/3 of this participation grade is evaluated on the basis of regular quizzes designed to prepare students for class discussion. *Only students who are present during the full class discussion on the day of the quiz will receive a grade for the quiz.* Students must all write the quiz at the same time, which is normally at the beginning of class. These brief quizzes are not written assignments but are tools to help assess your participation in class discussions. If you are not in class when the quiz and discussion take place, obviously your performance cannot be assessed. For this reason, *there will be no make-up quizzes held under any circumstances.* However, only the highest 80% of quiz grades earned during the course of the academic year will be used to calculate the final overall quiz grade.
2. A research proposal and bibliography submitted in writing and presented orally in my office at a mutually agreed time, worth 15% of the final grade. The topic of the research proposal must be submitted to me by January 24, and the written proposal and bibliography are due on February 14. Details of the requirements for these assignments are posted on the course Brightspace site.
3. A final research paper of 1,250 words due on April 1 worth 25% of the final grade. The guidelines for this assignment are posted on the course Brightspace site.
4. A two-hour final examination worth 30% of the final grade.

Prerequisite Information

The pre-requisite for this course is Politics 2231E. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from the instructor to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites

Class Attendance

Students are expected not to miss any classes in this course. Students are responsible for all materials distributed and announcements made in every class.

Academic Consideration

Formal supporting documentation is required for requests for academic consideration for the final research paper.

Grade Descriptors

The University of Western Ontario Senate has adopted a set of grade descriptors which explain the meaning of grades assigned in all university courses:

A+	90-100%	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89%	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79%	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69%	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59%	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50%	Fail

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Plagiarism is an academic offense and will be treated as such. Students who are in doubt as to the nature of this offence should consult their instructor, Department Chair, or Dean's Office, as well as the Huron University College Statement on Plagiarism, available at the Reference Desk in the Huron University College Library and at www.huronuc.on.ca. In addition, students may seek guidance from a variety of current style manuals available at the Reference Desk in the Huron University College Library. Information about these resources can be found at <https://huronuc.libguides.com/citingsources>.

All required papers, mid-term tests and the final exam will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Department of Political Science Policy on the use of AI

The use of artificial intelligence software on any course assignments is not permitted unless explicitly authorised in advance by the instructor in this course. AI detectors will be used as a tool to assess the originality of student work.

Seminar Topics

- 1. Introduction to the Political Economy of Development**
- 2. From Modernization Theory to Good Governance**
- 3. From Latin American Structuralism to NIEO and SDGs**
- 4. The Dependency School and Global Value Chains**
- 5. World Systems Analysis and the Middle Income Trap**
- 6. Socialist Approaches to Development in the Global South**
- 7. The Neoliberal Turn in Economic Development**
- 8. The Developmental State**
- 9. Neo-structuralism and Neo-extractivism in Latin America**
- 10. Social Democratic Approaches to Economic Development**
- 11. Post-development and Alternatives to Development**