

INTA 3303. POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT

FALL 2024

Instructor: Dr. Alberto Fuentes (alberto.fuentes@inta.gatech.edu)

MW 11:00-12:15

Habersham G-17

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

Description

This course introduces students to the field of political economy of development. The course is divided into three parts. It begins with a discussion of the main understandings of development. Some of these hew closer to an emphasis on material progress, while others favor a broader lifestyle focus. Then, the second part of the course takes a sectoral approach to economic development paths, examining arguments addressing geography, natural resources and primary production; manufacturing and industrialization; and the shift toward services and the knowledge economy. The last part of the course addresses various perspectives on the institutional arrangements undergirding development. Students will examine these topics through a combination of academic documents and analyses, illustrations from real-world cases and applied in-class activities.

Course Requirements and Grading

Assignment	Due Dates	Share of Overall Grade
Attendance and Participation	--	10%
Worksheets x 10	--	10%
Labs x 2	September 30 November 4	20%
Group Presentation	September 9	15%
Midterm exam	October 9	20%
Final presentation	November 18 and 20	25%

Description of Graded Components

- **Attendance and Participation.** Students are required to attend class and participate in discussions and other activities. They will be graded on both the quantity and quality of their contributions. Attendance and participation will account for 10% of the final grade.
- **Worksheets.** Throughout the course, students will complete 10 worksheets during class time. Those worksheets will address material covered in the readings, lectures and discussions. Each worksheet will account for 1% of the final course grade.
- **Labs.** The course includes two labs. Labs will take an entire class and will allow students to explore the material through the production of a deliverable. Each Lab will account for 10% of the final grade.
- **Group Presentation.** The group presentation will take place after the first part of the course. It will center on a case involving human rights and sustainable development. The presentation will account for 15% of the final grade.
- **Midterm Exam.** The midterm exam will take place after the second part of the course. It will address the material covered in Parts 1 and 2. The midterm exam will account for 20% of the final course grade.
- **Final Presentation.** Final presentations will take place during the last two days of class. More details will be provided on October 30. The presentation will account for 25% of the final course grade.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	65-69%
F	0-64%

Policy for Late Assignments

Late assignments are strongly discouraged, except in the event of an illness or emergency

(documentation will be requested). Any major scheduling conflicts – including those that arise due to participation in “approved Institute activities” – should be discussed with the professor at least two weeks before the assignment due date. The penalty for assignments turned in less than 24 hours late is a 20% grade reduction. No assignments turned in over 24 hours late will be accepted.

Course Materials

- **Course Readings.** Copies of all assigned book chapters and articles will be made available electronically on Canvas.
- **Course Website.** I will be using the Course’s Canvas Page quite extensively throughout the semester. On the Canvas page, you should be able to access important information about the course including but not limited to the most updated version of the syllabus, course announcements, and all required material. I will also use the Canvas page to record grades. Please make sure to check the Canvas system regularly so you do not miss important course information.

Feedback and contact with the faculty

- **Virtual Office Hours.** I am available to meet with you during virtual office hours to answer any questions you may have or to discuss any aspect of the course. If you would like to meet, please send me an email and I will make the necessary arrangements.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. According to the Georgia Tech Student Affairs Policy, “Plagiarism” is the act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts of passages of their writings, and passing them off as your own products. It involves the deliberate use of any outside source without proper acknowledgment. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit:

<http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/>

<http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity.

Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities.

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (often referred to as ADAPTS) to discuss your special needs and obtain an accommodations letter. If you would like to discuss your learning needs, please email me as soon as possible to set up a time to do so.

Student-Faculty Expectations

At Georgia Tech we believe that faculty and the student body must continually strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility. I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech.

DETAILED CLASS OUTLINE

Week		Topic	Readings
PART I: DEFINITIONS OF DEVELOPMENT			
Week 1 August 19 and 21	M	Introduction	
	W	Economic Output	Easterly, W. <i>Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics</i> , MIT Press, 2001. Read Chapter 1 The Economist. "Xi Jinping's misguided plan to escape economic stagnation." April 4, 2024.
Week 2 August 26 and 28	M	Distribution and capabilities	Sen, Amartya. <i>Development as Freedom</i> . OUP Oxford, 2001. Read Chapters 1 and 2.
	W	Human rights	Scott, James C. <i>Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed</i> . New Haven, US: Yale University Press, 2008. Read Chapter 7.
Week 3 September 2 and 4	M	INSTITUTE HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	
	W	Sustainability and Resilience	Benson and Craig, <i>The End of Sustainability</i> . Read chapters 2 and 3.
Week 4 September 9 and 11	M	Group presentation 1: Human rights, environment	"Central American drought creates climate change refugees." (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZ0fzwt0f_c) "Georgia Tech Introduces Long-Term Initiative to Advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals"(https://news.gatech.edu/news/2020/08/25/georgia-tech-introduces-long-term-initiative-advance-united-nations-sustainable)
	W	FACULTY TRAVEL – NO CLASS	

PART 2: SECTORAL DEVELOPMENT PATHS			
Week 5 September 16 and 18	M	Primary Sector	Sachs, Jeffrey D. 2001. "Tropical Underdevelopment." NBER Working Paper No. 8119.
	W	Paradox of Plenty	Beattie, A. "The superpower that never was." <i>Financial Times</i> , May 22, 2009.
Week 6 September 23 and 25	M	Secondary Sector	Amsden, A. H., & Chu, W.-W. <i>Beyond Late Development: Taiwan's Upgrading Policies</i> . MIT Press, 2003. Read Chapter 1.
	W	GVCs	Gereffi, Gary. "International trade and industrial upgrading in the apparel commodity chain." <i>Journal of international economics</i> 48.1 (1999): 37-70.
Week 7 September 30 and October 1	M	Lab 1. Premature Deindustrialization and the Jalisco Electronics case	Gallagher, K. and Lyuba Zarsky. <i>The Enclave Economy: Foreign Investment and Sustainable Development in Mexico's Silicon Valley</i> . MIT Press, 2007 Read chapters 5 and 6.
	W	Tertiary Sector	Cruz, J. "Exporting the Knowledge Economy." (unpublished manuscript)
Week 8 October 7 and 9	M	The knowledge economy	The Economist. India IT articles (curated by instructor)
	W	Midterm Exam	
Week 9 October 14 and 16	M	INSTITUTE HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	
	W	FACULTY TRAVEL – NO CLASS	

PART 3: DEVELOPMENTAL INSTITUTIONS

Week 10 October 21 and 23	M	Market institutions	Robinson, James A., and Daron Acemoglu. <i>Why nations fail: The origins of power, prosperity and poverty</i> . London: Profile, 2012. Read Chapters 1 and 3.
	W	The national state and industrial policy	Evans, P. <i>Embedded autonomy: states and industrial transformation</i> . Princeton University Press, 2012. Read Chapter 1.
Week 11 October 28 and 30	M	The subnational state	Angotti, Tomas. "Ciudad Guayana: From Growth Pole to Metropolis, Central Planning to Participation." <i>Journal of Planning Education and Research</i> (2001).
	W	Democracy and authoritarianism	Robinson, James A. "Economic development and democracy." <i>Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.</i> 9 (2006): 503-527. *Final presentation instructions provided
Week 12 November 4 and 6	M	Lab 2: Nayib Bukele and development	TBD
	W	Foreign aid	Easterly, W. <i>Reinventing Foreign Aid</i> MIT Press, 2008. Read Introduction.
Week 13 November 11 and 13	M	National business and MNCs	"Stealing Africa," <i>Why Poverty?</i> PBS (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNYemuiAOfU)
	W	Final presentation prep	
Week 15 November 18 and 20	M	Final Presentations	
	W	Final Presentations	
Week 16 November 25 and 27	M	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK	
	W	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK	