



**POSC 3610: (Fordham -- Rose Hill)
Political Economy of Development
Fall 2017**

Instructor: José A. Alemán	Office: Faber Hall 662
Office hours: T: 2:30~5:15 pm	E-mail: aleman@fordham.edu
Course web site: Blackboard	

TEXTs (required):

Reinert, Erik S. (2007) *How Rich Countries Got Rich ... and Why Poor Countries Stay Poor*. New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers.

Amsden, Alice H. (2003) *The Rise of the Rest: Challenges to the West from Late-Industrializing Economies*. Oxford Scholarship Online
<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/oso/public/content/economicsfinance/0195139690/toc.html>.

Norris, Pippa (2012) *Making Democratic Governance Work: The Impact of Regimes on Prosperity, Welfare and Peace*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

DOCUMENTARY:

Diamond, Jared (2005) *Guns, Germs and Steel*. Available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwZ4s8Fsv94>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iR8OaVDB3_E

DESCRIPTION:

The course is divided into three parts. After examining a variety of economic explanations of well-being, we examine the main political explanations of developmental success and failure. Using a cross-regional focus, we discuss some important questions: states versus markets, growth versus redistribution and nationalism versus internationalism.

GOALS:

This course fulfills the new “methods intensive” requirement that the Political Science department introduced in the fall of 2017. The requirement will apply to all new majors and can be fulfilled by taking a course designated as “methods intensive” (out of the 10 needed for the major). The goal of this requirement is to make students more familiar

with the logic of inquiry in the social sciences and in so doing, give them skills to ask and answer their own questions about the world. Though no prior knowledge of research methodology is assumed, the skills you gain in this course should be useful in other courses, majors and careers.

Specifically, we will be using one of the books we'll read, *Making Democratic Governance Work*, as a template to research and write a 10-page term paper. The paper will be on a topic you choose related to the politics of economic development, which you'll discuss and clear with me in advance. I will provide more information and instructions about this assignment at a later date.

REQUIREMENTS:

(A) **attendance and participation:** as stated in the attendance policy of the Undergraduate Faculty Handbook ([http://faculty.fordham.edu/ajofriedman/2811-F07/readings/Student%20Attendance%20\(FCRH\).pdf](http://faculty.fordham.edu/ajofriedman/2811-F07/readings/Student%20Attendance%20(FCRH).pdf)), attendance is mandatory and students are expected to attend class having done the readings and ready to participate with questions and comments. In the event of an extraordinary circumstance, students must provide adequate documentation to the Dean's office, who will then determine whether the absence is excused or not. Arriving late to class, after attendance has been taken, counts as an absence. After three unexcused absences, a letter grade will be subtracted from the final grade.

Students are also asked to refrain from using their cell-phones, laptops and other electronic devices in class. In the event a laptop is necessary for note taking, proper medical documentation must be provided.

(B) **take-home assignments:** there will be 2 take home assignments (length 2000 and 2500 words), the first worth 20% and the second 25% of the grade. No late papers will be accepted except in case of a medical condition (accompanied by doctor's note). Papers may not be rewritten for a higher grade, nor will drafts be accepted in advance.

(C) **mid-term and final:** the mid-term and final examinations will be done in class. Cheating (using unauthorized materials or giving unauthorized assistance during an examination or other academic exercise) and plagiarism (using others' ideas and words without acknowledgment) are serious offenses and will be forwarded to the Dean.

EVALUATION:

- (A) class participation: 10%
- (B) take-home assignment: 20%
- (C) midterm examination: 20%
- (D) research paper: 25%
- (D) final examination: 25%

On all papers and exams, evaluation is based on a thorough understanding and command of the materials presented in lectures and readings, original critical analyses

of those materials, and an attempt to think about how those ideas make sense of particular countries or experiences in the real world.

RESOURCES:

(A) **books:** the books listed above are required and available for purchase at the Fordham University bookstore. Additional handouts and readings will be made available online through blackboard.

(B) **How to Get the Most out of Studying Video Series:**

<http://www.samford.edu/how-to-study/>.

(C) There might be quizzes offered in class for extra credit purposes.

(C) **special assistance:** students with disabilities should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to allow for coordination of assistance with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Students in need of assistance with class assignments should contact or visit the Writing Center (x4032) located in Dealy E-533.

Course schedule

9/1	Introduction: What is Development? What Kind of Development?
9/5	Geography and the Roots of Economic Development: Part 1 of 2005 PBS documentary “Guns, Germs and Steel” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwZ4s8Fsv94
9/8	Colonialism and the Roots of Economic Development: Part 2 of 2005 PBS documentary “Guns, Germs and Steel” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iR8OaVDB3_E
9/12	What Drives Economic Growth? Reinert (Introduction)
9/15	Comparative advantage Reinert (chapter 1)
9/19	“Humanity from Space” video presentation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rXLcKfjvMc , mins 12 to 72.
9/22	Developmental States Reinert (chapter 2)
9/26	Exogenous vs. Endogenous Industrialization Reinert (chapter 3)
9/29	Product life cycle Reinert (chapter 4)
10/3	Equity, Institutions, and the Development Process <i>World Development Report 2006</i> (chapter 6); <i>Cuba’s “Equity without Growth” Dilemma</i> → available on blackboard
10/6	Multinational Corporations (MNCs): Economic explanations → blackboard reading

10/10	The Politics of MNCs → blackboard readings To watch in class: “Maquilapolis”
10/13	review
10/17	Midterm examination
10/20	Regimes and Human Development Norris (chapters 1 & 2)
10/24	Political Regimes Norris (chapter 3)
10/27	<i>Research Methodology and the Search for Inferences</i> <i>No readings</i>
10/31	Political Regime Effects Norris (chapter 4)
11/3	Political Regimes and Prosperity Norris (chapter 5)
11/7	Political Regimes and Welfare Norris (chapter 6)
11/10	Political Regimes and Peace Norris (chapter 7) http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/02/world/searching-for-burmese-jade-and-finding-misery.html?_r=1
11/14	Late Industrialization and Growth Dynamics Amsden (chapter 1); Amsden (chapter 6)
11/17	Trade Policies Amsden (chapter 7)
11/21	National Firms Amsden (chapter 8)
11/28	Government Targeting and Income Distribution Amsden (chapter 8)
12/1	Neoliberalism and Less Developed Countries (LDCs) Amsden (chapters 9)
12/5	Learning and Late Industrialization Amsden (chapter 10)
12/8	Conclusion and review