

**The Political Economy of Poverty**  
Fall 2017

<b>Assistant Professor</b> Ida Bastiaens	<b>Class Meeting Time:</b> Monday and Thursday 10:00-11:15am
<b>Instructor Contact Information:</b> Office: Faber Hall 666 Email: <a href="mailto:ibastiaens@fordham.edu">ibastiaens@fordham.edu</a>	<b>Office Hours:</b> Monday 12:00-2:00 and by appointment

**Course Description:** This course examines the relationship between political, economic, and social phenomena in causing, perpetuating, and alleviating poverty across the globe. Course readings include classic theoretical texts and policy strategies and debates from both a Western and non-Western perspective. In order to further explore global perspectives on the political economy of poverty, students will present case studies of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, Middle East, South and East Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. Finally, this course introduces students to variable correlation and causation in political science. We will discuss how to define concepts, measure variables (and collect basic data), build hypotheses, and identify and challenge causal relations between variables. Critical analysis of all issues and approaches is strongly encouraged throughout the semester.

**Course Objectives:**

- Review and analyze the main theoretical perspectives and current debates within poverty studies and policies from both a Western and non-Western perspective
- Critically assess the relationship between politics and economics in global development and underdevelopment
- Develop oral communication and critical analysis skills through class presentations and discussions
- Build a foundation in identifying causal relationships between variables and be an informed consumer of the testing of causal relationships between variables.

**Class Format:** Class sessions combine a mixture of interactive lecturing and class discussions of key topics from the readings. This is a reading intensive course. You will have difficulty participating and passing assignments without keeping up on the readings.

**Required Texts:**

- Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo. 2011. *Poor Economics*. New York: Public Affair
- Seligson, Mitchell and John Passe-Smith, eds. 2014. *Development and Underdevelopment*. Lynne Rienner Publishers. 5<sup>th</sup> edition.

Academic and media articles will be available online on blackboard.

Book chapters are available online through the ARES library link below or on reserve at Walsh library.

The direct link to the **ARES** electronic reserves home page is <http://reserves-ares.library.fordham.edu/ares/>

Password for course: **peopfpoverty**

Please note you must create your own unique login to ARES, then use password above to access our course readings.

**Course Grade:** Your grade is derived from your class attendance and participation, the group presentations, and a midterm and final exam. The calculated final course grade will be rounded up to the nearest integer.

Grade Composition	Grading Scale
Participation: 10%	A = 93-100      C+ = 78-79
Group Presentations: 30%	A- = 90-92      C = 73-77
Midterm Exam: 30%	B+ = 88-89      C- = 70-72
Final Exam: 30%	B = 83-87      D = 60-69
	B- = 80-82      F = ≤ 59

**Class Participation (10%):** Individual participation grades are derived from the instructor’s evaluation of the quantity and quality of individual contributions during interactive lectures and discussions. Arriving to class prepared and on time and being attentive and respectful during lecture and discussion are considered in the participation grades. Upon the start of the semester, each student will be given a B grade of participation. Quality participation (thought provoking and insightful questions and comments based on class and outside reading) and attentive and respectful attendance will boost a student’s grade to an A. Failure to be prepared for discussion, attend class on time, or be respectful of others, will result in a reduction in the grade.

**Group Presentations (30%):** As part of a small group you will prepare and conduct three ten-fifteen minute presentations on poverty in one of the following regions: Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, Middle East, South and East Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. In your presentations, you should focus on one country within the region.

Criteria for each presentation is as follows:

Date	Topic	Assignment
Nov 20	Background	Provide background information on the politics, economics, and <u>welfare state</u> of the your select country (regime type, global market integration, growth and development models and trends, description of poverty challenges, welfare state composition, trends, and programs)
Nov 30	Health	Provide background information on health conditions in your select country. Explain and assess the biggest health challenges facing your select country. Describe one recent health policy advanced by the local

		government. How effective has this policy been? What are its strengths and weaknesses? Provide policy recommendations.
Dec 4	Education	Provide background information on education conditions in your select country. Explain and assess the biggest education challenges facing your select country. Describe one recent education policy advanced by the local government. How effective has this policy been? What are its strengths and weaknesses? Provide policy recommendations.

Grading will be based on the follow rubric (100 points possible per presentation, 300 points possible in total):

- Presentation effectiveness: preparedness, organization, clarity: 25 points
- Insightful information and critical arguments on poverty challenges and policies: 25 points
- Quality of supporting evidence and examples: 25 points
- Insightful, challenging questions of other groups: 25 points

**Midterm Exam (30%):** A take-home midterm exam will be distributed on October 23 in class (and posted on blackboard). This exam will require students to define core terms and apply theories to issue areas. The exam will be in the format of essay questions. Midterm exam is due October 30 at 10:00am. Bring a printed copy of your exam to class to be graded.

**Final Exam (30%):** At the end of the term (December 7), a take-home final exam will be distributed and posted on blackboard. The final exam will require students to deeply explore—using the readings from class, research from the group presentations, and data from the World Bank—one “cause” of poverty. Students will discuss the causal process between X and Y and the flaws underlying this assertion. The exam will be in the format of one essay question. It is due December 15 at 9:00am. Submit your exam via blackboard.

**Attendance, Missed Assignments, and Late Assignments:** Attendance is mandatory and low attendance will affect your grade. Each student is permitted a total of 4 absences per semester, after which the student’s final course grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (for example, from an A to an A-) for each additional absence. Missed assignments can only be made up if the student is away on a documented university-related event or due to documented medical illnesses/procedures and emergencies. Late assignments will be reduced by ten percent each day until submitted.

Note: For the presentation, the make-up assignment includes participating in a mini presentation and discussion with the instructor.

**Disability Services:** Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all students, with or without disabilities, are entitled to equal access to the programs and activities of Fordham University. If you believe that you have a

disabling condition that may interfere with your ability to participate in the activities, coursework, or assessment of the object of this course, you may be entitled to accommodations. Please schedule an appointment to speak with someone at the Office of Disability Services (Rose Hill - O'Hare Hall, Lower Level, x0655 or at Lincoln Center – Room 207, x6282).

**Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on exams, falsification, unapproved collaboration, and destruction of library materials.

These violations will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the standards of academic integrity will be required to follow Fordham University's outlined procedures as initiated by the instructor. For information on the standards and policies of academic integrity go to:

[http://www.fordham.edu/academics/handbooks\\_publicati/undergraduate\\_academ/index.asp](http://www.fordham.edu/academics/handbooks_publicati/undergraduate_academ/index.asp)

**Technology in the Classroom:** Use of cell phones in the classroom is strictly prohibited.

**Email Communication Policy:** Each student is issued a University email address upon admittance. Students are expected to read email sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Sept 6 *Wed.	Introduction	
<b><i>Defining and Measuring Variables</i></b>		
Sept 7	What is poverty? Definition and Measurement	Sen, Amartya. <i>Development as Freedom</i> . Chapter 1. <b>ARES</b> .  “Fewer, but still with us: The World has made great progress in eradicating extreme poverty.” <i>The Economist</i> . March 30, 2017. <a href="http://www.economist.com/news/international/21719790-going-will-be-much-harder-now-world-has-made-great-progress">http://www.economist.com/news/international/21719790-going-will-be-much-harder-now-world-has-made-great-progress</a>
Sept 11	What is poverty? Poverty traps	Banerjee and Duflo. Chapter 1 and 2.
Sept 14	Data, Variables, and Hypotheses	Gschwend, Thomas and Frank Schimmelfennig. 2007. “Introduction: Designing Research in Political Science- A Dialogue between Theory and Data.” In <i>Research Design in Political Science</i> . <b>Blackboard.</b>
<b><i>Relationships between Variables in Theories of Poverty</i></b>		
Sept 18	Theory: Liberalism	Prahalad, CK. <i>Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid</i> . Chapter 1. <b>ARES</b> .  Olson, Mancur. Big Bills Left on the Sidewalk: Why Some Nations Are Rich, and Others Poor. In Seligson and Passe-Smith Chapter 26.  “When Giants Slow Down.” July 27, 2013. <i>The Economist</i> .

		<a href="http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21582257-most-dramatic-and-disruptive-period-emerging-market-growth-world-has-ever-seen">http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21582257-most-dramatic-and-disruptive-period-emerging-market-growth-world-has-ever-seen</a>
Sept 21	Theory: Modernization	<p>Rostow, WW. Five Stages of Growth. In Seligson and Passe-Smith Chapter 17.</p> <p>Granato, Jim, Ronald Inglehart, and David Leblang. The Effect of Cultural Values on Economic Development: Theory, Hypotheses, and Some Empirical Tests. In Seligson and Passe-Smith Chapter 22.</p> <p>“Iran: The Revolution is Over.” <i>The Economist</i>. 1 November 2014. <a href="http://www.economist.com/news/special-report/21628597-after-decades-messianic-fervour-iran-becoming-more-mature-and-modern-country">http://www.economist.com/news/special-report/21628597-after-decades-messianic-fervour-iran-becoming-more-mature-and-modern-country</a></p>
Sept 25	Theory: Dependency	<p>Frank, Andre Gunder. The Development of Underdevelopment. In Seligson and Passe-Smith Chapter 23.</p> <p>Evans, Peter. <i>Dependent Development</i>. Chapter 1. <b>ARES</b>.</p> <p>“The Chinese in Africa: Trying to Pull it Together.” 20 April 2011. <i>The Economist</i>. <a href="http://www.economist.com/node/18586448">http://www.economist.com/node/18586448</a></p>
Sept 28	NO CLASS	
Oct 2	Theory: Post-Development and Discourse Analysis	<p>Escobar, Arturo. 1995. <i>Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1. <b>ARES</b>.</p> <p>Shiva, Vandana. “How Economic Growth has become Anti-Life.” November 1, 2013. <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/nov/01/how-economic-growth-has-become-anti-life">http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/nov/01/how-economic-growth-has-become-anti-life</a></p>
Oct 5	Theory: Feminism	<p>Nussbaum, Martha. 2000. “Women’s Capabilities and Social Justice.” <i>Journal of Human Development</i>. 1(2). <b>Blackboard</b>.</p> <p>World Development Report 2012. Overview. <a href="http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTWDRS/0,,contentMDK:20227703~pagePK:478093~piPK:477627~theSitePK:477624,00.html">http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTWDRS/0,,contentMDK:20227703~pagePK:478093~piPK:477627~theSitePK:477624,00.html</a></p>
Oct 12	Determining Causality	<p>Falleti, Tulia G. and Julia F. Lynch. 2009. “Context and Causal Mechanisms in Political Analysis.” <i>Comparative Political Studies</i>. 42: 1143-66. <b>Blackboard</b>. (note: skim this article for big ideas)</p>

<b><i>Political Variables in more depth</i></b>		
Oct 16	Politics: Social Capital	Woolcock, Michael and Deepa Narayan (2000) "Social Capital: Implications for Development Theory" <i>World Bank Research Observer</i> . 15 (2): 225-249. <b>Blackboard.</b>  Putnam, Robert D. 1995. "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> . 6(1): 65-78. <b>Blackboard.</b>
Oct 19	Politics: Democracies and Nondemocracies	Przeworski, Adam and Fernando Limongi. Political Regimes and Economic Growth. In Seligson and Passe-Smith Chapter 28.  Keefer, Philip and Stuti Khemani. 2005. "Democracy, Public Expenditures, and the Poor." World Bank Working Paper. <b>Blackboard.</b>  "What's Gone Wrong with Democracy?" <i>The Economist</i> . 1 March 2014. Page 47-52. <a href="http://www.economist.com/news/essays/21596796-democracy-was-most-successful-political-idea-20th-century-why-has-it-run-trouble-and-what-can-be-do">http://www.economist.com/news/essays/21596796-democracy-was-most-successful-political-idea-20th-century-why-has-it-run-trouble-and-what-can-be-do</a>
Oct 23	Review for Midterm	<b>Midterm Exam Distributed in Class and Posted on Blackboard</b>
<b><i>Economic Variables in more depth</i></b>		
Oct 26	Economics: Aid	Collier, Paul. 2008. <i>The Bottom Billion</i> . Chapter 7. <b>ARES.</b>  Moyo, Dambisa and Joanne Myers. 2009. "Dead Aid." Interview Available at: <a href="http://www.carnegiecouncil.org/studio/multimedia/20090409/0142.html?withOthers=1">http://www.carnegiecouncil.org/studio/multimedia/20090409/0142.html?withOthers=1</a>  "Misplaced Charity." <i>The Economist</i> . June 11, 2016. <a href="http://www.economist.com/news/international/21700323-development-aid-best-spent-poor-well-governed-countries-isnt-where-it">http://www.economist.com/news/international/21700323-development-aid-best-spent-poor-well-governed-countries-isnt-where-it</a>  "Doing good and doing well." <i>The Economist</i> . May 4, 2017. <a href="http://www.economist.com/news/international/21721635-they-need-diversify-growing-share-aid-spent-private-firms-not-charities">http://www.economist.com/news/international/21721635-they-need-diversify-growing-share-aid-spent-private-firms-not-charities</a>
<b><i>Trouble in Paradise? Causality and its Problems</i></b>		
Oct 30	Variables, Causality, and the 'Real World'	Morton, Rebecca B. and Kenneth C. Williams. 2009. "Experimentation in Political Science." <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology</i> . <b>Blackboard.</b>  <b>MIDTERM EXAM DUE AT START OF CLASS (bring printed copy of your exam to class to be graded)</b>

Nov 2	Institutions and Institutional Legacy: Reverse Causality?	<p>Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James A Robinson. The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development. In Seligson and Passe-Smith Chapter 10.</p> <p>Diamond, Jared. What makes Countries Rich or Poor? In Seligson and Passe-Smith Chapter 30.</p> <p>Birdsall Nancy. Inequality as a Constraint on Growth in Latin America. In Seligson and Passe-Smith Chapter 29.</p>
Nov 6	Inequality: Omitted Variables?	<p>Berg, Andrew G. and Jonathan D. Ostry. Equality and Efficiency: Is there a Trade-off between the Two or do they go Hand in Hand? In Seligson and Passe-Smith Chapter 15.</p> <p>Kuznets, Simon. Economic Growth and Income Inequality. In Seligson and Passe-Smith Chapter 12.</p> <p>Wade, Robert Hunter. The Rising Inequality of World Income Distribution. In Seligson and Passe-Smith Chapter 3.</p>
Nov 9	International Organizations: Selection Bias?	<p>Stiglitz, Joseph. 2003. <i>Globalization and Its Discontents</i>. Chapter 2. <b>ARES.</b></p> <p>Noorduddin, Irfan and Joel Simmons. 2006. "The Politics of Hard Choices: IMF Programs and Government Spending." <i>International Organization</i>. 60 (Fall): 1001-33. <b>Blackboard.</b></p>
<b><i>So What? Now What? The Messy Reality of Variables, Data, and Policy</i></b>		
Nov 13	Welfare state policy	<p>Ravallion, Martin. Do Poorer countries have Less Capacity for Redistribution? Seligson and Passe-Smith Chapter 16.</p> <p>Haggard and Kaufman. <i>Development, Democracy, and Welfare States: Latin America, East Asia, and Eastern Europe</i>. 2008. Introduction. <b>ARES.</b></p> <p>"Asian welfare states: New Cradles to Graves." <i>The Economist</i>. 2012 September 8. <a href="http://www.economist.com/node/21562210">http://www.economist.com/node/21562210</a></p> <p>Yardley, Jim. 2010. "India Asks, Should Food Be a Right for the Poor?" <i>New York Times</i>. <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/09/world/asia/09food.html?pagewanted=all&amp; r=0">http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/09/world/asia/09food.html?pagewanted=all&amp; r=0</a></p>
Nov 16	Health policy	Banerjee and Duflo. Chapter 3

		<p>“Malnutrition, Nutrients and Obesity.” 29 November 2014. <i>The Economist</i>. <a href="http://www.economist.com/news/international/21635046-world-has-terrible-record-improving-peoples-diets-may-be-changing-feast-and">http://www.economist.com/news/international/21635046-world-has-terrible-record-improving-peoples-diets-may-be-changing-feast-and</a></p>
Nov 20	<i>Background/Welfare State Presentations</i>	
Nov 27	Education policy	<p>Banerjee and Duflo. Chapter 4.</p> <p>“Illiterate voters.” <i>The Economist</i>. <a href="http://www.economist.com/news/international/21600162-teaching-those-who-cannot-read-how-vote-makes-cleaner-fairer-elections-making-their?zid=316&amp;ah=2f6fb672faf113fdd3b11cd1b1bf8a77">http://www.economist.com/news/international/21600162-teaching-those-who-cannot-read-how-vote-makes-cleaner-fairer-elections-making-their?zid=316&amp;ah=2f6fb672faf113fdd3b11cd1b1bf8a77</a></p> <p>“For Profit Education: The \$1-a-week school” <i>The Economist</i>. August 1, 2015. <a href="http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21660113-private-schools-are-booming-poor-countries-governments-should-either-help-them-or-get-out">http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21660113-private-schools-are-booming-poor-countries-governments-should-either-help-them-or-get-out</a></p>
Nov 30	<i>Health Presentations</i>	
Dec 4	<i>Education Presentations</i>	
Dec 7	Reflections: Building State Capacity And Review for Final Exam	<p>Banerjee and Duflo. Chapter 10.</p> <p>“Poverty: Growth or Safety Net?” <i>The Economist</i>. 21 September 2013. <a href="http://www.economist.com/news/international/21586601-eradicating-extreme-poverty-no-longer-pipe-dream-first-governments-must-agree">http://www.economist.com/news/international/21586601-eradicating-extreme-poverty-no-longer-pipe-dream-first-governments-must-agree</a></p> <p><b>Course Evaluations Today-- BRING COMPUTER TO CLASS.</b></p> <p><b>Final Exam Distributed in Class and Posted on Blackboard</b></p> <p><b>FINAL EXAM DUE DECEMBER 15 at 9:00am</b></p> <p><b>Submit your final exam via blackboard.</b></p>