

**POLS 4551 THEORIES OF POLITICAL ECONOMY**  
**(Fall 2020)**

**Instructor:** Amr Adly

**Email:** amradly82@aucegypt.edu

**Class times:** Monday and Thursday, 10:00-11:15 am

**Office Hours:** Flexible, by appointment

**Office:** HUSS 2011

**Class:** Online

**Course description**

This course provides an in-depth look into the main theories and approaches that dominate the discipline of political economy. The course design is meant to introduce political economy in its methodological and ideological diversity of schools and traditions ranging from the left to the right while paying attention to how each has developed in time. In addition, the syllabus covers many of the principal topics that were tackled by political economy at critical junctures such as theories of trade, industrialization, the state, labor-capital relations, revolution and economic development. This aims at tying the theoretical debate with empirical issues around the world.

As the course tackles the theories of political economy, the syllabus was designed to introduce the students to the basic classic writings that gave rise to the discipline and provided the conceptual and epistemological foundations of its various schools. This should allow the students to immediately and critically engage with the formative texts and the basic concepts they brought to being. Reading the classics is supported by secondary sources that highlight the social and political circumstances within each tradition developed together with lecturing and in-class discussions.

**Course objectives**

This course has three principal goals: the first is the comprehensive introduction of the theories and concepts of political economy to the students. Comprehensiveness here refers to covering a rich agenda of topics, readings and approaches. The second goal is the critical engagement with classical readings through which the basic concepts and approaches of political economy had developed. Students should be able to acquire analytical tools adequate enough to analyze, critique and deconstruct what they receive through the course. Finally, the third goal is the development of the students' ability to apply the analytical tools and approaches on the contemporary local, regional and global political-economic phenomena. After all, political economy is a social discipline. Thus, it should contribute to the awareness and understanding of students of the world around them.

## Requirements and assessment

- This is an online course.
- We will meet on zoom on Monday and Thursday every week during class time.
- Participation will be out of 10 percent. Make sure to be online exactly at the designated class time. **Switch on your camera throughout the whole session. Otherwise, you won't be counted as present.**
- Each student will be required to show up for the zoom session with a question and a comment/critique pertaining to the reading and/or the audio lecture. Post them on the zoom chat and we will go through them together. This is how your participation will be assessed.
- You will all receive an audio-recorded lecture before class time. Listen to it carefully and do the readings accordingly.
- You are expected to attend and participate in classes.
  - Attendance will NOT be graded. However, as per university rules, if you miss more than three weeks of classes, for whatever reason, you will receive an F in the course. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are marked present for the day or withdraw from the course if you have too many absences.
  - You are allowed to join up to five minutes of the beginning of the zoom session. Otherwise, you won't be counted as present.
  - In case you have systematic connectivity problems that might hinder your presence, please inform me at the beginning of the course.
- All readings on the syllabus are required to complete the course. They will all be made available by email on the first class.

- You are required to submit three assignments through the course. Each assignment will take the form of an essay (around a 1000 words).
  - The exact topics and dates of submission of the essays are included in the course outline. No late submissions will be accepted.
  - Assignments submitted later than the set deadline WILL NEITHER BE ACCEPTED NOR GRADED. No excuses, including computer collapse or loss of files, so keep a backup.
  - Do not cite sources from the internet. Rely only on print sources that have been refereed. Lecture notes are also unacceptable as are dictionaries and encyclopedias.
- For the sake of making this course as interactive as possible, there will be individual presentations through the course on assigned topics. Presentations should be based on good research and the applying of the themes and tools learned in class. Assessment will be based on the quality of research and presentation skills. The exact schedule and topics of the presentations will be communicated by email in due course.
- There will be one midterm and a final examination.
- The assessment will be as follows:
 

Participation:	10 percent
Presentation:	10 percent
(3) Assignments:	30 percent (10 percent each)
Midterm exam	25 percent
Final exam	25 percent

The grade cut-offs will be as follows: A (94 and above), A- (90-93), B+(87-89), B (84-86), B- (80-83), C+ (77-79), C (74-76), C- (70-73), D+ (61-69), D (50-60).

## **"ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

- Students are expected to commit to the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity includes a commitment to not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another person's work as one's own, using Internet or other sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty, etc.
- Plagiarism for assignments and/or reports may result in a zero grade for the assignment and/or the report in question. Cheating during an examination may result in a zero grade for this examination. Further action, according to university regulations, would also be implemented.
- You should be aware that all written work might be submitted to "Turnitin.com", the detection prevention software.
- The University's statement on academic integrity, from which the above statement is drawn, is available at:  
<http://www.aucegypt.edu/academics/integrity/Pages/default.aspx>

## Classes

### **Class 1 (Thursday, Sept. 3rd): Introduction to the course**

### **Classes 2-10: Roots and Foundations**

### **Class 2 (Monday, Sept. 7th): Classical Liberal Thought**

Smith, Adam. *The Wealth of Nation: An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, pp. 219-232

### **Class 3 (Thursday, Sept. 10th): State-making and war making**

Tilly, Charles. "War making and state making as organized crime." In *Collective Violence, Contentious Politics, and Social Change*, pp. 121-139. Routledge, 2017.

### **Class 4 (Monday, Sept. 14th): Weber's last theory of capitalism**

Collins, Randall. "Weber's last theory of capitalism: a systematization." *American Sociological Review* (1980): 925-942.

### **Class 5 (Thursday, Sept. 17th): Economic Nationalism**

Pickel, Andreas. "Explaining, and explaining with, economic nationalism." *Nations and nationalism* 9, no. 1 (2003): 105-127.

### **Class 6 (Monday, Sept. 21st): Classical Marxian thought**

Marx, Karl. "Chapter seven: The labor process and the process of producing surplus value". *Capital Vol (1), Part III: The Production of Absolute Surplus-Value*

### **Class 7 (Thursday, Sept. 24th): Lenin's theory of Imperialism**

Lenin, Valdimir (1952) *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*

**Class 8 (Monday, Sept. 28th): Gramsci's theory of hegemony**

Bates, Thomas R. "Gramsci and the Theory of Hegemony." *Journal of the History of Ideas* (1975): 351-366.

**Class 9 (Thursday, October. 1st): Keynesianism**

Keynes, John Maynard. "The general theory of employment, interest and money", chapters 17 and 18

**Class 10 (Monday, Oct. 5th): The advent of Neoliberalism**

Hayek, Friedrich August. *The road to serfdom: Text and documents: The definitive edition*. Routledge, 2014.

**Classes 11-20: Explaining the Modern World**

**Class 11 (Thursday, Oct. 8th): Neo-Schumpeterian economics**

Hanusch, Horst, and Andreas Pyka. "Principles of neo-Schumpeterian economics." *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 31, no. 2 (2006): 275-289.

**Class 12 (Monday, Oct. 12th): Inequality**

Piketty, Thomas. "About capital in the twenty-first century." *American Economic Review* 105, no. 5 (2015): 48-53.

**Class 13 (Thursday, October 15th): MIDTERM EXAM**

**Class 14 (Monday, Oct. 19th): Neo-Marxian critique**

Jessop, Bob. "Post-Fordism and the state." In *Comparative welfare systems*, pp. 165-183. Palgrave Macmillan, London, 1996.

**Class 15 (Thursday, Oct. 22th): Neo-Gramscian approaches**

Harvey, David. "NeoLiberalism as creative destruction". The Annals of the American Academy (610, March 2007).

**Class 16 (Monday, Oct. 26th): Neo-Keynesianism**

Permadi, Dedy. "The decline of neo-liberalism and the rise of neo-keynesianism: a conceptual analysis." *Ciência & Trópico* 35, no. 1 (2011).

**Class 17 (Monday, November, 2nd): Political economy of environmental governance**

Gunningham, Neil. "Environment law, regulation and governance: Shifting architectures." *Journal of Environmental Law* 21, no. 2 (2009): 179-212.

**Class 18 (Thursday, Nov. 5th): The political economy of gender**

Chatterjee, Ipsita. "Feminism, the false consciousness of neoliberal capitalism? Informalization, fundamentalism, and women in an Indian city." *Gender, Place & Culture* 19, no. 6 (2012): 790-809.

**Class 19 (Monday, Nov. 9th): Technology, capitalism and politics**

Zuboff, Shoshana. "Big other: surveillance capitalism and the prospects of an information civilization." *Journal of Information Technology* 30, no. 1 (2015): 75-89.

**Classes 20-24: The political economy of development and underdevelopment**

**Class 20 (Thursday, Nov. 12th): Neoclassical institutionalism and development**

Weingast, Barry R. "Why are Developing Countries so Resistant to the Rule of Law?." (2009).

**Class 21 (Monday, Nov. 16th): Neo-dependency theory**

Tausch, Arno. "Globalisation and development: the relevance of classical "dependency" theory for the world today." *International Social Science Journal* 61, no. 202 (2010): 467-488.

**Class 22 (Thursday, Nov. 19th): Rentierism and the resource curse**

Ross, Michael, Kai Kaiser, and Nimah Mazaheri. "The "resource curse" in MENA? political transitions, resource wealth, economic shocks, and conflict risk. The World Bank, 2011.

**Class 23 (Monday, Nov. 23rd): Developmental States**

Lim, Hyun-Chin, and Jin-Ho Jang. "Between neoliberalism and democracy: the transformation of the developmental state in South Korea." (2006).

**Class 24 (Monday, Nov. 30th): (Neo)Patrimonialism**

Mkandawire, Thandika. "Neopatrimonialism and the political economy of economic performance in Africa: Critical reflections." *World Politics* 67, no. 3 (2015): 563-612.

**Class 25 (Thursday, December, 3rd): Revolution**

Goldstone, Jack A. "Understanding the revolutions of 2011: weakness and resilience in Middle Eastern autocracies." *Foreign Affairs* (2011): 8-16.

**Class 26 (Monday, Dec. 7th): Political economy of civil conflict**

Collier, Paul, and Anke Hoeffler. "Greed and grievance in civil war." *Oxford economic papers* 56, no. 4 (2004): 563-595.

**Class 27 (Thursday, Dec. 10th): Wrap up and concluding remarks**