POL 445H
Politics of Growth in Developing Countries

Time: Wednesdays, noon-2pm
Format: Online synchronous via Zoom

INSTRUCTOR:
Kanta Murali
Email: kanta.murali@utoronto.ca
Office hours: Tuesdays, 11am-noon or by appointment (via Zoom)

Course overview
This course focuses on the political economy of growth and its correlates in the developing world. It is motivated by the question of why some developing countries have done better in terms of growth and related inputs than others. While qualifying what success and failure may mean, the main analytical focus of the course will be on the political determinants of such variation. The course also analyzes some of the costs associated with current model of economic growth and alternative models of development that have been put forward.

The course is divided into four sections. The first section includes a brief overview of key concepts and debates related to the political economy of growth. The second section compares growth experiences of select regions and countries. The third section is devoted to themes that cut across regional experiences. The specific themes that will be examined this semester include colonial legacies, democracy and authoritarianism, ethnic diversity, globalization, and foreign aid. The final section looks at the costs of growth and alternate development paradigms.

Format and delivery
This is an online synchronous course. We will be using Zoom. The link will be sent to you via email. You are strongly encouraged to turn on your camera for the sessions if you are able to and connectivity permits.

Attendance, participation, and course expectations
This is a seminar course; sessions will be devoted to class discussion, including group work, and student presentations. I will not lecture but will typically offer remarks to introduce topics and facilitate discussion. The expectation is that the sessions will be student-driven. You are expected to attend each session and complete assigned readings prior to each class, even when you are not making a presentation or submitting a review essay. To help facilitate active discussion, each student must identify and post at least two discussion questions or issues raised in the week’s readings on Quercus by noon every Wednesday before class. Class participation and attendance is evaluated as part of the overall grade for the course and it is in your best interest to participate actively in each session.

Readings
The reading requirement for this course is heavy. You are expected to complete all the required readings prior to each session. All readings are available electronically either as links through the library’s website or as PDFs. You can locate the electronic links and PDF files under Modules on the course page in Quercus.
Course evaluation, requirements and due dates

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

1) Weekly class participation and attendance: 15%
   • You are expected to attend and participate in every session. You will be evaluated both on the degree of class participation as well as the quality of participation.
   • To help facilitate active discussion, each student must identify and post at least two discussion questions or issues raised in the week’s readings on the discussion board on Quercus by noon every Wednesday before class. You are required to post your comments/questions even in those weeks when you are handing in a review essay or giving a class presentation.
   • You are strongly encouraged to turn on your camera for the sessions if you are able to and connectivity permits.

2) Class presentation: 5%
   • After the first class, I will assign each of you randomly to one reading on the syllabus in weeks 2 to 11. You will have to give a short presentation (5 minutes) on that particular reading.

3) Critical Review Essays (2 essays): 50% (2 x 25% each)
   • All students are required to write 2 critical review essays (6-7 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font).
   • You may choose the weeks in which you would like to turn in your essays with the caveat that one essay must on readings from weeks 2 to 5 and one must be from weeks 6 to 9.
   • The essay must be uploaded to Quercus before start of class in the week in which it is due. Essays must cover the set of readings that will be discussed in that session. I will not accept an essay on readings from an earlier week.

   • 1 page, double-spaced, 12 point font. See guidelines below.

5) Final research paper (25%): Due by noon on April 7th, 2021.
   • The final research paper must be 12-15 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font. See guidelines below.

Guidelines for written assignments and presentations

Critical review essays: The review essays should engage with the themes, questions and debates in the set of readings for that week. You may choose to focus on all the assigned readings for the week or analyze a selection of the readings. Should you choose to analyze a selection, your essay must examine at least four readings from that week. You must analyze the readings and not merely summarize them. Summaries of readings should be brief and the main portion of your essay should be devoted to critical analysis. The types of questions that you might choose to cover in your review essay can include (but is not restricted to) a selection of the following:

   • Summary:
     o What is the question/topic that is being addressed?
• What is the author’s main argument? What are the specific mechanisms that link the explanatory variables to the outcome of interest?
• What evidence does the author use to support her argument?

Analysis:
• Overall, what do you see as the main strengths and weaknesses of the reading?
• How well does the empirical evidence support the author’s claims?
• Are there omitted factors/variables that might be able to explain the outcome of interest?
• Does the author address alternate explanations where relevant?
• Are there broader questions/issues/implications that are not addressed?
• In several weeks, readings offer differing viewpoints on particular themes. In such cases, you may choose to evaluate which argument(s) you find most convincing;
• It is useful to think about and highlight any links or debates with other readings/issues/themes that have been covered in earlier weeks.

**Final research paper:** You are required to write a final research paper (12-15 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font) on a topic covered in the course. I strongly encourage you to log on to office hours to discuss your research paper question with me prior to the due date for the proposal. It is very likely to be useful for you to read ahead in the syllabus, should you be interested in a theme covered in the latter half of the course.

Below are some approaches that you may take when selecting a research topic:

• You can extend a question covered in one of the readings to a different country/ set of countries.
• You can evaluate a set of debates/ substantive issues covered in the course topics using evidence from one or more cases.
• You can identify a new question not addressed by the existing literature, develop an explanation and bring in empirical evidence to support your argument.
• You can write a policy paper on an issue related to one of the topics covered in the course.

These are only a few possible approaches to help you get started and you are free to consider alternative types of questions. I strongly recommend that all students discuss their choice of paper topics with me before writing the research proposal.

**Research question for final paper:** To help you get started on your final paper, you are required to identify your research question for the final paper. This should be no more than 1 page and should do the following:

• Identify the specific research question that you would like to examine in your final research paper.
• Identify the case(s) that you will be analyzing in the final research paper.

**Article presentation:** Presentations should be no more than 5 minutes. You should offer a brief summary of the central argument or explanation of the reading, and what you thought were its strengths and/or weaknesses.

**Course policies and procedures**

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Virtual office hours: Office hours will be held on Tuesdays, 11am-noon or by appointment through Zoom.

Emails: I will attempt to respond to all emails within 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays). Questions on course material cannot be adequately addressed via email. I will discuss course material or address substantial questions on course lectures and readings during class, during virtual office hours or by appointment.

Quercus, student email, and course information: This course will use Quercus to disseminate all course-related information and assignments. Please ensure you have a valid U of T email. It is your responsibility to log on to Quercus regularly and obtain relevant information. To login, please go to: q.utoronto.ca

Submitting written assignments: All written assignments and responses have to be submitted through Quercus.

Technological difficulties: I hope to create an equitable and inclusive class environment. I do recognize that technological limitations and other factors might occasionally inhibit your ability to access materials, participate in the online synchronous session or submit assignments. If you face such difficulties, especially on a regular basis, please get in touch with me as soon as possible and we can work together to try to find an alternate solution.

Rough drafts and electronic copies of papers: Students are strongly advised to keep rough/draft work and electronic copies of their essays and final assessment before handing it in. These should be kept until marked assignments have been returned to you and the grades posted on ROSI.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Please familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Failure to understand what constitutes plagiarism and academic integrity at U of T will not be accepted as an excuse.

Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

   Papers:

   • Using someone else’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
   • Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
   • Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
   • Making up sources or facts.
   • Including references to sources that you did not use.
   • Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including
     • working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work,
     • having someone rewrite or add material to your work while “editing”.
• Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

Misrepresentation:

• Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor’s notes.
• Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. For further information on appropriate research and citation methods and plagiarism, please see http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources. If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work in this course, please speak to me and seek the advice of your college registrar.

Academic Integrity Checklist: To remind you of the above expectations, and help you avoid accidental offences, I will ask you to include a signed Academic Integrity Checklist with your essays as well as your final assessment. You will be able to access the Academic Integrity Checklist on Quercus.

Turnitin (FINAL RESEARCH PAPERS ONLY): Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. The use of Turnitin is voluntary. Should you choose not to turn in your papers to Turnitin, please speak to me about alternate procedures. Typically these will involve turning in all notes and rough drafts in addition to the final paper.

Late penalty: Assignments handed in any time after the specified deadline will be treated as late. There will be a penalty of 4% per each late day or fraction of a day for late papers and exams (including weekends and holidays). The cut off time for the determination of each late day is 5pm.

Illness and other extenuating circumstances: Students who are absent from class for any reason (e.g., COVID, other illness or injury, family situation) and who require consideration for missed academic work should report their absence through the online absence declaration (for more, please see: https://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/covid-19/). The declaration is available on ACORN under the Profile and Settings menu. Students should also advise their instructor of their absence.

Extensions: I recognize that we are in the midst of unprecedented circumstances and I aim to be as accommodating as possible in case of extenuating circumstances. Extensions will be granted in extenuating circumstances that could not be anticipated ahead of time and with appropriate supporting documentation. Please see procedures above in illness and extenuating circumstances regarding the online absence declaration.

Student support: In light of the pandemic, we are in the midst of unprecedented circumstances. The circumstances have placed unprecedented stress on many. There are a range of health services for your physical and mental health and wellness offered by U of T to help support you in achieving your
personal and academic goals. For further resources, please see: https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/task/support-when-you-feel-distressed/

**Appealing grades:** If you would like to appeal your grades, please submit a written grade appeal to me within a week of receiving the graded assignment or exam. To submit a grade appeal, please email me a detailed written statement explaining why you believe your grade should be changed. Please note decisions on appeals are at my discretion. Once an appeal is submitted, I will examine the entire assignment (and not specific questions/parts). **Please note that your grade may go down, go up or remain unchanged after this process.**

**Accessibility:** The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have accessibility concerns, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible at http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/.

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**Online code of conduct**

In this course, you will be participating in class discussions and assignments through a variety of online tools. Although we will not be meeting in a physical classroom, you are expected to adhere to the same standards of behaviour and engagement that you would follow in person and on campus.

- **Respectful conduct**
  - All participants in online discussions should maintain an environment that is free of harassment towards members of the class and the instructor. This includes demeaning written or oral comments based on race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, age, marital status, family status, disability, receipt of public assistance or record of offences of that individual or those individuals. All participants must abide by the University of Toronto Code of Student Conduct. Please refer to the Code for additional information.
  - All participants should respect the views of others and respond in a courteous manner in our discussions about the materials and issues explored in the course.
  - All participants should make contributions to online discussions. Contributions should be thoughtful and in keeping with the tone and direction of our discussions.
  - All participants should respect the privacy of other members of the class by not sharing or spreading private information.
  - All participants should respect the integrity of the University of Toronto’s computer systems, such as Quercus.

- **Participation**
  - I expect active participation from everyone in our online discussions. This includes asking questions, responding to discussion prompts, offering reflections and comments, respectfully engaging other participants in discussions, and introducing ideas and information to our discussions.
  - These are stressful times but I hope the course will introduce you to material on an important region of the world and be a pleasant experience for you. **Be kind and enjoy the discussions!**
Week 1 (Jan 13th): Introduction

- Introductory remarks
- No required readings this week

Week 2 (January 20th): Themes and debates

**Required Reading**


**Further reading**


**Week 3 (Jan 27th): The East Asian “miracle” and China’s transformation**


**Further reading**


Week 4 (February 3rd): Growth in Latin America and Africa

Required Reading


Further reading

• Collier, Paul. 2007. "The bottom billion: why the poorest countries are failing and what can be done about it." Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press

Week 5 (Feb 10th): Economic Transformation in South Asia and the Middle East

Required Reading
• Kohli, Atul. 2004. State-directed development: political power and industrialization in the global periphery. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. {Ch. 7, pgs. 257-288}

Further Reading

• The Economist. “Intolerant India” (1 page) and “Marching to a Nastier Tune”( 3 pages). January 25th, 2020.
• Naseemullah, Adnan. 2016. Development after Statism: Industrial Firms and the Political Economy of South Asia. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press { Chapters 7 and 8, pgs. 177-229}

Week 6 (Feb 24th): Colonial legacies

Required Reading

• Kohli, Atul. 2004. State-directed development: political power and industrialization in the global periphery. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. {Ch. 8, pgs. 291-328}

Further reading

• Lange, Matthew. 2009. *Lineages of Despotism and Development*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. {Chapters 1, 2, 4 (Mauritius); pgs. 1-45 }


**Week 7 (Mar 3rd): Democracy and authoritarianism**

**Required Reading**


**Further reading**


**Week 8 (Mar 10th): Ethnicity and Economic Performance**
Required Readings


Further reading


Week 9 (Mar 17th): Foreign Aid; Globalization

Required Reading

- Easterly, William. 2006. The white man’s burden: why the West's efforts to aid the rest have done so much ill and so little good. New York: Penguin Press. {Chapter 1, pgs. 3-30}
- Moyo, Dambisa. 2010. Dead aid: why aid is not working and how there is a better way for Africa. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux {pgs. 48-68}

Further Reading


**Week 10 (Mar 24th): Inequality and the costs of growth**


**Week 11 (Mar 31st): Degrowth and Green New Deal**

**Required Reading**


**Week 12 (Apr 7th):**

• Final Research Papers Due.
• Concluding comments; No assigned readings