

SYLLABUS FOR  
ECON 333: ECONOMY, SOCIETY AND PUBLIC POLICY

Spring 2023

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Course Objectives:

The major objective of this course is to improve students' knowledge and analytical skills through readings in economic development and engagement in public policy problems. This course also aims to develop students' writing, presentation, and critical thinking skills through classroom debates and presentations.

Grading:

Pre-class work	%25	Week 2-10
Participation & Attendance	%15	
Final Exam	%40	Week 14
Term Project	%20	Week 15

Tentative Course Outline:

**Part A: A Brief History of Economic Development**

Selected Chapter(s) from Diamond, Jared M. *Guns, germs and steel: a short history of everybody for the last 13,000 years*. Random House, 1998.

Ch.2 *Comparative Economic Development* from

Todaro, Michael P. and Smith, Stephen C. *Economic Development* Pearson.

Ch. 10, 11, 16 17, 18 from

Harari, Yuval Noah. *Sapiens: A brief history of humankind*. Random House, 2014.

Allen, Robert C. *Global economic history: a very short introduction*. Vol. 282. Oxford University Press, 2011.

Kuran, Timur. "Why the Middle East is economically underdeveloped: historical mechanisms of institutional stagnation." *Journal of economic perspectives* 18.3 (2004): 71-90.

Ch.1 *So close and yet so different* from

Acemoglu, Daron, and James A. Robinson. *Why nations fail: The origins of power, prosperity, and poverty*. Crown Books, 2012.

## **Part B: Institutions, Inequality and Poverty**

Pg. 386- 427 from *Institutions as a Fundamental Cause of Long-run Growth* by Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson

Selected chapters from Acemoglu, Daron. "Political Economy Lecture Notes"

Ch.5 *Poverty, Inequality and Development* from

Todaro, Michael P. and Smith, Stephen C. *Economic Development* Pearson.

Ch.6 *Population Growth and Economic Development: Causes, Consequences and Controversies* from Todaro, Michael P. and Smith, Stephen C. *Economic Development* Pearson.

*Introduction* chapter of

Piketty, Thomas. *Capital in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Harvard University Press, 2014.

## **Part C: Capitalism, Trade, and the World Economy**

Sachs, Jeffrey D. "Twentieth-century political economy: A brief history of global capitalism." *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 15.4 (1999): 90-101.

Ch. 1 *Capitalism and Democracy, Economy Society and Public Policy* Online Textbook by Core Econ.

Steger, Manfred B., and Ravi K. Roy. *Neoliberalism: A very short introduction*. Vol. 222. Oxford University Press, 2010.

## **Part D: Social Interactions and Economic Outcomes**

Ch 2. Social Interactions and Economic Outcomes  
*Economy Society and Public Policy* Online Textbook by Core Econ.

Part 3 Cooperation, Collective Action, and Public Goods from  
Shepsle, Kenneth A. *Analyzing politics: rationality, behavior and institutions*. New York: WW Norton & Co, 1996.

## **Part E: Public Policy and Current Economic Issues**

Ch 3. Public Policy for Fairness and Efficiency from  
*Economy, Society and Public Policy* Online Textbook by Core Econ.

Ch 12. Governments and Markets in a Democratic Society from  
*Economy, Society and Public Policy* Online Textbook by Core Econ.