

COURSE OUTLINE

Revision: Jihad Othman, March 2008

DEPARTMENT:	Academic Programs
CURRICULUM:	Social Science
COURSE TITLE:	Political Economy
COURSE NUMBER:	POLS 205Z
TYPE OF COURSE:	Academic Transfer
Special Requirement Met:	None
COURSE LENGTH:	1 quarter
CREDIT HOURS:	5
LECTURE HOURS:	55
LAB HOURS:	0
CLASS SIZE:	35
PREREQUISITES:	None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course will explain basic economic terms and concepts, before surveying various nations and regions politically and economically. The course then turns to discuss how these nations and regions economically compete with and/or assist one another. This course will investigate the following: human and non-human resources, the international monetary system, government business activity, development, and international law. Certainly the course will consider popular topics like NAFTA, the United Nations, and differences in world income.

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STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ADDRESSED:

1. Communication - Read and listen actively to learn and communicate. Speak and write effectively for personal, academic and career purposes.
2. Human Relations - Use social interactive skills to work in groups effectively. Recognize the diversity of cultural influences and values.
3. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving - Think critically in evaluating information, solving problems and making decisions.
4. Technology - Select and use appropriate technological tools for personal, academic and career tasks.
5. Personal Responsibility - Be motivated and able to continue learning and adapt to change. Value one's own skills, abilities, ideas and art. Take pride in one's work. Be aware of civic and environmental issues.
6. Information Literacy - Access and evaluate information from a variety of sources and contexts, including technology. Use information to achieve personal, academic, and career goals, as well as to participate in a democratic society.

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The study of politics and economics is usually divided into two separate disciplines, two separate departments even. In the real world, the politics and economics are inter-related and often mutually serving. A society's economics are so important that its politics tend to serve that society's economic interests. I hope that through this course you enhance your understanding of this relationship, why it is increasingly important, and where it can go awry. Such a course achieves its tangential goals if students leave with a greater appreciation for structures like capitalism on the one hand, and concerns like a fairer distribution of the wealth on the other.

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

- I. Government and Economic Policy
 - a) Trade Policy
 - b) Interest and Credit
 - c) Exchange Policy
 - d) Wages Policy
 - e) Inflation Policy
 - f) Taxation
 - g) Price Control and Licensing
 - h) Import, Substitution and Industrialization

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TOPICAL OUTLINE (cont.):

II. Economic Instruments of Policy

- a) Objectives of International Economic Policies
- b) Techniques of Economic Reward and Punishment
- c) Economic Rewards and Punishment in Operation
- d) Economic Penetration and Establishment of Dependencies
- e) Economic Warfare
- f) Foreign Aid as an Instrument of Policy

III. International Monetary Relations and Their Regulation

- a) Monetary Relations Since World War II
- b) Current Monetary Issues
- c) Exchange Rate Instability
- d) Balance of Payment Problems
- e) International Trade Agreements

IV. The Economic Base of Power and Foreign Policy

- a) The More Industrialized World
- b) The Less-Developed World
- c) Importance in World Affairs of Investment
- d) Some Patterns and Problems of Trade
- e) A Changing World Economic Order

V. Third World Development: A Mixed Pattern

- a) Capital Needs and Development
- b) The Third World Debt Crisis
- c) Political Ramifications
- d) Third World Responses to Economic Disadvantage
- e) Rising Expectation in the Third World
- f) Third World Demands
- g) Third World Action

VI. "Dependence" in Less-Developed Countries

- a) Development and Democracy
- b) Historical Context of Dependence
- c) Views of Dependence Theorists
- d) An Outline of Dependence Theory
- e) Political Conflict and Repression
- f) The International Arms Trade

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TOPICAL OUTLINE (cont.):

VII. Some Possible Alternatives to "Dependence"

- a) A "Basic Needs" Strategy
- b) A "New International Economic Order"
- c) Self-Reliance as an Alternative to Development
- d) Economic Interdependence in the Post-War World

VIII. Confronting "Limits to Growth" in the World System

- a) The Impact of Change
- b) Population Growth and Food
- c) Scarcity and Unmet Demands
- d) Depletion of Natural Resources
- e) Foreign Economic Assistance

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SLO #	Included in Course Objective Number	SSCC Student Learning Outcomes
SLO 1.1	1, 2	Communication - Read and listen actively
SLO 1.2	1, 3	Communication - Speak and write effectively
SLO 2.1		Computation - Use mathematical operations
SLO 2.2		Computation - Apply quantitative skills
SLO 2.3	4	Computation - Identify, interpret, and utilize higher level mathematical and cognitive skills
SLO 3.1		Human Relations - Use social interactive skills to work in groups effectively
SLO 3.2	1	Human Relations - Recognize the diversity of cultural influences and values
SLO 4.1		Critical Thinking and Problem Solving -
SLO 5.1		Technology - Select and use appropriate technological tools
SLO 6.1	1, 3	Personal Responsibility - Be motivated and able to continue learning and adapt to change
SLO 6.2		Personal Responsibility - Value one's own skills, abilities, ideas and art
SLO 6.3	4	Personal Responsibility - Take pride in one's work
SLO 6.4		Personal Responsibility - Manage personal health and safety
SLO 6.5		Personal Responsibility - Be aware of civic and environmental issues
SLO 7.1	1	Information Literacy - Access and evaluate information
SLO 7.2		Information Literacy - Use information to achieve personal, academic, and career goals, as well as to participate in a democratic society

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