# Economy of the Global South

## Prof. Sara Balestri

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with a general understanding of the international economic development and integration processes of developing countries. The aim of the course is for students to acquire knowledge and a capacity for discernment regarding policy objectives and tools on a national and global level in relation to sustainable development and real integration. This requires assessing the effectiveness, efficiency and fairness of the various options available in implementing economic policy, both in theoretical and concrete situations. The course aims to enhance students’ awareness of increasing interdependence in the world and in particular to examine the relationships between economic policies, integration processes and economic development in the *Global South.*

*Knowledge and understanding*

The course is designed to provide students with accurate knowledge of synthesized facts concerning development and international integration processes; of the complex interconnections between economic growth, development policies and sustainability; of the concepts of economic and social inequality and of poverty.

The course aims to provide a discussion of the main national topics of economic policies for developing countries (growth, development of the agricultural sector and food security, urbanization, and dependence on mining resources) and the different options of international economic policy, in particular in the field of foreign trade in *commodities*, products and services; of international movements of people; of international investments and international acquisition of resources. The course also introduces the role of global *governance* systems with specific reference to the trade of natural resources. Students will become aware of the role of *global and regional value chains* in modifying the analysis of their impact on national and global economic policies.

Students will finally be able to understand descriptive analyses of data and graphic representations of theoretical models of economic politics.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will be able to examine and interpret the specific social, economic and institutional forms that characterize the *Global* *South* economies, with specific attention to the relationship between development, growth and sustainability.

Students will be able to examine the political and social implication of alternative political and institutional choices. They will be able to identify conditions for different policies to be effective, efficient and promote equality, also with reference to real situations.

Students will be able to interpret reports and studies produced by international development institutions and research centres; They will be able to use databases and develop descriptive analyses of relevant data.

*Independence of judgement*

Students will be able to present and support their conclusions on theoretical development perspectives, the interconnections between national and international economic policies, the effects of real economic integration and global *governance* systems.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will address the following topics:

– Introduction to theoretical growth models.

– Analysis of development indicators and the link between poverty, inequality nd growth also in the light of the processes of international integration between economies.

– Internal structural policies in the field of food security and development of the agricultural sector, dependence on mining resources, sustainability, and urbanization.

– Trade as a driver of economic growth and poverty reduction: trade flows, interdependence, *Global* *Value Chains (building or joining)* and development.

– Commercial policies, trade liberalization and development.

– International economic integration: direct foreign investment, migrations

– The specific nature of trade and investment in natural resources (mining and land resources), national and international *governance* system.

***READING LIST***

The detailed list of reading and the reading list required for preparing the exam will be explained to the students at the beginning of the course.

Detailed information on the topics covered in class, required chapters and reading lists, as well as texts and materials to be discussed in class will be made available by the lecturer on Blackboard. The information on Blackboard will include the complete reading list required for preparing the exam. The Blackboard platform will also be used to communicate timetable changes and information on the exam, any changes to the syllabus etc. All students – including non-attending and supplementary-year students - should register on the course Blackboard page and log on regularly.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is mainly taught through lectures. Students are invited to actively participate in class discussions of case studies that provide real examples of the topics addressed in the course. Students may take part in a group project that requires submitting short papers and a final presentation to the class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

To encourage active learning, attending students will be invited to prepare and submit short papers in groups during the course. These assignments, together with the final class presentation, will contribute to the final mark according to the instructions below.

The students are assessed through a final written test that is divided into three parts:

– a first part in which the students must answer multiple choice questions (20% of the final mark);

– a second part in which the students must provide definitions and examples relating to the key concepts of the course (40% of the final mark)

– a third part in which the students can choose among different open-ended questions. Depending on the question, the answer requires students to draw or explain graphs, to discuss how certain concepts apply to specific situations, to analyse socio-economic implications of economic policies (40% of the final mark).

Please note: *attending* students who took part in the group work according to the instructions that will be communicated at the beginning of the course will obtain an individual score that is added to that of the written exam.

Students will be marked on their understanding and knowledge of module content, as well as the quality of their answers (structure, accuracy and comprehensiveness). Students are invited to view the corrections and comments on their final exam during the lecturer's office hours.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In terms of content and method, the course requires basic knowledge of the analytical tools of political economics and a certain familiarity with using its analytical tools. Students are strongly encouraged to verify the suitability of their basic knowledge and to bridge any gaps by using the tools provided on the Political Economy basic course taken during their undergraduate degree, or the Political Economy online course available on Blackboard for all post-graduate students.

Regular attendance to the lectures as well as gradually reading the suggested reading list materials, and active participation in class are recommended.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching and assessment will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.