THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

CCGL9025: The Political Economy of Growth and Poverty in the World
Second Semester 2021-22

Instructor: Professor Yue-Chim Richard Wong
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Facebook search Yue Chim Richard Wong
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Office hours: Wednesday: 14:30 – 16:30

Tutor: Mr. Colin Xiaokang Sheng
csxk@hku.hk
K.K. Leung 1026, 2857-8308
Office hours: Tuesday 16:30 – 18:30

COURSE LOGISTICS:

Class Schedule: Wednesday, 12:30 – 14:20 pm
Lecture Room: KB223

Dr. Vera Yuen will conduct the term paper class on how to prepare the proposal and fulfil the
requirements of the term paper on 23 Feb 2022. Attendance is expected.

Mr. Sheng will conduct interactive small-class tutorials to begin in the third week. Schedules to be
arranged after semester starts. Attendance is required.

We use a course management system named MOODLE. Please login to your HKU Portal account to
access MOODLE. For further details, please refer to the “MOODLE Instruction Guide” that is posted on
our MOODLE website.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course studies how poor nations have alleviated poverty through economic growth and why
poverty and inequality continues to persist in rich nations. We examine the changing human economic
condition throughout history, from historic times to the modern world.
Simple economic concepts on growth, technology, trade and investments are learned and used to explain why the spread of markets and globalization have fostered growth and reduced poverty in many poor nations. It has reduced global inequality, but raised inequality within and among nations.

We examine why some poor nations have failed to grow and remain mired in poverty and why poverty has not been eliminated in rich nations. We explore the role of foreign aid, legal and political institutions, poverty traps, and immigration is facilitating and preventing growth.

We examine the consequence of new technology on industrialization and globalization over the past two centuries. And how globalization itself is changing and what this means for society, politics and people.

**AIMS:**

The course helps students to:

1. Gain an understanding of why some nations succeed to grow and others remain poor
2. Learn why prosperity within and across nations is not equally shared
3. Understand the interplay of individual, state and the market in affecting growth and poverty
4. Attain a critical appreciation of why different individuals and groups support or oppose globalization
5. Appreciate how the nature of globalization has changed over the centuries and will continue to evolve.

Students are introduced to examples of how political processes in one nation can impact development outcomes in another nation. They study how political processes interacting with economic processes at local, national, and global levels can lead to great variations in development outcomes.

**PRE-REQUISITES:**

There are none.

**ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Method</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Alignment with CILOs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written paper</td>
<td>Expository essay</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>Lecture and tutorial participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>Five short quizzes to test understanding of lectures and reading materials, each contributing 10% of the final grade.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are two assessment requirements for this course: (1) five quizzes (50%) covering topics taught in the course, and (2) a written paper of 1500 words as coursework (45%), and (3) class and tutorial participation (5%). The course grade 100% is determined as the sum of three assessment requirements.
Quizzes:

Five quizzes will be conducted in the second half of the class. Latecomers will not be given extra time. Each question requires students to provide an answer of a few hundred words on course material. Absentees will receive zeros. Absentees with written proof such as a medical certificate will be allowed to attend make-up quizzes scheduled on Saturday mornings.

Quizzes are scheduled as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quiz</th>
<th>Dates for quizzes</th>
<th>Dates for make-up quizzes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>16 Feb 2022</td>
<td>19 Feb 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>23 Mar 2022</td>
<td>26 Mar 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6 Apr 2022</td>
<td>9 Apr 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>20 Apr 2022</td>
<td>23 Apr 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>27 Apr 2022</td>
<td>30 Apr 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Written Paper

The written paper should examine in depth a specific topic studied in the course. It should be a thoughtful examination of a topic discussed in this course based on the materials assigned in the reading list. There is NO need to consult additional reading materials. Students should NOT submit a piece of work that is also being submitted to another course. Here are some good approaches:

1. Write a review of one of the books assigned in this course.
2. Compare and contrast the analysis between two books on a common subject.
3. Write on a topic that is discussed in several books or papers.
4. Consult with the demonstrator for advice in deciding on a topic.

The final written paper is due on 8 May 2022. Late submissions will NOT be accepted. A precise word count must be given at the end of the paper. Footnotes and references should be placed at the end of the paper so that they can be excluded from the word count. Appendices are not necessary and not appropriate for papers of such a short length and should not be submitted. It is advisable to seek English language assistance if needed to ensure that your paper is clear.

Nine weeks before the deadline for the final paper, students must submit a half-page proposal of the paper they intend to write. The deadline for submitting the proposal is 6 March 2022 before the start of Reading Week on. Late submissions will not be allowed. Students should include in the proposal the title of the project and a short summary of the subject they will investigate.

Students are also encouraged to submit optionally a first draft of the final paper for the instructor to provide feedback, but this is optional, not mandatory. If students choose to submit a first draft, they must do
so at least 3 weeks before the deadline for the final paper on 17 April 2022. Your grade on the paper will depend only on your final paper, and not your draft.

If you submit a written paper, but DID NOT submit a proposal or the proposal was NOT APPROVED, then you will FAIL this part of the assessment.

Therefore, deadlines to be observed:

Proposal (mandatory) submission — 6 March 2022
First draft (optional) submission — 17 April 2022
Final paper submission — 8 May 2022

The proposal and paper(s) must be submitted electronically via MOODLE.

COURSE SYLLABUS:

Reading List

Required readings are marked with an asterisk; others are optional.

I. The Great Escape

*YCR Wong, Lecture Note 01 The Great Escape


   • *Course Book Summary, The Great Escape

II. Wealth, Income, Capital and Economic Growth

*YCR Wong, Lecture Note 02 Wealth, Income, and Capital—Concepts and Tools

III. Economic Growth—Measurement, Pattern, and Theory

*YCR Wong, Lecture Note 03 Economic Growth—Measurement, Pattern, and Theory


   • Deidre McCloskey, “What Caused the Economic Boom of Wealth?” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0nsKBx77EQ

IV. From the Great Divergence to the Great Convergence
*YCR Wong, Lecture Note 04 From the Great Divergence to the Great Convergence


V. Changes in Poverty and Inequality in the World

*YCR Wong, Lecture Note 05 Changes in Poverty and Inequality in the World


- *Course Book Summary, The Haves and Have-Nots


VI. Human Capital Theory of the Personal Distribution of Income

*YCR Wong, Lecture Note 06 Human Capital Theory of the Personal Distribution of Income


VII. The American Experience with Poverty and Inequality

*YCR Wong, Lecture Note 07 The American Experience with Poverty and Inequality


*James Heckman, The Economics of Inequality: The Value of Early Childhood Education.  


*Kevin Murphy, “Human Capital Investments, Inequality, and Growth,” Becker Friedman Institute, University of Chicago, UnCommon Core Alumni Weekend, 4-7 June 2015.  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KevV_A6N-6o


**VIII. The Hong Kong Experience with Poverty and Inequality**

*YCR Wong, Lecture Note 08 The Hong Kong Experience with Poverty and Inequality

*YCR Wong, *Fixing Inequality in Hong Kong*. University of Hong Kong Press, 2017


**IX. Understanding Housing Wealth Inequality**

*YCR Wong, Lecture Note 09 Understanding Housing Wealth Inequality

https://www.economist.com/blogs/freeexchange/2014/06/thomas-piketty-capital


http://voxeu.org/article/housing-capital-and-piketty-s-analysis

https://www.economist.com/blogs/freeexchange/2015/03/wealth-inequality


*Gianni La Cava, “Piketty’s rising share of capital income and the US housing market.” VOX, 8 October 2016.  
http://voxeu.org/article/piketty-s-housing-capital-results-new-us-facts


*Matthew Yglesias, “This 26-year-old grad student didn't really debunk Piketty, but what he did do is just as important.” VOX, 1 April 2015.  https://www.vox.com/2015/4/1/8320937/this-26-year-old-grad-student-didnt-really-debunk-piketty-but-what-he


*YC Richard Wong, Hong Kong Land for Hong Kong People: Fixing the Failures of Our Housing Policy, Hong Kong University Press, Hong Kong, January 2015, 219 pages

X Poverty and Development in Poor Countries I-II

*YCR Wong, Lecture Note 10: Poverty and Development in Poor Countries I-II


- *Course Book Summary, The Other Path
- [http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xdwv0d_walk-the-talk-with-hernando-de-soto_news?ralg=meta2-only#from=embed-playref-7](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xdwv0d_walk-the-talk-with-hernando-de-soto_news?ralg=meta2-only#from=embed-playref-7)

XI  Poverty and Development in Poor Countries III-V

*YCR Wong, Lecture Note 11: Poverty and Development in Poor Countries III-V


- *Course Book Summary, Poor Economics
- [http://pooreconomics.com/](http://pooreconomics.com/) and [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUYzqAFrY8Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUYzqAFrY8Y) or [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNdU_jyVdAc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNdU_jyVdAc)


- *Course Book Summary, The Bottom Billion
- [http://www.ted.com/talks/paul_collier_shares_4_ways_to_help_the_bottom_billion.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/paul_collier_shares_4_ways_to_help_the_bottom_billion.html)


XII. Hyper Globalization and Technology

*YCR Wong, Lecture Note 12 Hyper Globalization and Technology

[Jonathan Haskel and Stian Westlake, Capitalism without Capital, Princeton University Press, 2017.] [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UA4Uh0A5oQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UA4Uh0A5oQ)

VI. Future Society and Politics

*YCR Wong, Lecture Note 13 Future Society and Politics

- *Course book summary, The New Digital Age*
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OugIleOqlw0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OugIleOqlw0)


- *Course book summary, The End of Power*
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSk4J43307I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSk4J43307I)


### Study Load:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Number of hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading / Self-study</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of Case/Data Analysis for Tutorials</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment: Written paper</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment: Online quizzes</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>155</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) and Alignment with Common Core Programme Learning Outcomes (CC PLOs):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLOs – On completing the course, students will be able to:</th>
<th>Alignment with CC PLOs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
1. Understand and critically interpret key economic concepts and ideas through applying them to quantitative data on growth and poverty across the world and over time. 1, 2

2. Understand and critically interpret and reflect upon interacting economic and political dimensions of growth and poverty. 1, 2

3. Understand and critically interpret and reflect upon the outcomes for growth and poverty comparing socialist versus capitalist economies and open versus closed economies through the study of cases and examples in history. 1, 2, 3

4. Understand and critically interpret and reflect upon the relationship between issues of growth and poverty and its broader relationship with human development. 1, 2, 3, 4

**Assessment Tasks:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Method</th>
<th>Details of Assignment</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Alignment with CLOs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Written paper</td>
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<td>5%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>Five quizzes</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Standards of Assessment:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Criteria and Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Level Grade Descriptors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A+, A, A-</td>
<td>Show superior grasp of all aspects of the course and demonstrate strong evidence of original thinking and evidence of extensive knowledge base in the subject area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+, B, B-</td>
<td>Show reasonable grasp of the key aspects of the course and demonstrate good evidence of original thinking and evidence of reasonable knowledge base in the subject area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+, C, C-</td>
<td>Show acceptable coverage of most aspects of the course, and demonstrate some evidence of original thinking and evidence of acceptable knowledge base in the subject area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+, D</td>
<td>Show marginal coverage of some aspects of the course, and demonstrate marginal evidence of original thinking and evidence of marginal knowledge base in the subject area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure to identify and address any main theme and issue. No critical engagement with any issue, little mentioning and application of relevant concepts and theories, and with inaccuracies when doing so. Demonstrates a lack of understanding of existing arguments relevant to the topic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACADEMIC CONDUCT:

1. The University Regulations on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced! Please check the University Statement on plagiarism on the web: http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/

2. Academic dishonesty is behavior in which a deliberately fraudulent misrepresentation is employed in an attempt to gain undeserved intellectual credit, either for oneself or for another. It includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following type of case:

   a. Plagiarism - The representation of someone else's ideas as if they are one's own. Where the arguments, data, designs, etc., of someone else are being used in a paper, report, oral presentation, or similar academic project, this fact must be made explicitly clear by citing the appropriate references. The references must fully indicate the extent to which any parts of the project are not one's own work. Paraphrasing of someone else's ideas is still using someone else's ideas, and must be acknowledged.

   b. Unauthorized Collaboration on Out-of-Class Projects - The representation of work as solely one's own when in fact it is the result of a joint effort. Where a candidate for a degree or other award uses the work of another person or persons without due acknowledgement:

      • The relevant Board of Examiners may impose a penalty in relation to the seriousness of the offence;

      • The relevant Board of Examiners may report the candidate to the Senate, where there is prima facie evidence of an intention to deceive and where sanctions beyond those in (1) might be invoked.

   c. Double Submission of Assignments - The submission of assignments as fulfillment of work in this course using materials that were or are being submitted for another course is also plagiarism. It is self-plagiarism and is the same as plagiarism, i.e., representation of someone else's ideas as our own. It is an attempt to get credit for work that will earn credit elsewhere.

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