

---

# Legal Studies 216

## Emerging Economies

---

---

Professor Nichols

nicholsp@wharton.  
upenn.edu

he/him/his

---

MW 8:30 to 10:00 AM

This is a class about polities that are called “emerging economies.” I say “polities” because not every political unit in the world is a country (Hong Kong, for example, is a member of the World Trade Organization in its own name, and Puerto Rico fields its own Olympic team). *This is not a course on economics.* It also is not a course on any particular part of the world. Instead, we will try to develop a general understanding of these places and of the changes that have occurred and continue to occur. By understanding these changes, we can help make things better for people, plants, and animals. At the end of this course you should have a deeper understanding of topics reported in the news every day, you should understand how certain types of business relationships are affected by the changes occurring in emerging economies, and you should be able to think more fully about those changes in the context of global challenges and issues.

### Please Be Aware

At this time, the University of Pennsylvania says that classes will proceed as normal, but cautions that changes in circumstances or in government or university policy could require changes to how courses are conducted. This course critically examines many polities, and in class and group exercises you will be asked to critically discuss several polities. Critical thinking sometimes involves criticism, and some polities have laws or rules that prohibit criticism. If you are spending the semester in such a country, please consider your own safety and security. In this course we will study changes such as democratization and liberalization. We will *never* suggest that changes should be forced on polities, it is always a polity’s own choice whether or not to undertake changes. However the laws and rules of some polities prohibit or discourage the study of these changes. Again, if you are spending the semester in such a polity, please consider your own safety and security.

### Expectations

Come to class. Other than the first two sessions, classes will not be recorded (which means you can speak freely in class). If there is a reason you need to miss a class, talk with me beforehand.

**Before Each Class:** (1) Do the assigned reading and watch the assigned video(s). All of the assigned readings are available in the Files section of the Canvas site for this class. The readings are made up of excerpts combined into one reading, so that there is only one reading for each class. The videos are short. All videos can be accessed through the Canvas site; if there is more than one video the videos will be labelled “A” and “B” (if, for example, there were two videos for class 6, the videos would be labelled 6A and 6B). (2) If a quiz is available, take the relevant quiz on the readings/video. You can access the quizzes through the Canvas site for this class. **Your quiz will be scored, but it is not**

**graded and does not contribute to your grade in this class.** The quizzes are entirely for your benefit, to help you determine if you have a basic understanding of the material and if there are any areas you should ask about in class. Because quizzes do not contribute to your grade, it would be a complete waste of your time and their time to ask someone for their answers to a quiz.

*In Class:* Other than the days used for debates and the project reports, class is a time to discuss the concepts and cases laid out in the readings and the videos. Sometimes we may have breakout groups, but most time will be spent as a class. *Please turn off all electronics before class begins.* Highly interactive classes are new for some people; if you have any questions about class, feel free to ask me about it.

*During the First Three (Maybe Four) Weeks:* Schedule a one-on-one office hours with me. These one-on-one office hours will be conducted through zoom. I will distribute sign up sheets.

*At Least Once a Week – Your Journal:* You are asked to keep a journal in this class during this semester. Please make an entry in your journal at least once each week. Entries do not need to be very long but they must indicate some degree of care and thought. In each entry, please discuss your thoughts about the material we have covered as it relates to your understanding of emerging economies. You do not need to share personal stories in your journal, and you should not use your journal to ask for help. If you need help just ask; I have been at Penn a long time and can help you find a good place to go, and if you are not comfortable talking with me I can help you find someone better. All entries will be held in strict confidence (except that I am required by law to alert an authority if someone threatens to harm a person). Your journal will not be graded on content but will be graded on whether or not you made the entries and whether the entries indicate some degree of effort.

*Examinations:* There will be a short examination after each of the first three sections of class. Examinations are open book/open notes.

*Polity Report:* You will be randomly assigned to a group, and your group will randomly be assigned a polity. Your group will give a report to the class on that polity. I may ask your group to pay special attention to one aspect of that polity. In general, we will talk much more about this in class, but in your report should provide the class with sufficient information about the history and current status of the polity with respect to the aspects of emerging economies focused on in this course. Your group's presentation will be based on content, not on the polish of the presentation.

*Final Paper:* Your group will collaborate on a final paper in this class, due the last week of class. The paper will be based on the polity on which your group presented to class, but I will assign particular topics to be covered in your paper. Each person in your group will have primary responsibility for one section of the paper. We will discuss this much more in class, but in general the paper will be graded based on how it demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter of this course.

### **Office Hours**

Office hours will be held on Tuesdays from 2:00 to 4:00. You do not need to have a question to come to office hours; office hours are a great time to swap ideas and to hear other people's perspectives. Office hours are a lot of fun. If you have questions but cannot attend office hours during regularly scheduled times we can try to find another time.

### Study Groups

Form study groups. They are a great way to practice thinking and talking about the concepts in this class, and a great way to meet people. Turn to the people you see in class, use the chat functions on the Canvas site to find potential study group partners, or ask me to help.

### Academic Integrity

Don't cheat. Some of the work is group work, other than that please do all of the required work yourself. If you quote someone or use someone else's idea, cite them. Again, we are in new environment, so if you have any questions at all about whether something would be cheating, please ask. I will not judge, and it is much better to ask than to risk cheating.

### Grading

class engagement	15% (individual)
examinations	30% (individual)
polity presentation	25% (group)
polity paper	30% (individual/group)

### Classes, Material, and Assignments

subject to change; current syllabus is posted in Canvas

<i>class</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>reading/video</i>	<i>topic</i>
1	Sep 1	reading 1 no video	Introduction and overview: the world is an interesting place. Why don't most definitions of emerging economies work?
	Sep 6	no class	it is a holiday (Labor Day) in the United States
2	Sep 8	reading 2 video 2	A review of histories critical to understanding emerging economies. And the world is still an interesting place.
<b>BASIC CONCEPTS</b>			
3	Sep 13	reading 3 video 3	Institutions: what are these things? From a variety of disciplines.
4	Sep 15	reading 4 video 4	Institutions: orientation. And a discussion of money.
5	Sep 20	reading 5 video 5	Appropriateness: mental acceptance of the existence and use of institutions.
6	Sep 22	reading 6 video 6	Trust: the concept of generalized trust. Which differs from personal or particular trust.
7	Sep 27	reading 7 video 7	Trust: changes in levels of generalized trust.
8	Sep 29	no reading no video	examination
<b>THE PROCESS OF CHANGE</b>			
9	Oct 4	reading 9	Change: what is to be done and what tools can we use?

		video 9	
10	Oct 6	reading 10 video 10	Privatization: the most used of tools. The three most common techniques of privatization.
11	Oct 11	reading 11 video 11	Privatization: What are some of the effects? What constitutes "successful" privatization?
12	Oct 13	reading 12 video 12	Rule of Law: perhaps the most mentioned tool. Understanding the rule of law and placing it in the context of changes in emerging economies.
13	Oct 18	reading 13 video 13	Rule of Law: constitution building and constitutionalism. Hyper appropriate rule of law.
14	Oct 20	reading 14 video 14	Democratization: what is democracy and why is it still a tool.
15	Oct 25	reading 15 video 15	Liberalization: space and what is done in it. To many people, this is the essence of an emerging economy.
16	Oct 27	no reading no video	examination
<b>PARTICULAR RELATIONSHIPS</b>			
17	Nov 1	reading 17 video 17	Trade: the moving parts.
18	Nov 3	reading 18 video 18	Trade: barter and countertrade. Relational staples.
19	Nov 8	reading 19 video 19	Trade: payment mechanisms, particularly letters of credit.
20	Nov 10	reading 20 video 20	Investment: the moving parts.
21	Nov 15	reading 21 video 21	Investment: the relationship between investors and managers. Through the lens of self-governing rules.
22	Nov 17	reading 22 video 22	Investment: a certain type of swap. And what it reveals about rules in emerging economies.
23	Nov 22	no reading no video	examination
	<b>Nov 25</b>	<b>no class</b>	<b>friday schedule (go to the classes you go to on friday)</b>
<b>EMERGING ECONOMIES AND THE WORLD</b>			
24	Nov 29	no reading no video	Is it an emerging economy?
25	Dec 1	reading 25 video 25	Corruption: what corruption is, why it is so damaging and detrimental, and why it is an issue in emerging economies.
26	Dec 6	reading 26 video 26	Social Justice: do the changes in emerging economies create special issues?
27	Dec 8	reading 27 video 27	"Post-liberalism": is this all too late? Is the world changing in a way that makes the changes we have discussed irrelevant? No.