LGST 2160 EMERGING ECONOMIES, SPRING 2024
SYLLABUS

Instructor: Assistant Professor Julian Jonker
Legal Studies and Business Ethics
JMHH 669
jonker@wharton.upenn.edu

Class: MW 8.30am-10am, Huntsman F60
Office hours: W 10am-11am or by appointment, JMHH669

This course is an introduction to the nature and dynamics of economic development. We will discuss the state of global income and inequality, general theories of development, and the role of legal and social institutions. A particular focus will be the relation between political transition and economic development. We will consider various countries and regions as case studies, but use the South African transition as a central example. This is not a course in international law! Rather we will study the institutional foundations of economic development.

ASSESSMENT

I’d like you to pick a focus area i.e. a country or city or polity or region. As you read the theoretical material on the syllabus, think about how it applies to your focus area. You will also be put into randomized groups. An efficient method is to pick a focus area as a group, and make this the topic of your individual and group assignment. But you may do as you please.

There are four forms of assessment.
(1) Class participation. This includes attendance, but also your ability to respond to questions and articulate insights about the material in class.
(2) Class journal. You should write a paragraph or three each week, discussing a news article or encyclopedia entry or report or something else that you have read about your focus area and whether the material we are reading for class that week illuminates or contradicts it or raises new questions.
(3) Group report. Your group should write a 5,000-10,000 word report that discusses the focus area of one of the group member. You may drill down into some subject of particular interest, or zoom out and consider a region’s global position. You may, for example, frame this as a report for an international agency about the development challenges facing a particular country; or as a scenario analysis for a business that is considering its investment options; or anything else really, so long as you show that you have thought about the focus area and tried to apply some of what we have read and discussed in class.
(4) Group presentation. Your group should give a 20-30 minute presentation on the topics of your report, and be prepared to take questions from the rest of class.

The assessment is designed to be demanding but have a lot of latitude so that you may connect the material in this course with your other interests and projects. I will provide previous examples of assignments during class.
CLASS PARTICIPATION
The participation grade is based partly on attendance, but mostly on discussion, which I will sometimes initiate by cold calling. Some students are anxious about the cold calling, but I do not aim to embarrass anyone. Rather, cold calling ensures that everyone gets a chance to speak.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS
Religious holidays will be accommodated upon request. It is the student’s responsibility to reschedule due dates, notify me of absences, and make sure that they are up to date with course materials.

SCREENS AND DEVICES
No screens or devices may be used in class without special permission.

MATERIALS
Prepare each reading before the class for which it is scheduled. It may be helpful to return to the reading after class to consolidate your understanding. Readings will be posted on the Canvas course site by Library Course Reserves. Lecture slides and videos will be posted on Canvas after the lecture.

CONSULTATION
I will hold office hours in person every Wednesday, 10am-11am. You may attend these to discuss whatever you like. You should also feel free to make an appointment outside this time by sending me an email with three times at which you are available. I’m happy to meet in person or on zoom.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND AI
Unless permission is obtained, when you submit work it should be your work (if it is an individual assignment) or your group’s work (if it is a group assignment). Anything else is fraud. For your written assignments, please add a brief declaration before your references explaining
whether and exactly how you have used an AI model (such as ChatGPT in your research) in researching and producing your assignment.

You are permitted to use such AI models in an unrestricted fashion for this class, with no penalty. However, you should take note that all large language models still have a tendency to make up incorrect facts and fake citations, and that their outputs are often less impressive than portrayed by news and social media. You are responsible for any inaccuracies, bias, and offensiveness in anything you submit, regardless of its source. And any use of an AI program must be acknowledged in the declaration you add before your references. Where you use text verbatim from an AI model, cite it. Lack of proper acknowledgment will be treated like plagiarism under Penn’s Code of Academic Integrity. If in doubt, consult with me before submitting work.
NB: The reading list is very likely to change during the course of the semester. Make sure that you are receiving Canvas notifications in order to keep up with changes.

* indicates that a reading is recommended for background.

I. Nature and History

Class 1 (Monday 22 January) Introduction: The State of the World

No reading

Class 2 (Wednesday 24 January) The History of the World


Class 3 (Monday 29 January) Natural History 1

Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, chapters 10 and 12

Class 4 (Wednesday 31 January) Natural History 2

Peter Zeihan, *Disunited Nations* (2020), Chapters 1, 4, and 6

II. Colonialism

Class 5 (Monday 5 February) Geography and Institutions


Class 6 (Wednesday 7 February) Citizen and Subject

Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject* (New Ed., 2018), Chapters 1 and *3

Class 7 (Monday 12 February)  
**Underdevelopment**


Moeletsi Mbeki, *Architects of Poverty* (2009), Chapter 1


Class 8 (Wednesday 14 February)  
**Structural Adjustment**


III. Capitalism

Class 9 (Monday 19 February)  
**Capital**

Hernando de Soto, *The Mystery of Capital* (2000), Chapters 2, 3, and *6

Thomas Piketty, *Capital and Ideology* (2020), Chapter 12 (“Communist and Postcommunist Societies”)
Class 10 (Wednesday 21 February)  
Entitlements


Class 11 (Monday 26 February)  
Trade

Matthew Klein and Michael Pettis, *Trade Wars are Class Wars* (2020), Chapters 1 and 3


Class 12 (Wednesday 28 February)  
Social Wealth

guest speaker tba

tba


*Spring Break 2-10 March*

Class 13 (Monday 11 March)  
Resources

Leif Wenar, *Blood Oil* (2016), Introduction and Chapters 7 and 9


IV. Technology and Environment

Class 14 (Wednesday 13 March)  Intellectual Property

James Bessen and Michael J. Meurer, *Patent Failure* (2009), Chapters 1 and *6


Class 15 (Monday 18 March)  Intellectual Property cont’d


Class 16 (Wednesday 20 March)  Sustainable Development


Class 17 (Monday 25 March)  ESG Investing


### Class 18 (Wednesday 27 March)

**Climate Change**

guest speaker tba

tba


*Megan Blomfield, *Global Justice, Natural Resources, and Climate Change* (2019), Chapter 2

### Class 19 (Monday 1 April)

**Leapfrogging**

guest speaker tba


### V. Political Transition: South Africa

### Class 20 (Wednesday 3 April)

**South Africa 1: The Property Clause**

Tembeka Ngcukaitobi, *Land Matters* (2021), Chapters 6–8 and 11

*Tembeka Ngcukaitobi, *The Land is Ours* (2018), Chapter 1

*Hermann Giliomee, *The Last Afrikaner Leaders* (2012), Chapter 11
Class 21 (Monday 8 April)  
**South Africa 2: Black Economic Empowerment**


Class 22 (Wednesday 10 April)  
**South Africa 3: Customary Law**


Class 23 (Monday 15 April)  
**South Africa 5: Energy Crisis**


VII. Presentations

Class 24 (Wednesday 17 April)  Presentations 1
Class 25 (Monday 22 April)  Presentations 2
Class 26 (Wednesday 24 April)  Presentations 3
Class 27 (Monday 29 April)  Presentations 4
Class 28 (Wednesday 1 May)  Presentations 5

LAST JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT DUE: WEDNESDAY 1 MAY

GROUP MEMO DUE: TUESDAY 6 MAY

END