CRD 157: Politics & Community Development (# 27674) **Fall 2016**
Meeting Days & Time: Mondays & Wednesdays 12:10 – 2:00PM
Location: Art 204

Instructor: Tometi K. Gbedema, PhD
Email: tkgbedema@ucdavis.edu
Office: 1323 Hart Hall
Office Hours: 10:30-11:30AM Wednesdays by Appointment

TA: Farnaz Feizi
Email: ffeizi@ucdavis.edu

Course description

All over the world, particularly in America, communities have been affected by large-scale developments mostly led by local and national governments, and multinational corporations. The effects of these developments here in the US and abroad (land ownerships, high housing costs, suburbanization, traffic congestion, environmental pollution, displacements of the poor and lower income populations, gentrification, redlining, etc.) have remained huge challenges to localities (communities, cities, urban and rural areas) and their populations. These challenges, intensified by technological advancement nowadays, are undermining the importance of ***humanity*** within the global society.

This course, designed to discuss the factors at the basis of these issues which continue to render vulnerable local communities and societies in the worlds around us, aims at taking a political economy approach to community development while examining local and urban politics that focus on social justice and movements and looking at "power" and institutional structures in the world, particularly in contemporary American cities. This course investigates the effects of technology development on modern societies. It intends to explore the need for political agency by local communities – their ability to consciously and collectively influence their structural surroundings – and how local community politics are related to larger structural processes, and to closely knitted institutional systems of the capitalist economy that lead to the rise of corporation, political dimensions of local and global crises, disasters and unemployment, and to globalization and models of urban politics, etc.

Current political, social and economic issues and their effects on individuals and societies, local needs and activities will be subjects of this course. The relationship between local communities, economic markets and state politics will also be discussed, analyzed and evaluated. Students will be given the opportunities to critically reflect on technology advancement effects on communities, development and politics. They will analyze the effects of politics and economic development on societies and reflect on strategies for addressing problems of development in our environments through in-depth case studies, and a variety of theoretical frameworks and analysis of economic, political and community development approaches. A couple of experts in the fields will be invited as guest-speakers to share their experience with us.

Required Texts

- Jacques Ellul's "*The Technological Society"* (La Technique) by John Wilkinson, Vintage Books (1964)
- All Course Readings will be available on the Course Smartsite (in PDFs). Students are responsible for doings all these readings.
- **VERY IMPORTANT:** Note that we are dealing with a rapidly changing political economic situation. Therefore, some of these readings may change as newer and more accurate information are discovered. But the class will be notified when they happen.
- In-class handouts will be occasionally distributed to students for reading, discussing and analysis.

Course Policies and Requirements
Students are expected to attend and participate in all class sessions and discussion sections. They ***must take part in all class tests and exams to pass the course***. This course requires a fair amount of reading which is essential to a successful learning experience. Students are strongly encouraged to keep current or ahead on reading assignments in order to come to class and section prepared for their discussing.

Course Format, Assignments and Grading
Daily lectures will be provided but there will also be in-class small group discussions and debates. To facilitate in-class small group discussions and debates, students will be required to take or write in-class three (3) brief quizzes or response papers based on selected course readings and/or videos. These quizzes can be given in any week therefore it is the responsibility of students to ensure that they do the daily assigned readings and are present in class to take part in these quizzes. Details will be discussed in class but **there are no specific or due dates for these quizzes.**

Course assignments include the 3 in-class quizzes, one research paper, a midterm and final exam, which will be based on materials covered in lectures and readings. **The exams will be based on materials discussed in class: readings, lectures, movies, guest-speaker presentations and in-class debates and discussions. They will combine definitions, multiple choice and short essay questions. Students will, in addition, be required to write a short research/essay paper**. The paper will give students the opportunity to reflect on one of the economic theoretical frameworks they find most compelling.

Grading will be based on:
- Attendance and participation in class (class discussions facilitated by 3 In-Class Short Exam Quizzes (5pts each = 15pts) and student presence and involvement in class activities (5pts);
- Short Research/Essay Writing Paper (20pts)
- In-Class Midterm Exam (30pts);
- In-Class Final Exam (30pts).

Details about the paper and class quizzes will be talked about in class but can be found in the Course Assignment Guidelines file on the course Smartsite.
EACH STUDENT MUST TAKE PART IN EVERY OR ALL CLASS ASSIGNMENTS, TESTS, QUIZZES AND EXAMS TO PASS THE CLASS.

Policies on Late Papers, Reading Quizzes, Exams and Lectures
IMPORTANT: No late assignments or papers will be accepted because the purpose of these works is to help facilitate students' understanding of what's being done in the class, and to find out if the message being sent in being well received. Therefore, it is important for students to participate in the daily class debates and discussions to help us identify any challenges one may be having with the course materials and how to improve upon what we do in the class.
- Again, late response papers will not be accepted. Any late paper will be deducted 2 points per day of the total or maximum points received on the paper.
- Make up tests for students, who miss a quiz, test or an examination (Midterm or Final Exam, etc.) will **NOT** be allowed. Except in the case the student, after informing the instructor of the reasons, has received permission from the instructor long before the given date of the quiz, test or examination. Yet, know that make-up tests may take any format.
- Lecture notes or course lecture Powerpoint slides will be posted on the Course Smartsite before class. Students are responsible to get copies of these lecture notes for their reading. These notes should not be taking as the replacements for students' responsibility to do the daily assigned readings.

- Remember that **students will be randomly tested on course readings and lectures each week. Therefore, be well prepared before heading to class each day.**

Student Code of Conduct and Plagiarism: Every student should be familiar with the Student Code of Academic Conduct. Go to the following site http://sja.ucdavis.edu/cac.html to get acquainted with these policies and regulations. Know that as an instructor, I am obliged to refer you to Student Judicial Affairs in the cases of violation or suspected violation of these codes. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. This is in an upper division class, therefore, it is the responsibility of each and every student to know and understand the policies and regulations related to such behaviors. Students will be seriously dealt with if caught cheating.

Outline of Lecture Topics, Required Readings and Assignments Due Dates

- **WEEK 0: Introduction**
  - **09/21/2016: Course Overview, Housekeeping and Going Over Course Syllabus**
    - No Readings
    - **Video: Theories of International Political Economy (Mark Harvey) – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2du80gLA_I**
    - **Video: Dependency Theory – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JN6LlMY2ApQ**
    - **Film:** "This Black Soil: A Story of Resistance and Rebirth" (by Teresa Konechne, 58mn, 2004)

- **WEEK 1: Conceptual Framework**
  - **09/26-28/2016: Poverty Debates and Conceptual Building Blocks**
    - Ted Bradshaw (2006), Chart of The Theories of Poverty
    - Friedrich Hayek (1940-1943), The Road to Serfdom in Cartoons * (Watch YouTube Video, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkz9AQhQFNY)
    - Heilbroner & Thurow (1998), Ch. 1: "Capitalism: Where Do We Come From?" and Ch. 2: "The Three Great Economics" in *Economics Explained*

- **WEEK 2: Theoretical Foundations: The Political Economy Debates**
  - **10/03/2016: Sociological Imagination and the Five Theories of Poverty**
    - C. Wright-Mills (1959), "The Promise of Sociological Imagination"
    - Ted Bradshaw (2006), "The Five Theories of Poverty and Anti-Poverty Programs in Rural and Community Development"
    - Patricia Cohen (2010) "Culture of Poverty' Makes a Comeback", The New York Times

  - **10/5/2016: Community, Markets and States**
    - Karl Marx & Frederick Engels (1848), "Bourgeois and Proletarians" from *The Communist Manifesto*", pp. 1-12 only
    - The Communist Manifesto Illustrated, Marx-Engels
    - Fred Block (2004), "Reframing the Political Battle: Market Fundamentalism vs. Moral Economy"
    - The Technological Society by Jacques Ellul, Foreword & Chap. 1

- **WEEK 3: National Politics, Neoliberalism, and the "Shock Doctrine"**
  - **10/10/2016: National Politics and The Rise of Neoliberalism**
    - Karl Polanyi (1957), "Self-regulating Market and Fictitious Commodities"
    - David Harvey (2009) "Freedom Just Another Word"

- Girish Mishra (2008), "Karl Polanyi and Globalization" in ZNET: The Spirit of Resistance lives

➢ **10/12/2016: Crisis, Disaster, and Neoliberalism: An Introduction to "Shock Doctrine"**
- Naomi Klein (2007), "The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism" – Excerpts
- David Harvey (2005), Ch. 3: "The Neoliberal State" and Ch. 6: "Neoliberalism on Trial" in *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*.
- William Domhoff (2005), "Power at the National Level"
- Sam Zuckerman, San Francisco Gate (2008), "Crisis Inspires Rethinking of Reaganomics"

- **WEEK 4: The Rise of Corporation, Corporations and Community**

➢ **10/17/2016: The Corporation & The Rise of Corporation**
- Thad Williamson, David Imbroscio & Gar Alperovitz (2003), Chap. 2 "The Chase for Jobs" in 'Making A Place For Community: Local Democracy in a Global Era'
- David Kocieniewski (2011), "G.E.'s Strategies Let It Avoid Taxes Altogether", *The New York Times*
- Donald L. Barlett & James B. Steele (1998), "Corporate Welfare", *Time Magazine*
- David Korten (2001), "The Rise of Corporate Power in America" in *When Corporate Ruled the World*

➢ **10/19/2016: Corporations and Community**
- Joel Bakan (2004), Chap. 3: "The Externalization Machine" and Chap. 4: "Democracy Limited", in *The Corporation*
- DJ Pangburn (2011), "Supreme Court Favors Corporations in Campaign Finance Reform Ruling, Again" in *Death and Taxes Magazine*
- Adam Liptak (2010), "Justices, 5-4, Reject Corporate Spending Limit", in *The New York Times*
- Deborah Tedford (2010), "Supreme Court Rips Up Campaign Finance Laws", NPR
- The technological Society by Jacques Ellul, Chap. 2
- **Movie: The Corporation (2005)**

- **WEEK 5: Globalization in Historical Perspective: International Debt & the "Shock Doctrine"**

10/24/2016: From Colonization to Globalization
- John Walton (1993), "The Modern World System" & "Multinationalism"
- McMichael (2000), "Instituting the Development Project" and "Timeline Globalization"
- Lappe & Collins (2000), "Why Can't People Feed Themselves?"

➢ **10/26/2016: International Debt & the Global Politics of Debt Crises**
- Wayne Ellwood (2001), "Debt and Structural Adjustment Programs"
- Sakia Sassen (2010), America's Immigration "Problem"
- Mike Davis (2006), "SAPing the Third World" in Planet of Slums
- Gibson & Tsakalotos (1992), "The International Debt Crises: Causes, Consequences & Solutions
- **Movie: Life and Debt (2003)**

- **WEEK 6: Models of Urban Politics & Power and Midterm Examination**

➢ **10/31/201: Who Rules the City? The Models of Urban Politics & Growth**

- **Guest Speaker – Mayor Ruth Asmundson / Mayor Pro-Tempore Robb Davis**
- J. A. Whitt (1982), "The Pluralist, Elitist & Dialectical Models" & Chart
- William Domhoff (2005), "The Shortcomings of Rival Urban Theories"
- Logan & Mollotch (1989), "The Growth Machine" in Places as Commodities
- The technological Society by Jacques Ellul, Chap. 3

➢ **11/02/2016: Midterm Examination, 12:00-2:00 pm**

- **WEEK 7: The (Local) Politics of Growth & Gentrification, and Urban Fiscal Crisis**

➢ **11/07/2016: The Politics of Gentrification and Sprawl**
- Neil Smith (2005), "Gentrification, the Frontier, and the Restructuring of Urban Space"
- Neil Smith (2009), "Revanchist Planet: Regeneration and the Axis of Co-Evilism"
- Nicholas Fyfe (2004), "Zero Tolerance, Maximum Surveillance? Deviance, difference and crime control in the late modern city", Chap. 3, in *The Emancipation City*
- Peer Smets (2009), "Gated Communities: Their Lifestyle Versus Urban Governance"
- **Movie (Excerpts): The End of Suburbia (2006)**

➢ **11/09/2016: Urban Fiscal Crisis**
- Nancy Raquel Mirabal (2009), "Geographies of Displacement"
- People's Plan for San Francisco Mission District (2005) The Mission Anti-Displacement Partnerships
- Paulina Borsook (1999), "How the Internet Ruined San Francisco"
- Carol Illoyd (1999), "I'm the Enemy" at salon.com
- Williamson, Imbroscio & Alperovitz (2003), "The Challenge of Urban Sprawl"
- The Technological Society by Jacques Ellul, Chap. 4
- **Movie (Excerpts): Boom! The Sound of Eviction (2002)**

- **WEEK 8: (Un)Natural Urban Disaster**

➢ **11/14/2016: There is no such thing as natural disaster**
- Andrea Smith (2009), The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Introduction
- Ruth Wilson Gilmore (2009), The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: In the Shadow of the Shadow State
- Dylan Rodriguez (2009), The politics of the non-profit industrial complex"
- The Technological Society by Jacques Ellul, Chap. 5
- **Movie: When the Levees Broke (2007)**

➢ **11/16/2016: Economic Crisis**
- *****Short Research/Essay Paper submission in class before the start of lecture**
- Gregory Squires (2003), "No Progress Without Protest"
- NPR (This American Life), "The Giant Pool of Money (Program # 355 Transcript)"
- Gregory D. Squires (2005), Predatory Lending: Redlining in Reverse"
- Randy Stoecker (1997), The Community Development Corporation Model of Urban Development: A Political Economy Critique and An Alternative", in *Journal of Urban Affairs*
- Michael Powell (2010), "Blacks in Memphis Lose Decades of Economic Gains"
- Michelle Malkin, (2008), "The Subprime Whiners" in the New York Post

- **WEEK 9: The Global Financial Crises: Causes & Consequences**

➢ **11/21/2016: Looking at the Financial Crisis – The Double Movement Revisited**

- David Harvey (2009), "Is this Really the End of Neoliberalism?"
- Matt Taibbi, Rolling Stone (2009), "The Big Takeover"
- William K Tabb (2008), "Four Crises of Contemporary World Capitalist System"
- The Technological Society by Jacques Ellul, Chap. 6

➢ **11/23/2016: Global Financial Crises: Causes & Consequences**
- Paul Mattick (2011) "Capitalism's Dismissal Future" in *The Chronicle*
- Jeffrey D. Sachs (2008) "Common Challenges, Common Wealth", in *Economics for a Crowded Planet: Common Wealth*

- **WEEK 10: Wrapping-Up : The Media, Course Revision and Final Thoughts**

➢ **11/28/2016: Wrapping-up: The Media & Course Revision**
- Martin Wolf (2009), "Seeds of Its Own Destruction"
- Kirkpatrick (2010), "Polanyi & Community Development"
- Brayden King (2009), "When Markets Become Contentious"
- **Movie (Excerpts): How Cuba Survived Peak Oil????**

➢ **11/30/2016: Recap of Lectures, Course Revision and Final Thoughts**

➢ **Final Exam: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 @ 6:00pm in Art 204**