POLI 327
Political Economy of the Global South

Instructor:
Dr. Feng Xu (Fall 2020)

Course description:
This course approaches the study of political economy of the global south through the lens of globalizing forces such as capitalism, empire, and colonialism, as well as other oppressive social structures such as patriarchy and racism. These globalizing forces integrated the areas of the global south (“post-colonial” countries of Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Oceania, and Latin America) into the global economy. The underlying theme in the study of global political economy is that economics and politics are intrinsically linked, each affecting the other. Among the most important questions facing post-colonial nation-states is how to achieve economic independence and development in a global capitalist system. We will examine processes of global change from the perspectives and experiences of people in the global South, as well as the increasing importance and changing nature of south-south relations.

Prerequisites: None

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Introduction to a critical political economy approach and apply this to social, economic and political change in the global south
- Appreciation of “a possible history of the global south”
- Understand the changing landscapes of global trade, production, and development cooperation, particularly the effects of the rise of China on the global political economy
- Develop core undergraduate skills such as effective writing, textual analysis and critical thinking

Topics may include:
Colonialism and decolonization
Racial capitalism
New International Economic Order
A critical examination of global logistics
Global pandemics and public health

Course delivery: In the Fall 2020 term, this course will be delivered synchronously. Lectures will be recorded and posted for later reference.

This online summary is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.