

SYLLABUS

FOUNDATION OF POLITICAL ECONOMY {HIS 103} – Credit units: 3
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
FACULTY OF ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF DELTA, AGBOR, NIGERIA

Lecturer: Dr. F.O. Forae

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Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 9am – 4pm

Monday: 1pm – 4pm, Friday: 8am – 12pm

Meeting days, time and place: **Wednesday**, 10am – 11am; **Thursday**, 12 noon – 2pm, History and International Studies Lecture Hall.

Attendance:

You are expected to attend every class. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to make up for the work that you have missed. You must please notify the lecturer in advance if you are going to be absent from any class.

Methods of Instruction:

Expository and descriptive methods will be used. The syllabus contains an overview of what will be covered in class. For specific information, students are referred to the class web page maintained on the University website. Assignments will be posted on the University of Delta LMS or given in the class and should be submitted through University of Delta LMS. Class attendance and doing all your assignments and tests will assist you to understand the course better.

Overview:

The nexus between politics and economics cannot be overemphasised. This is because almost all economic issues have political stirring and almost all political issues have economic stirring. Since politics and economics are increasingly intertwined in the local and global spaces, development in one affects the other and vice versa. Students will be exposed to issues and concepts in economics requiring political intervention. These include government legislation on consumption, production and distribution. Emphasis will be on how income, wealth and resources are deployed and distributed using the instrumentality of the state or government; how production, consumption and distribution of the material wealth of the state are undertaken through the instrumentality of government policies. Students will learn about the discipline of political economy by studying it from three perspectives namely; classical, neoclassical and Marxian. Theoretical and conceptual issues in the discipline are taught with a view to a better understanding of the connection between politics and economics. These include theory of the formation or emergence of the state, theory of surplus value, the role of the state in allocating resources, concept of class and class conflicts, dialectical relations in production, consumption and distribution among the various classes, among many others.

Objectives

The objectives of the course are to:

- i) Attempt a definition and meaning of political economy
- ii) Identify the different approaches to the study of political economy such as classical, neoclassical and Marxian approaches.
- iii) Explain the relationship between politics and economics.
- iv) Explain the consequences of the various approaches to the study of political economy on the discipline.
- v) Discuss basic conceptual and theoretical issues in political economy.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- i) Explain the meaning of the discipline of political economy.
- ii) Discuss some basic conceptual and theoretical issues in political economy.
- iii) Explain the relationship between politics and economics.
- iv) Identify and explain various approaches to the study of political economy
- v) Explain the various state forms and the role of the state in economic matters.

Course Contents:

The definition and meaning of political economy, evolution and growth of the discipline, basic theoretical and conceptual issues in political economy, the connection between politics and economics, perspectives/approaches to the study of political economy, the emergence of the state and various state forms, application of some basic concepts in political economy to the study of political economy, government or the state intervention in production, consumption, distribution, resource allocation, class interest and class conflict, the dialectics or relations of production; various modes of production.

Lecture Schedule

Week	Content	Lecture Notes/Slides
1	Definition and meaning of political economy	
2	Evolution and growth of political economy	
3	Basic concepts and theories of political economy	
4	The relationship between politics and economics	
5	Perspectives of studying political economy	
6	Theories of state and state forms (typology of states)	
7	Application of some basic concepts and theories in political economy	
8	State/Government legislation on economic matters; production, consumption, distribution, resource allocation e.tc.	
9	Classes and Class conflicts	
10	Test	
11	The modes of production/ economic system	
12	The dialectics or relations of production	

13	Discussion on assignment	
14	Revision	
15	Semester Examination	

Examination Schedule

- Attendance
- Assignments
- Class Tests
- End of Semester Exam

Grading

- Assignments : 15% of grade
- Tests : 10% of grade
- Attendance: 5% of grade
- Semester Exam : 70% of grade

Texts and References

Ezeibe, C (2015) ABC of Political Economy: A Beginner's Guide to Understanding the State and Economy. Enugu: UNN Press

Saros, D.E (2019) Principles of Political Economy (3rd edition) Valparaiso University Press

Fawcett, MG (2024) Political Economy for Beginners, London: Barnes and Nobles Publishers

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University of Delta shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behaviour conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Students' Conduct is described in detail in the Students 'Information Handbook and the University of Delta website.

Academic Honesty

“All students enrolled at the University of Delta shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behaviour conducive to a positive learning environment. It is the policy of the University that no form of plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as the deliberate use of another's work and claiming it as one's own, this means ideas as well as texts or codes whether paraphrased or presented verbatim (word for word). Cheating is defined as obtaining unauthorised assistance on any assignment, test or examination. There should be proper and accurate citation of sources. Offenders of plagiarism or cheating will receive 'O' grade and warning in the first instance. 'F' grade will be received in subsequent instance in the course and possible disciplinary measures for academic dishonesty.