



Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

Unit FO409, Hatfield Plaza · 1122 Burnett St, Hatfield 0028 · Pretoria, Gauteng · South Africa

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COURSE BROCHURE

Understanding Political Economy in South Africa

Education, Training and Development / Adult Learning

Unit Standard 243850 · NQF Level 4 · 10 Credits · 7 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips learners with a foundational understanding of political economy as it applies to South Africa. It explores the interplay between political processes and economic systems, enabling participants to analyse how power, policy, and resources shape socio-economic outcomes. The course is designed to foster critical thinking about South Africa's economic challenges and policy debates.

Category	Education, Training and Development
Subfield	Adult Learning
Unit Standard	243850
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 4 · 10 Credits
Duration	7 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate an understanding of key concepts and theories in political economy as they relate to South Africa.
- Analyse the historical and contemporary political-economic structures that shape South Africa's development trajectory.
- Evaluate the impact of government policies and institutional frameworks on economic growth, inequality, and social welfare.
- Apply a political economy lens to interpret current events and policy debates in South Africa.
- Assess the role of various stakeholders (state, business, labour, civil society) in shaping economic outcomes.
- Critically reflect on the challenges and opportunities for inclusive economic transformation in South Africa.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- This course is ideal for professionals in business, government, non-profit, and community organisations who seek to understand the political and economic forces influencing South Africa.
- It is also suitable for students and graduates looking to contextualise their academic knowledge within the local socio-political landscape.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to Political Economy

- What is political economy?
- Key concepts: power, resources, distribution, and institutions.
- Overview of economic systems: capitalism, socialism, and mixed economies.
- The role of the state, market, and civil society.
- Historical background: colonialism, apartheid, and post-apartheid South Africa.
- Introduction to the South African Constitution and its economic clauses.
- Current economic indicators: GDP, unemployment, inequality.
- Major stakeholders: government, business, labour, and communities.

Day 2: The State and Economic Policy

- The three spheres of government: national, provincial, local.
- The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030.
- Historical economic policies: RDP, GEAR, and ASGISA.
- Fiscal policy: taxation, government spending, and budgeting.
- Monetary policy: the role of the South African Reserve Bank.
- State-owned enterprises: Eskom, Transnet, SAA.
- Public-private partnerships.
- Case study: Impact of load-shedding on the economy.

Day 3: Labour Markets and Employment

- Labour market structure: formal vs informal sector.
- Unemployment: types, causes, and statistics.
- Labour legislation: Labour Relations Act, Basic Conditions of Employment Act.
- Institutions: CCMA, Labour Court, Nedlac.
- Trade unions: COSATU, FEDUSA, NACTU.
- Collective bargaining and strikes.
- Youth unemployment and skills development.
- Employment equity and affirmative action.

Day 4: Inequality and Social Policy

- Measuring inequality: Gini coefficient, Palma ratio.
- Historical roots of inequality: apartheid legacy.
- Poverty alleviation: social grants, child support grant.
- Education: challenges and reforms.
- Healthcare: public vs private, NHI.
- Land reform: redistribution, restitution, tenure reform.
- Housing and basic services.
- Case study: The impact of COVID-19 on inequality.

Day 5: The Role of Business and Investment

- Business sectors: mining, manufacturing, services.
- Small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs).
- Foreign direct investment: trends and policies.
- Competition policy: Competition Act, Competition Commission.
- Corporate governance: King IV report.

- Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE).
- Corporate social responsibility.
- Case study: The impact of state capture on business.

Day 6: Global Political Economy and South Africa

- Globalisation: opportunities and challenges.
- South Africa's trade: exports, imports, trade balance.
- Trade agreements: SACU, SADC, AfCFTA, WTO.
- International financial institutions: IMF, World Bank.
- BRICS and other groupings.
- Foreign policy and economic diplomacy.
- Global value chains and South Africa's participation.
- Case study: The impact of US-China trade war on South Africa.

Day 7: Synthesis and Future Challenges

- Review of key concepts and frameworks.
- Current challenges: low growth, high unemployment, inequality.
- Policy debates: basic income grant, nationalisation, industrial policy.
- The role of civil society and social movements.
- The future of work: automation and the gig economy.
- Climate change and the green economy.
- Course assessment: case study analysis.
- Action planning for applying learning.

ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Delegates are assessed through exercises and a final test. A mark of **50% or above** earns an **AATICD Certificate of Completion**, issued digitally with a unique verification code. This course carries **10 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 4**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 28,200.00	R 28,200.00
1	In-House	R 36,700.00	R 36,700.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 42,300.00	R 42,300.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
10 Aug 2026	18 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Abu Dhabi, UAE
11 Aug 2026	19 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
11 Aug 2026	19 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
12 Aug 2026	20 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
13 Aug 2026	21 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
14 Aug 2026	24 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
17 Aug 2026	25 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
18 Aug 2026	26 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Shenzhen, China

Contact us if no suitable date is listed – on-demand sessions can be arranged for groups.

HOW TO GET A QUOTE OR APPLY

1. **Get an instant quotation online:** visit www.aaticd.co.za, open the page for this course (Unit Standard 243850) and click **Get A Quote / Apply**. Select your training method and number of delegates – your quotation is generated immediately and emailed to you with the course brochure attached.
2. **Apply by email:** send the course title, your preferred training method (Online, In-House or On-Campus Pretoria), the number of delegates and your preferred dates to apply@aaticd.co.za – our team will reply with a formal quotation.
3. **Apply by phone or WhatsApp:** call +27 12 004 8389 or WhatsApp +27 65 077 6310 and we will prepare your quotation and reserve your seats.
4. **Confirm your booking:** accept the quotation and settle the invoice. As soon as payment is confirmed your delegates are enrolled and receive their AATICD LMS login details by email, along with joining instructions for their chosen training method.

Group discounts apply automatically – the more delegates you enrol, the lower the price per delegate. No payment is required to request a quotation.

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