Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development
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COURSE BROCHURE

Political Economy Theory Explained

Education, Training and Development / Adult Learning

Unit Standard 258100 · NQF Level 6 · 20 Credits · 17 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of political economy theory, enabling learners to analyze the interplay between political processes and economic systems. It equips participants with the skills to evaluate how power, institutions, and policies shape economic outcomes in various contexts, including South Africa.

Category	Education, Training and Development
Subfield	Adult Learning
Unit Standard	258100
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 6 · 20 Credits
Duration	17 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS — verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Analyze the core concepts and historical evolution of political economy theory.
- Evaluate the relationship between political institutions and economic performance.
- Apply political economy frameworks to real-world case studies, including South African contexts.
- Critically assess the impact of power dynamics, class, and ideology on economic policy.
- Synthesize key theoretical perspectives to explain contemporary economic issues.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate political economy analyses effectively.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- This course is designed for professionals in management, policy analysis, public administration, and development sectors who seek to deepen their understanding of political economy frameworks.
- It is also suitable for postgraduate students and researchers in economics, political science, or related fields.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to Political Economy

- What is political economy?
- Origins and evolution of the field
- Overview of classical political economy
- Key concepts: power, markets, state
- Introduction to Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and John Maynard Keynes

Day 2: Classical Political Economy – Adam Smith

- The Wealth of Nations
- Theory of Moral Sentiments
- Division of labour
- Invisible hand and self-interest
- Laissez-faire and limited government

Day 3: Classical Political Economy – Karl Marx

- Marx's dialectical materialism
- Surplus value and exploitation
- Class struggle
- Alienation
- The Communist Manifesto

Day 4: Neoclassical Economics and Marginalism

- Marginal revolution
- Utility and demand
- Supply and equilibrium
- Methodological individualism
- Critique of neoclassical assumptions

Day 5: Keynesian Economics and the Welfare State

- The General Theory
- Aggregate demand and employment
- Fiscal and monetary policy
- The welfare state
- Criticisms of Keynesianism

Day 6: Institutional and Evolutionary Political Economy

- Old and new institutional economics
- Path dependence
- Institutional change
- Evolutionary economics
- Veblen and Commons

Day 7: Marxist Political Economy – Advanced Topics

- Falling rate of profit
- Imperialism and Lenin
- Dependency theory
- World-systems theory

- Contemporary Marxism

Day 8: The Austrian School and Neoliberalism

- Mises and Hayek
- Subjectivism and entrepreneurship
- Socialist calculation debate
- Neoliberalism: theory and practice
- Critiques of neoliberalism

Day 9: Development Political Economy

- Modernisation theory
- Dependency and world-systems
- State-led development
- Washington Consensus
- Post-Washington Consensus

Day 10: International Political Economy

- Bretton Woods system
- WTO, IMF, World Bank
- Global trade and finance
- Globalisation and inequality
- Financial crises

Day 11: Gender and Political Economy

- Feminist economics
- Unpaid labour and care work
- Gender wage gap
- Intersectionality
- Policy implications

Day 12: Environmental Political Economy

- Capitalism and ecological crisis
- Ecological economics
- Climate change politics
- Green growth vs degrowth
- Environmental justice

Day 13: Post-Keynesian and Heterodox Economics

- Post-Keynesian theory
- Endogenous money
- Effective demand and uncertainty
- Minsky's financial instability hypothesis
- Other heterodox approaches

Day 14: Political Economy of Labour and Class

- Labour theory of value revisited
- Precarious work and gig economy
- Trade unions and labour movements
- Class analysis today
- Labour in global supply chains

Day 15: Case Studies in Political Economy

- South African political economy
- The political economy of China
- European Union integration
- Case: The 2008 financial crisis
- Case: Austerity policies

Day 16: Contemporary Debates and Future Directions

- Modern monetary theory
- Universal basic income
- Platform capitalism
- Post-capitalism
- The future of work

Day 17: Synthesis and Practical Integration

- Review of major themes
- Capstone project presentations
- Group discussion on applications
- Course evaluation and feedback

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 **20 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 6**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 59,200.00	**R 59,200.00**
1	In-House	R 76,900.00	**R 76,900.00**
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 88,800.00	**R 88,800.00**

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
07 Aug 2026	31 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
07 Aug 2026	31 Aug 2026	On-Campus	Lagos, Nigeria
10 Aug 2026	01 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
10 Aug 2026	01 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
11 Aug 2026	02 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
12 Aug 2026	03 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
13 Aug 2026	04 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
14 Aug 2026	07 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Abu Dhabi, UAE

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 258100) 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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