

THE POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT:

Poverty, Prosperity and Political Change

Gov 2570 – Fall 2017

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:55 in VAC South, 303

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Office Hours (Hubbard 209A):
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30-4:00 PM
or by appointment

Course Synopsis

Why can't poor countries escape the poverty trap? Why do governments seem to be so unstable in the developing world? Does democracy help or hinder economic growth? This course examines the meaning of development from economic and political perspectives. It considers various theories and how they have been applied to the practices of development in newly independent states in Asia, Latin America and Africa. As the course investigates the uneven trajectories of economic growth and political stability in different regions of the world, it will address issues such as foreign aid, multilateral institutions, good governance, and democratic participation.

Students will choose a development project in any region of the world to assess and critique from the various perspectives introduced by the course.

Expectations

This course does not require any prior exposure to the topic of development. It does ask for diligent attention to reading and written assignments, participation in class and readiness to learn. I expect no student to plagiarize and all to adhere strictly to the Academic Honor Code:
<http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/index.shtml>

Required Books

The reading assignments are drawn from the following book and from a variety of other sources, the latter available on e-reserves [ER] or otherwise electronically as indicated in the course outline. The book is available for purchase in the bookstore, and it is on 2-hour reserve in Hawthorne-Longfellow Library.

James Ferguson, *The Anti-politics Machine: "Development," Depoliticization, and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1994.

Course Requirements

1. Class Participation and Discussion Paper	20%
2. Data Exercise	5%
3. Concept Quiz #1	10%
4. Concept Quiz #2	10%
5. End-Term Exam	25%
6. Research Project	30%

1. Participation

a. *Class Involvement*

- i. Keep up with the readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. During the course, you will become an expert on a development project of your choice. I expect you to contribute this expertise to class discussions, particularly how the project may relate to the assigned readings.

b. *Discussion/Response Paper (beginning 9/21)*

- i. Each student will prepare a 500-word (about one page, single spaced) response to the readings for one assigned class period and post it on the course Discussion Board **by 8pm the night before class**. This is NOT intended to be a summary of the readings, but it should raise observations and especially *questions* that come up as you reflect on them. As you begin to research your development project, the response could also highlight an aspect of your project that pertains to the day's reading. You will be asked to make your observation(s) or pose your question(s) in class.

2. Data Exercise 9/7

- a. Using the websites and data indicated in the assignment, you will bring several pieces of statistical information to class. Details will be posted on Blackboard/Assignments.

3. Concept Quizzes 10/5 and 11/9

- a. Definitions
- b. Short Paragraph Answers

4. Research Project (detailed assignments will be posted on Blackboard): (12 pgs)

Select a development project in any region of the world that interests you.

- a. Section I: Outline organization's founding, purpose, and scope – due **9/22**
- b. Section II: Evaluate the project's impact in the country or area – due **11/21**
- c. Section III: Analyze and critique the development project in terms of the theories we have discussed in class – final paper (revision of initial sections plus final section) due **no later than Sunday 12/17 at 9:00 AM**

5. End-Term Exam (12/7)

- a. Short Essays

COURSE OUTLINE

		Assignments	Pgs
INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT? WHAT IS POVERTY?			
Thu 8/31	Session 1	None In-class: Ryszard Kapuscinski, "Inside the Mountain of Ice"	
Tue 9/5	Session 2	Jeffrey Sachs, "The Spread of Economic Prosperity" and "Why Some Countries Fail to Thrive" in <i>The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time</i> (2005), pp. 25-50, 51-73, and 226-236 [ER] Browse the Millennium Promise Organization website. Note its founder.	60
Thu 9/7	Session 3	John T. Passé Smith, "Characteristics of the Income Gap Between Countries, 1960-2010" from <i>Development and Underdevelopment</i> (2014), pp. 11-31 [ER] Note that there is a World Development Report 2017 . What is its theme? Browse the World Development Indicators 2017 , pp. 1-9 ("World View"). Scan the data tables at the end of this section, as well as those following each sub-section, just to get a sense of what is available. COMPLETE THE DATA EXERCISE [See Blackboard/Assignments] using the World Development Indicators Database	19 1 [10]
THEORIES OF DEVELOPMENT			
Tue 9/12	Session 4	<i>Modernization</i> Daniel Lerner, "The Grocer and the Chief: A Parable" and "Modernizing Styles of Life: A Theory" in <i>The Passing of Traditional Society</i> (1958), pp. 19-42 and 43-75 [ER] W. W. Rostow, "The Five Stages of Growth" in <i>The Stages of Economic Growth</i> (1960), pp. 9-17 [ER]	56 8
Thu 9/14	Session 5	<i>Underdevelopment & Dependency</i> Marked excerpts from Johan Galtung, "A Structural Theory of Imperialism" <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> , 8/2 (1971), passages marked btwn pp. 81-89 and 107-109 (not entire) [Blackboard/Syllabus] Andre Gunder Frank, "The Development of Underdevelopment" <i>Monthly Review</i> 41, 2 (1966), pp. 17-31[ER] Frantz Fanon, "Violence in the International Context" in <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i> (1961), pp. 75-83 [ER] Eliana Cardoso and Ann Helwege, "Import Substitution Industrialization," 84-92. [Blackboard/Syllabus]	5 15 9 9
Tue 9/19	Session 6	<i>Developmental State and Neoliberal Development</i> Alice Amsden, "Diffusion and Development: The Late Industrializing Model and Greater East Asia" <i>The American Economic Review</i> 81, 2 (May 1991), pp. 282-286. http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2006870.pdf John Rapley, "State-Led Development in Practice" in <i>Understanding Development, 3rd Edition</i> (2007), pp. 35-52 [ER] Susan George, "How much is \$1 Trillion?" <i>A Fate Worse than Debt</i> (1988), pp. 11-29 [ER] John Rapley, "The Neoclassical Recipe for Development" in <i>Understanding Development, 3rd Edition</i> (2007), pp. 79-85 (not entire) [ER]	5 18 19 5

CRITIQUES OF DEVELOPMENT

Thu 9/21	Session 7	<i>Political Economy</i> Robert Bates, "Introduction," "Policies toward Cash Crops for Export," and "Rural Demobilization" in <i>Markets and States in Tropical Africa</i> (1981), pp. 1-8, 11-29, 108-113 [ER]	36
*Fri 9/22 RESEARCH PROJECT SECTION I DUE BY 5:00 PM – TOPIC AND OUTLINE			
Tue 9/26	Session 8	<i>Agriculture/Nature</i> Robert Paarlberg, "Withdrawing Support for Agricultural Science in Africa" in <i>Starved for Science</i> (2008), pp. 81-100 [ER] James Scott, Ch. 8 "Taming Nature: An Agriculture of Legibility and Simplicity" <i>Seeing Like a State</i> (1998), pp. 262-306 [Available on E-brary: http://site.ebrary.com/lib/bowdoin/docDetail.action?docID=10210235] – scroll down to contents; expand Part 3; click on Ch. 8; print to pdf (enter page range 262-306).	30 44
Thu 9/28	Session 9	<i>Anthropological</i> James Ferguson, <i>The Anti-Politics Machine</i> (1994) - excerpts: - Introduction: skim most; read pp. 17-21 - Ch. 2: read pp. 25-30 and pp. 55-73 - Ch. 3: skim pp. 74-88 - Ch. 4: skim pp. 103-117; look at p. 123; read last two paragraphs in ch. - Ch. 5: read pp. 135-166	≈70
Tue 10/3	Session 10	<i>Anthropological</i> James Ferguson, <i>The Anti-Politics Machine</i> (1994) - excerpts: - Ch. 6: read pp. 169-170, pp. 179-184, and pp. 190-93 - Ch. 7: skip - Ch. 8: read pp. 238-247 - Ch. 9: read pp. 251-256	26
Thu 10/5	Session 11	CONCEPT QUIZ #1	
Tue 10/10	NO CLASS – FALL BREAK		

THE STATE, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Thu 10/12	Session 12	<i>The State: Problem or Solution?</i> World Bank, <i>World Development Report</i> 1997, "Refocusing on the Effectiveness of the State" pp. 29-38 [Blackboard/ Syllabus] John Wolfensohn, "A Proposal for a Comprehensive Development Framework" Address to the World Bank Board (Jan 21 1999) [Blackboard/ Syllabus]	10 30
Tue 10/17	Session 13	<i>Democracy: Danger, Necessity, Impossibility?</i> Amartya Sen, "Democracy as a Universal Value." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 10/3 (July 1999): 3-17. http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/jod/v010/10.3sen.html	14

		Amartya Sen, <i>Development as Freedom</i> (2000), Parts of Chapter 3 “Freedom and the Foundation of Justice” (pp. 54-56; 70-76); and most of Chapter 4 “Poverty as Capability Deprivation” (pp. 87-104) [ER]	28
		Human Development Index http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/hdi/	1
		William Easterly, “Planners & Gangsters” in <i>The White Man’s Burden</i> (2006), pp. 112-57 (focus on pp. 112-135) [ER]	≈30
Thu 10/19	Session 14	IN-CLASS RESEARCH (bring laptop)	
Tue 10/24	Session 15	<i>Development and Violence</i>	
		Cynthia J. Arnson, “The Political Economy of War: Situating the Debate” in <i>Rethinking the Economics of War</i> (2005), pp. 1-12 [ER]	13
		Susan Rice, “Poverty Breeds Insecurity” in <i>Too Poor for Peace</i> (2007), pp. 31-49 [ER]	19
		Amy Chua, excerpt from <i>World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Conflict</i> (2003), pp. 1-4.	4
		SKIM for main point: Jeffrey Herbst, “War and the State in Africa,” <i>International Security</i> , 14/4 (Spring 1990): 117-139 [JSTOR]	24
FOREIGN AID AND DEVELOPMENT			
Thu 10/26	Session 16	Jeffrey Sachs, “Making the Investments Needed to End Poverty” and “A Global Compact to End Poverty” in <i>The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time</i> (2005), pp. 244-265 and 266-287 [Blackboard/Syllabus]	44
		Look at the Sustainable Development Goals , and read through the achievements of #17: Partnership for Global Development	1
		Todd Moss, Gunilla Pettersson, Nicolas van de Walle, “An Aid-Institutions Paradox?” Working Paper 74 , Center for Global Development (Jan 2006), pp. 1-20 (focus on pp. 14-18)	<20
Tue 10/31	Session 17	William Easterly, “The Rich Have Markets, The Poor Have Bureaucrats” in <i>The White Man’s Burden</i> (2006), pp. 165-209 [ER]	45
		David Rieff, “Losing Hearts and Minds: Development and its Discontents” <i>The New Republic</i> Aug 16, 2010 http://www.tnr.com/blog/foreign-policy/77050/losing-hearts-and-minds-development-and-its-discontents	5
ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT			
Thu 11/2	Session 18	<i>Simplicity and Self-Reliance</i>	
		Excerpts from Majid Rahnema, ed. <i>The Post-Development Reader</i> (1997) [ER]	
		- Wolfgang Sachs, “The Need for the Home Perspective” pp. 290-301	12
		- David E. Shi, “The Searchers After the Simple Life” pp. 308-310	3
		Mahatma Gandhi, “The Quest for Simplicity: ‘My Idea of Swaraj’”	2
		<i>Blackboard/ Syllabus</i>	4
		Browse: http://www.workingvillages.org/	
Tue 11/7	Session 19	<i>Radical Critiques</i>	
		Michael Edwards, “The Irrelevance of Development Studies,” <i>Third World Quarterly</i> , 11 (January 1989): 116-35 [JSTOR]	20
		Majid Rahnema, ed. <i>The Post-Development Reader</i> (1997) Read three excerpts:	
		- Marshall Sahlins, “The Original Affluent Society” pp. 3-21 [ER]	17

- Teodor Shanin, "The Idea of Progress" pp. 65-72 [ER]	7
- Ivan Illich, "Development as Planned Poverty" pp. 94-102 [ER]	8
- Vandana Shiva, "Western Science and its Destruction of Local Knowledge" pp. 161-167 [ER]	11
- Leonard Frank, "The Development Game" pp. 263-276 [ER]	14

Thu 11/9 Session 20 **CONCEPT QUIZ #2**

NEW IDEAS ABOUT DEVELOPMENT?

Tue 11/14	Session 21	Jeffrey Sachs, "The Malaria Mystery" <i>The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time</i> (2005), pp. 196-200 [ER]	4
		William Easterly, "Getting Bed Nets to the Poor" <i>The White Man's Burden</i> (2006), pp. 13-14 [ER]	2
		Andrew Natsios, " The Clash of the Counter-bureaucracy and Development " Center for Global Development Essay (July 2010), 1-45.	45

***ALSO* 4:00 PM Guest Lecture – Shannon Room**

Thu 11/16	Session 22	Class Cancelled. Excerpts from Paul Collier, <i>The Bottom Billion</i> (2007) TBA Browse Natural Resource Governance Institute Charles Kenny, "Measuring What Wants to be Hidden" (pp. 40-51; not entire); "Improving Institutions" (pp. 71-85) and "Practical Policymaking for Donors" (87-108) in <i>Results Not Receipts</i> (2017) [<i>Blackboard/Syllabus</i>]	?
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Tue 11/21	Session 23	William Easterly, "The Future of Western Assistance" in <i>The White Man's Burden</i> (2006), pp. 367-384 [<i>Blackboard/Syllabus</i>] ***RESEARCH PROJECT SECTION II DUE BY 5:00 PM – EVALUATION	18
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Thu 11/23 **NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

Tue 11/28	Session 24	SKIM Muhammad Yunus, "The Stool Makers of Jobra Village," "A Pilot Project is Born," and "Grameen Bank II" in <i>Banker to the Poor</i> (2006), pp. 45-58, 61-83 and 235-243 [<i>Blackboard/Syllabus</i>] Abhijit Banerjee and Ester Duflo, "Reluctant Entrepreneurs" in Poor Economics (2011), pp. 205-234 [Ebook; also on <i>Blackboard/Syllabus</i>]	46 30
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Thu 11/30	Session 25	Joseph Hanlon, "Pro-Poor Growth: Turning a \$1 Grant into \$2 Income" and "Cash Transfers are Practical in Poor Countries" in <i>Just Give Money to the Poor</i> (2010), pp. 69-81 and 143-162 [ER]	35
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Tue 12/5	Session 26	Abhijit Banerjee and Ester Duflo, "Low-Hanging Fruit for Better (Global) Health?" in Poor Economics (2011), pp. 41-70 [Ebook; also ER]	30
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Thu 12/7 Session 27 **END-SEMESTER EXAM**

SUNDAY 12/17 FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT DUE BY 9:00 AM