

## **THE POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT:**

*Poverty, Prosperity and Political Change*

Gov 2570 – Fall 2019

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

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Office Hours (Hubbard 209A):  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00-4:30 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? Is democracy a help or a hindrance? 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: <https://www.bowdoin.edu/dean-of-students/judicial-board/academic-honesty-and-plagiarism/index.html>

### **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 Leadership	20%
2. Data Exercise	5%
3. Concept Quiz	15%
4. Group Project Evaluation	10%
5. Individual Research Project	25%
6. Final Exam	25%

### 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 Leadership and Participation (beginning 9/19)*

- i. Each student will prepare two paragraphs (about 300 words) and two questions in response to the readings for a chosen class period and post them on the course Discussion Board **by 8pm the night before class**. This is NOT intended to summarize the readings, but should instead raise observations and especially *questions* that come up as you reflect on them. I will ask you to share your observation(s) or pose your question(s) in class. Posting ideas and speaking up in class CAN BE SCARY. We all need to work to make our community a comfortable space for discovery. Be generous to your classmates and easy on yourself.
- ii. Reply to or comment on at least two of your classmates' posts before class.

### 2. Data Exercise (9/12)

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

### 3. Concept Quiz (10/10)

- a. Definitions
- b. Short Paragraph Answers

### 4. Group Impact Evaluation (10/31)

- a. All students will evaluate different aspects of the same development project and groups will share their findings with the class.

### 5. Individual Research Project: Select a development project in any region of the world that interests you. Submit in sections ( $\approx$ 12 pages total):

- a. Section I: Outline of organization's purpose and scope + project goals [3 pgs] **(9/27)**
- b. Section II: Graphs and memo about one aspect of project's impact [4 pgs] **(11/12)**
- c. Section III: Analysis of the project in terms of the theories we have discussed in class [5 pgs] **(12/6)**

### 6. Final Exam (12/16)

- a. Definitions
- b. Short Paragraph Answers
- c. Short Essays

## COURSE OUTLINE

		Assignments	Pgs
<b>INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT? WHAT IS POVERTY?</b>			
Thu 9/5	Session 1	None; in-class: Ryszard Kapuscinski, "Inside the Mountain of Ice"	
Tue 9/10	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 <a href="#">Millennium Promise</a> website. Where do they work? What is their approach? Can you guess the organization's founder?	60
Thu 9/12	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 <a href="#">World Development Report 2018</a> . What is its theme? Browse the <a href="#">World Development Indicators Tables</a> . Click on World View and at least two of the other sub-sections. Open three pdfs to see what the tables look like. <b>COMPLETE THE DATA EXERCISE</b> [See Blackboard/ Assignments] using the <a href="#">World Development Indicators Database</a>	19 1 [5]
<b>THEORIES OF DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Tue 9/17	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 9/19	Session 5	<i>Underdevelopment &amp; 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 9/24	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. <a href="http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2006870.pdf">http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2006870.pdf</a> 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 9/26	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 9/27		<b>RESEARCH PROJECT SECTION I DUE BY 5:00 PM – OUTLINE</b>	
Tue 10/1	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: <a href="http://site.ebrary.com/lib/bowdoin/docDetail.action?docID=10210235">http://site.ebrary.com/lib/bowdoin/docDetail.action?docID=10210235</a> ] – scroll down to contents; expand Part 3; click on Ch. 8; download the pdf	30 44
Thu 10/3	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 10/8	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 10/10	Session 11	<b>CONCEPT QUIZ</b>	
Tue 10/15		<b>NO CLASS – FALL BREAK</b>	

## THE STATE, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Thu 10/17	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 (21 Jan 1999) [Blackboard/ Syllabus]	10 30
Tue 10/22	Session 13	<i>Democracy: Necessity? Danger?</i> <i>Skim:</i> Amartya Sen, "Democracy as a Universal Value." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 10/3 (July 1999): 3-17. <a href="http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/jod/v010/10.3sen.html">http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/jod/v010/10.3sen.html</a> 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] William Easterly, "Planners & Gangsters" in <i>The White Man's Burden</i> (2006): pp. 112-57 (focus on pages 112-135) [ER]	14 28 ≈30

Thu 10/24	Session 14	<i>Development and Violence</i> John McKay, excerpt from “Security and Development,” in Damien Kingsbury, et al, <i>International Development: Issues and Challenges</i> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition (Palgrave, 2016): 300-303 [Blackboard/ Syllabus]	4
		Susan Rice, “Poverty Breeds Insecurity” in <i>Too Poor for Peace</i> (2007), 31-49 [ER]	19
		Amy Chua, <a href="#">excerpt</a> from <i>World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Conflict</i> (2003), pp. 1-4.	4
		Jared Ferrie, “ <a href="#">Myanmar’s Conflict Resources</a> ” <i>The New Humanitarian</i> 5 Nov ‘15	3
		<b>SKIM for main point:</b> Jeffrey Herbst, “ <a href="#">War and the State in Africa,</a> ” <i>International Security</i> , 14/4 (Spring 1990): 117-139 [JSTOR]	[<24]

## FOREIGN AID AND DEVELOPMENT

Tue 10/29	Session 15	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 <a href="#">Sustainable Development Goals</a> , and read through the achievements of #17: <a href="#">Partnership for Global Development</a>	1
		Todd Moss, Gunilla Pettersson, Nicolas van de Walle, “An Aid-Institutions Paradox?” <a href="#">Working Paper 74</a> , Center for Global Development (Jan 2006), pp. 1-20 (focus on pp. 14-18)	<20
Thu 10/31	Session 16	<b>GROUP IMPACT EVALUATION</b> Excerpts TBA from Millennium Village Impact Report [Blackboard/ Syllabus]	≈20
Tue 11/5	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
Thu 11/7	Session 18	August Longino, “Fantasy, Reality, and Illusion in International Aid” in Jerrold Keilson and Michael Gubser, eds., <i>The Practice of International Development</i> (Routledge 2017): 233-245 [Blackboard/ Syllabus]	12
		Mark Lynd, “Of High Hopes and Input-Driven Development” in Jerrold Keilson and Michael Gubser, eds., <i>The Practice of International Development</i> (Routledge 2017): 19-33 [Blackboard/ Syllabus]	14
Tue 11/12	Session 19	<b>RESEARCH PROJECT SECTION II – IN CLASS ‘POSTERS’ AND MEMO</b>	

## ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND NEW IDEAS ABOUT DEVELOPMENT

Thu 11/14	Session 20	<i>Environment &amp; Simplicity</i> Damien Kingsbury, “Environment and Development” in <i>International Development: Issues and Challenges</i> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition (Palgrave, 2016): pp. 260-290 [Blackboard/ Syllabus]	30
		Excerpts from Majid Rahnema, ed. <i>The Post-Development Reader</i> (1997) [ER]	12
		- Wolfgang Sachs, “The Need for the Home Perspective” pp. 290-301	3
		- David E. Shi, “The Searchers After the Simple Life” pp. 308-310	
Tue 11/19	Session 21	<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 and Victoria Bawtree, eds. <i>The Post-Development Reader</i> (1997) Read <b>three</b> 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 11/21	Session 22	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
		Excerpts from Paul Collier, <i>The Bottom Billion</i> (2007): "Traps" (pp. 5-7), "Aid and the Trap of Bad Governance" (pp. 108-123), "Laws and Charters" (pp. 134-153), "Trade Policy" (pp. 166-167) [ <i>Blackboard/ Syllabus</i> ]	≈38
Tue 11/26	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> ] <b>TBA</b>	18
Thu 11/28	<b>NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</b>		
Tue 12/3	Session 24	<b>SKIM</b> 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> ]	46
		Abhijit Banerjee and Ester Duflo, "Reluctant Entrepreneurs" in <a href="#">Poor Economics</a> (2011), pp. 205-234 [E-book; also on <i>Blackboard/ Syllabus</i> ]	30
Thu 12/5	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
		Abhijit Banerjee and Ester Duflo, "Low-Hanging Fruit for Better (Global) Health?" in <a href="#">Poor Economics</a> (2011), pp. 41-70 [E-book; also ER]	30
<b>*Fri 12/6</b>	<b>***RESEARCH PROJECT SECTION III DUE BY 5:00 PM – THEORETICAL ANALYSIS</b>		
Tue 12/10	Session 26	Wrap-Up	

**MONDAY 12/16**      **FINAL EXAM 8:30-11:30 AM**