

# POL 699: International Development

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## Course Description

In this course, we will delve more deeply into the political economy literature on international development. In this course, we will explore economic, social, and political explanations for growth. We will also engage current debates on both substance and methods in the field. The graduate seminar on international political economy is a prerequisite for this course.

## Evaluation

- Preparation and Contribution 50%
- Comps Style Final Exam 50%

## Course Outline

### Week 1 (August 28): Getting Started

- Sen, A., 1988. The concept of development. Handbook of development economics, 1, pp.9-26. (available online)
- Deaton, Angus. 2005 “Measuring Poverty in a Growing World.” *Review of Economics and Statistics*
- Acemoglu, Daron. 2008. Introduction to modern economic growth. Princeton University Press. Chapter 1. (You can find this online)
- Rodrik, Dani. 2013. “The past, present, and future of economic growth.” Global Citizen Foundation Working Paper 1 (skim the technical bits in sections 6-8)

### Week 2 (September 4): Economics and Overview

- Banerjee, Abhijit, and Esther Duflo. 2011. Poor economics: a radical rethinking of the way to fight global poverty. Public Affairs. Chapter 1.

- Solow, R.M., 1994. Perspectives on growth theory. *Journal of economic perspectives*, 8(1), pp.45-54.
- Easterly, William and Ross Levine. 2001. “It’s Not Factor Accumulation: Stylized Facts and Growth Models” *World Bank Economic Review* 15(2).
- Hausmann, R. and Hidalgo, C.A., 2011. The network structure of economic output. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 16(4), pp.309-342.

### **Week 3 (September 11): Institutions**

- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James Robinson, “Institutions as the Fundamental Cause of Long-Run Growth” NBER Working Paper 10481.
- Mahoney, J., 2001. Path-dependent explanations of regime change: Central America in comparative perspective. *Studies in comparative international development*, 36(1), pp.111-141.
- Dell, Melissa, Nathan Lane, and Pablo Querubin. 2015. “State Capacity, Local Governance, and Economic Development in Vietnam.”
- Akee, Randall, Miriam Jorgensen, and Uwe Sunde. 2015. “Critical junctures and economic development-Evidence from the adoption of constitutions among American Indian Nations.” *Journal of Comparative Economics* 43(4): 844-861.

### **Week 4 (September 18): Endowments and Geography**

- Mellinger, Andrew D., Jeffrey D. Sachs, and John L. Gallup (1999). “Climate, Water Navigability, and Economic Development”
- Engerman, Stanley L, and Kenneth L Sokoloff. 2005. “Institutional and Non-Institutional Explanations of Economic Differences.” In *Handbook of New Institutional Economics*, edited by C Menard and M.M. Shirley, 639-65. Amsterdam: Springer.
- Sections 1 and 3-5 of Nugent, Jeffrey B., and James A. Robinson. 2010. “Are factor endowments fate?.” *Revista de Historia Economica* 28(1): 45.
- Nunn, Nathan, and Diego Puga. 2010. “Ruggedness: The Blessing of Bad Geography in Africa.” *Review of Economics and Statistics* 94 (1): 20-36.
- Alsan, Marcella. 2012. “The Effect of the Tse Tse Fly on African Development,” unpublished working paper.

## **Week 5 (September 25): History and Colonialism**

- Acemoglu, Daron, Johnson Simon, Robinson JA. 2001. “The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation” *American Economics Review* 91:1369-401.
- Bockstette, Valerie, Areendam Chanda and Louis Putterman. 2002. “States and Markets: The Advantage of an Early Start.” *Journal of Economic Growth* 7: 347-69.
- Banerjee, David and Lakshmi Iyer. 2005. “History, Institutions and Economic Performance: The Legacy of Colonial Land Tenure Systems in India.” *American Economic Review* 95(4): 1190-1213.
- Nunn, Nathan. 2009. “The Importance of History for Economic Development.” *Annual Review of Economics* 1(1): 65-92.
- Huillery, Elise. 2009. “History matters: The long-term impact of colonial public investments in French West Africa.” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 1(2): 176-215.

## **Week 6 (October 2): Autocracy and Corruption**

- Olken, Benjamin A., and Rohini Pande. 2012. “Corruption in Developing Countries.” *Annual Review of Economics* 4 (1): 479-509.
- Debs, Alexander. 2010. “Economic theories of dictatorship.” *The Economics of Peace and Security Journal*, 5(1).
- Fisman, R. and Svensson, J. 2007. “Are corruption and taxation really harmful to growth? Firm level evidence. *Journal of development economics*.” 83(1): 63-75.
- Aidt, T.S., 2009. “Corruption, institutions, and economic development.” *Oxford review of economic policy*, 25(2): 271-291.

## **Week 7 (October 9): Democracy and Democratization**

- Boix, Carles. 2011. “Democracy, development, and the international system.” *American Political Science Review* 105(4): 809-28.
- Robinson, James A. 2006. “Economic Development and Democracy,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 503-527.
- Persson, Torsten and Guido Tabellini. 2009. “Democratic Capital: The Nexus of Political and Economic Change.” *American Economic Journal*.
- Friedman, Willa, Michael Kremer, Edward Miguel, Rebecca Thornton. 2011. “Education as Liberation?” No. w16939. National Bureau of Economic Research.

- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, James Robinson and Pierre Yared. 2008. “Income and Democracy.” *American Economic Review* 98(3): 808-42.

## **Week 8 (October 16): Investing in Human Capital**

- Bils, Mark and P. Klenow. 2000. “Does Schooling Cause Growth?” *American Economic Review* 90(5): 1160-1183.
- Duflo, Ester. 2001. “Schooling and Labor Market Consequences of School Construction in Indonesia: Evidence from an Unusual Policy Experiment.” *American Economic Review* 91(4): 795-813.
- Leonard Wantchekon, Natalija Novta, and Marko Klasnja. 2012. “Education and Human Capital Externalities: Evidence from Colonial Benin,” unpublished working paper.
- Weil, David N. 2007. “Accounting for the Effect of Health on Economic Growth” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*
- Lieberman, Evan. 2007. “Ethnic Politics, Risk, and Policy-Making: A Cross-National Statistical Analysis of Government Responses to HIV/AIDS.” *Comparative Political Studies* 40(12): 1407-1432.

## **Week 9 (October 23): Social Divisions**

- Franck, Raphael, and Ilia Rainer. 2012. “Does the Leader’s Ethnicity Matter? Ethnic Favoritism, Education, and Health in Sub-Saharan Africa.” *American Political Science Review* 106(2): 1-32.
- Baldwin, Kate, and John D. Huber. 2010. “Economic versus cultural differences: Forms of ethnic diversity and public goods provision.” *American Political Science Review* 104(4): 644-662.
- Habyarimana, James, Marccartan Humphreys, Daniel Posner, and Jeremy Weinstein. 2007. “Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision? An Experimental Approach.” *American Political Science Review* 101(4): 709-25.
- Benn Eifert, Edward Miguel, and Daniel Posner. 2010. “Political Competition and Ethnic Identification in Africa,” *American Journal of Political Science*, 54:(2)494-510.

## **Week 10 (October 30): Conflict**

- Nielsen, Richard A., et al. 2011. “Foreign aid shocks as a cause of violent armed conflict.” *American Journal of Political Science* 55(2): 219-232.

- Moss, Todd, Gunilla Pettersson, and Nicolas Van de Walle. 2006. “An aid-institutions paradox? A review essay on aid dependency and state building in sub-Saharan Africa.” Center for Global Development working paper 74.
- Besley, Timothy, and Marta Reynal-Querol. 2012. “The Legacy of Historical Conflict: Evidence from Africa.”
- Blattman, Christopher, and Edward Miguel. 2010. “Civil War.” *Journal of Economic Literature* 48(1): 3-57. (Available on Blattman’s website.)
- Nunn, Nathan and Nancy Qian. 2014. “US Food Aid and Civil Conflict? American Economic Review
- Esteban, Joan and Debraj Ray. 2011. “Linking Conflict to Inequality and Polarization?, American Economic Review
- Viterbo, Annamaria. 2018. “The Role of the International Financial Institutions in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries.” *Peace Maintenance in Africa*. Springer 111-134. (If we can find this)

### **Week 11(November 6): Western Foreign Aid**

- Faye, Michael and Paul Niehaus. 2012. “Political Aid Cycles,” *American Economic Review* 102(7): 3516-3530.
- Djankov, Simeon, Jose Montalvo and Marta Reynal-Querol. 2009. ”The Curse of Aid.” *Journal of Economic Growth*.
- Easterly, William and Tobias Pfutze. 2008. “Where Does the Money Go? Best and Worst Practices in Foreign Aid.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* Spring 2008.
- Ahmed, Faisal Z. 2012. “The Perils of Unearned Foreign Income: Aid, Remittances, and Government Survival.” *American Political Science Review* 106(1) 146-165.
- Qian, Nancy. 2014. ?Making Progress on Foreign Aid.? *Annual Review of Economics* 3.

### **Week 12 (November 13): Alternatives to Western Foreign Aid**

- Woods, N. (2008). Whose aid? Whose influence? China, emerging donors and the silent revolution in development assistance. *International affairs*, 84(6), 1205-1221.
- Huang, Y. (2016). Understanding China’s Belt & Road initiative: motivation, framework and assessment. *China Economic Review*, 40, 314-321.
- Palagashvili, L., and Williamson, C. R. (2018). Are Emerging Donors Engaging in Poor Foreign Aid Practices? A Comparison of Traditional Versus Non-Traditional Aid Agencies. A Comparison of Traditional Versus Non-Traditional Aid Agencies. Available online

- Morvaridi, B., and Hughes, C. (2018). South-South Cooperation and Neoliberal Hegemony in a Post-aid World. *Development and Change*, 49(3), 867-892.

### **Week 13 (November 20): Big versus Small**

- Macartan Humphreys and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2009. "Field Experiments and the Political Economy of Development," *Annual Review of Political Science* 2009. 12: 367-78
- Kremer, Michael and Alaka Holla. 2008. "Pricing and Access: Lessons from Randomized Evaluations in Education and Health", in W. Easterly and J. Cohen, editors, *What Works in Development? Thinking Big vs. Thinking Small* Brookings Institution Press. (Available as an e-book on the library's website.)
- Deaton, Angus. 2010. "Instruments of development? Randomization in the tropics, and the hunt for the keys to development." (Available from his website)
- Bruhn, D. McKenzie. 2009. "In Pursuit of Balance: Randomization in Practice in Development Field Experiments." *American Economic Journal*.

### **November 27: Thanksgiving Break**

### **December 6: Comprehensive Exam Handed Out**