

Politics of the International Development
Professor Susan H. Allen
University of Mississippi
Political Science 336
Spring 2018

Contact Information

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Course Description

Why are some countries in the developing world able to prosper while others are trapped in poverty? Why are some states democratic while others adopt authoritarian forms of government? Why do some countries respect individual rights while others fail to do so? Why are civil wars destructively frequent in some states while others enjoy relative peace? In this course, we will explore the politics and economics of the world's developing countries. The questions above will form the bases of our exploration. The answers are not clear cut. In some cases, experts disagree on the answers and solutions to these challenges for the less developed world. The ultimate goal is to take on these questions, critically examine the answers, and begin to formulate policy prescriptions based on our own understanding of the economic and political issues surrounding international development.

Course Objectives

- Understand and apply basic economic paradigms
- Connect development theory to real-world examples
- Identify key impediments to economic growth and development
- Evaluate policy prescriptions aimed to enhance growth and development.

Expectations

- Students are expected to attend and be prepared for all class sessions. To do so, all of the readings must be completed in a timely fashion. This course will largely be

driven by discussion and your insights on the readings. Be prepared to participate and engage the material. Participation is a portion of your final grade.

- Students are strongly encouraged to keep up with current events in international economics and development. Good sources for this information include The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, or The Economist. Current events will often come up in lecture as examples and may be used in exam questions.
- In addition, please show respect to your classmates and to me by turning all cell phones to silent before entering classroom. Texting or instant messaging during class is also unacceptable. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in a request to leave the class for the duration of the session.

Readings

The readings for this course are drawn from several sources. Four short books are required for this course.

- Kristoff, Nicholas and Cheryl WuDunn. *Half the Sky*.
- Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo. *Poor Economics*.
- Novogratz, Jacqueline. *The Blue Sweater*.
- Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. *Why Nations Fail*.

Other materials will be available on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

The requirements for this course include two exams, a research paper, and solid in-class contribution. These elements are weighted as follows:

- Midterm 25%
- Final 30%
- Group Research Project 25%
- Participation 10%
- Service Learning Hours and Response Paper 10%

Exams: The midterm will be given in class on March 1. This exam will cover material from the assigned readings, lectures, and class discussion. The final exam will be a cumulative exam, but greater weight will be placed on material covered in the second half of the course.

Group Research Papers: An 25-30 page paper is due on April 26. Papers will be prepared by groups of five and will explore some aspect of economic development that we will not cover in depth in class. More specific details of the assignment will be handed out in class.

Late assignments: All work for the course must be handed in on time. Late papers will be penalized one full letter grade for each day past the deadline. If papers will be unavoidably late due to illness or other serious impediment to school work, please alert me as soon as possible and an extension may be offered at my discretion. No makeup exams will be offered, unless unusual circumstances such as serious illness, university sanctioned events, or extreme family crisis arise. A letter from the dean's office will go a long way toward convincing me that you truly need a make up exam.

Academic Integrity: Students will be expected to adhere to the university honor code for all assignments. Work handed in by any student should be solely the work of that student – end of story. If you draw on the ideas of others, please cite them. Failure to do some will result in a failing grade in the course.

ADA: Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructors office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office. For necessary accommodations to be made, please let me know prior to the first exam.

Grading for Political Science Majors and Minors: It is the policy of the political science department that no grade lower than a C can be counted towards either a major or minor in political science.

Course Outline

January 23: Course Introduction

January 25: What is Development?

- Sen, A. 1991. *Development as Freedom*, Ch. 1
- Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 1.

January 30: How Did We Get Here?

- Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 2 & 3

February 1: Economic Growth

- Banerjee and Duflo. *Poor Economics*, Chapter 1.
- Excerpt from Sachs, *The End of Poverty*, (Ch. 3)

February 6: Institutions and Growth

- Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 4 & 5.
- Banerjee and Duflo, Ch. 10.

February 8: Impediments to Growth – Conflict

- Collier, Paul. 1999. “On the Economic Consequences of Civil War. *Oxford Economic Papers*. 51, pp. 168-83.
- Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. “Poverty and the organization of political violence.” *Brookings trade forum*. Vol. 2004. No. 1. Brookings Institution Press.

February 13: Impediments to Growth – Natural Resources

- Dunning, Thad. 2005. “Resource Dependence, Economic Performance, and Political Stability.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(4): 451-82.
- Ross, Michael L. 2004. “What Do We Know about Natural Resources and Civil War?” *Journal of Peace Research* 41(3): 337-356.

February 15: Impediments to Growth – History and Colonialism

- Banerjee, Abhijit, and Lakshmi Iyer. “History, Institutions and Economic Performance: the Legacy of Colonial Land Tenure Systems in India.” *American Economic Review* 95(4): 1190-1213.
- Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 8 & 9.

February 20: Democratization

- Everyone should read either Acemoglu & Robinson, Ch. 11 & 12.
- OR The Three Following Readings:
- Carles Boix. *Democracy and Redistribution*. Chapter 1. Princeton University Press. (available from the Princeton University Press website)
- Przeworski, Adam. “Democracy and Economic Development.”
- Easterly, William. *Skim* “Benevolent Autocrats?” (Make sure to look at the pictures...)

February 22: Foreign Aid

- Excerpt from Sachs, *The End of Poverty*
- Excerpt from Moyo, *Dead Aid*

February 27: Foreign Aid Effectiveness

- Przeworski and Vreeland, “The Effects of IMF Programs on Economic Growth.” *Journal of Development Economics* 62: 385-421.
- Vreeland, James. 2008. “The IMF and economic development,” in Easterly, *Reinventing Foreign Aid*. Available as an electronic book on library’s website.
- Banerjee, Abhijit and Ruimin He. 2008. “Making aid work,” in Easterly, *Reinventing Foreign Aid*. Available as an electronic book for the library’s website.

March 1: Trade and Investment

- Suwa-Eisenmann and Verdier. 2007. “Aid and trade.” *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 23(3): 481-507.
- Excerpt from Moyo, *Dead Aid*.

March 6: Food Scarcity and the Environment

- Banerjee and Duflo, Ch. 2.
- Godfray et al. 2010. ”Food Security: The Challenge of Feeding 9 Billion People.” *Science*
- Lobell, David B., Marshall B. Burke, Claudia Tebaldi, Michael D. Mastrandrea, Walter P. Falcon, and Rosamond L. Naylor. 2008. “Prioritizing climate change adaptation needs for food security in 2030.” *Science* 319(5863): 607-610.

March 8: Midterm Exam

March 10-18: Spring Break

March 20: Investing in Health

- Banerjee and Duflo, Ch. 3

March 22: Investing in Education

- Banerjee and Duflo, Ch. 4

March 27: Investing in People

- Yunus, Mohammad. 2006. Nobel Lecture.
- Excerpt from Portfolios of the Poor

March 29: Microfinance

- Banerjee and Duflo, chapter 7 & 8
- Roodman, 2012. “Microcredit doesn’t” end poverty, despite all the hype” *Washington Post*, March 10, 2012.
- Yunus, Muhammad. “Sacrificing Microcredit for Megaprofits.” *The New York Times*, January 14, 2011

April 3: TED Talk Assignment

- Readings TBA

April 5: No Class, International Studies Association Conference

April 10: Women and Development

- Kristof and WuDunn, pp. xi-108.
- Banerjee and Duflo, Ch. 5

April 12: Women and Development

- Kristof and WuDunn, pp. 109-232.

April 17 & 19: Simulation Activity

April 24: Adventures in Development

- Novogratz, ch 1-8.

April 26: Adventures in Development

- Novogratz, 9-16.
- Papers Due

May 1: Next Steps

- Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 15
- Banerjee and Duflo, *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*, Conclusion.

May 3: Catch up and Exam Review

***** Final Exam – May 8, 12PM *****