

POL 354—Political Economy of Developing Countries
Fall, 2007

MW 2:15-4:05—JRC 202

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Office Hours: M 1-2, WF 9-10

Office: Carnegie 311 (x4898)

or by appt.

Course Description

How do politics and economics interact to promote or prevent the economic development of developing countries? Do developing countries have usable strategies available to them, or are they condemned to poverty? This seminar will build on your existing knowledge of international political economy, political science, and global development to examine past, present, and future political strategies for developing countries to promote economic development.

Over the course of the semester, we will consider contending theories of economic development, common explanations for the failure of some states to achieve sustained economic growth, the role of foreign aid and international financial institutions, the politics of development policies, corruption, social development, institutional arrangements, and the role of domestic politics in international economics.

Because this is a seminar, each of you will be expected to take an active role in class discussions and debates. Each of you will spend one class period as discussion leader, essentially running the class for the day. Each student will also complete a major research project, focused on the economic development policies of either a single country or of a regional association.

Let me emphasize that this is *not* an economics class. I'm not an economist, and neither are any of you. That said, we will be reading some articles that get into some pretty technical economics concepts, and knowledge of economics will be incredibly useful as we discuss. If you find yourself running into problems understanding any of the readings or concepts discussed, please bring your questions to class or come see me. You may also find the optional textbook useful.

Grading

Attendance/Participation	25%
Discussion Leadership	20%
Country Profile	15%
Presentation	10%
Final Paper	30%

Extensions and Late Assignments

Late assignments face a stiff penalty. You will lose two-thirds of a letter grade (a B+ becomes a B-) for every day that your assignment is late.

A Few Words on Plagiarism and Working with Others

It should go without saying, but I'll say it anyways—*don't plagiarize!* If you use the words or ideas of someone else without providing proper attribution, you're plagiarizing. Cutting and pasting from Wikipedia is plagiarizing, as is passing off someone else's ideas as your own. Not only is plagiarism unfair to the original source's author, but it will cause you to fail this course and possibly face additional sanctions from the College. We'll talk about plagiarism and citing sources during the semester, but if you *ever* have any doubts, *ask first!* Come talk to me, or see the incredibly helpful folks in the Writing Center or Burling.

This does not mean, though, that you shouldn't talk with your classmates outside class about our assignments. Discussions with other students can be incredibly helpful, and I encourage them. That said, the actual writing of any assignment must be done independently.

Students with Disabilities

Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustment or accommodations because of a documented disability is requested to speak with me no later than 10 September. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, located on the 3rd floor of the Rosenfield Center (x3702).

Course Materials

Four books are required, available at the College Bookstore or through any number of online services like amazon.com, bn.com, abebooks.com, or bookfinder.com:

⇒Easterly, William. 2006. *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. New York: Penguin. (ISBN 0143038826)

⇒Harrison, Lawrence and Samuel Huntington. 2001. *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*. New York: Basic Books (ISBN 0465031765)

⇒Rapley, John. 2002. *Understanding Development: Theory and Practice in the Third World, 2nd Edition*. Boulder: Lynn Rienner (ISBN 1588260992)

⇒Sachs, Jeffrey. 2006. *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities of Our Time*. New York: Penguin. (ISBN 0143036580)

For those you who would like a refresher on international political economy, there's also an **optional** textbook available at the Bookstore:

⇒Spero, Joan E. and Jeffrey A. Hart. 2003. *The Politics of International Economic Relations, 6th Edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. (ISBN 053460417X)

Other readings are either available online (marked with +++) or on reserve at Burling (marked with [R]).

You should also keep up with current events. I recommend reading a daily national newspaper, such as the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com), *Washington Post* (www.washingtonpost.com), or *Los Angeles Times* (www.latimes.com). I also *highly* suggest that you read a non-US news sources at least once a week. Other countries don't always interpret US foreign policy in the same way we do, and these differences in understanding can be quite telling. National Public Radio also provides excellent coverage of international events and foreign policy, and the local NPR stations often carry the BBC, too. In Grinnell, you can hear NPR on WOI (640 AM), KUNI (90.9 FM), and WSUI (910 AM). The *New York Times*, NPR, and the BBC (among others) also offer free podcasts of the day's top news stories via iTunes.

Schedule of Readings

NOTE: While we will do our best to adhere to this schedule, the syllabus can and very well may change depending on time, class interests, and current events. I will announce any changes in class, and you will be responsible for keeping up with these changes.

3 Sept—Introduction to Class

⇒Taylor, Ian. 2005. "[Globalization Studies and the Developing World: Making International Political Economy Truly International.](#)" *Third World Quarterly* 26: 1025-1042. +++

5 Sept—Inequality, or Who Cares about the Rich/Poor Gap?

⇒Sachs, Introduction and Ch. 2

⇒UNDP, [2005 Human Development Report](#), Ch. 1 +++

⇒Easterly, Ch. 1

10 Sept—Theories of Development

⇒Rapley, Ch. 1

⇒Rostow, "[The Five Stages of Growth](#)" +++

⇒Sachs, Ch. 3

12 Sept—More Theories of Development

⇒Easterly, Chs. 2-4

17 Sept—NO CLASS

19 Sept—Is It a Cultural Thing?

⇒Harrison, "Promoting Progressive Cultural Change," *Culture Matters*

⇒Sen, *Development as Freedom*, Ch. 10 [R]

⇒Etounga-Manguelle, "Does Africa Need a Cultural Adjustment Program?" *Culture Matters*

24 Sept—Is It a Cultural Thing?

⇒Landes, "Culture Makes Almost All the Difference," *Culture Matters*

⇒Grondona, "A Cultural Typology of Economic Development," *Culture Matters*

⇒Sachs, "Notes on a New Sociology of Economic Development," *Culture Matters*

⇒Granato, James, et al. 1996. "[The Effect of Cultural Values on Economic Development.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science* 40: 607-631. +++

26 Sept—Geography as Destiny?

⇒Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Prologue [R]

⇒Gallup, John Luke and Jeffrey Sachs. 2000. “[Agriculture, Climate, and Technology.](#)” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 82: 731-737. +++

⇒Sachs, Ch. 3

1 Oct—Foreign Aid

⇒Sachs, Chs. 4, 13, and 16

3 Oct—Foreign Aid

⇒Easterly, Chs. 5, 10, and 11

8 Oct—International Influences

⇒Easterly, Chs. 8 and 9

10 Oct—International Influences

⇒Sachs, Ch. 5, 6, and 7

15 Oct—IFIs, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund

⇒Easterly, Chs. 6, and 7

⇒Rapley, Chs. 3 and 4

17 Oct—IFIs, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund

⇒Sachs, Ch. 11

⇒Rapley, Ch. 5

29 Oct—Are There Alternatives? 21st Century Socialism and South-South Trade

⇒Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. 2006. “[South-South Trade: Vital for Development.](#)” OECD Policy Brief. +++

⇒Manwaring, Max. 2005. [Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez, Bolivarian Socialism, and Asymmetric Warfare.](#) Strategic Studies Institute, pp. 8-13 +++

⇒Khor, Martin, “How the South Is Getting a Raw Deal at the WTO” and Jubilee South, “South-South Summit Declaration: Towards a Debt-Free Millennium” in *Global Backlash*, Robin Broad, Ed. [R]

⇒Chavez, Hugo. “The Slow March Toward an Alternative Economy” in *Understanding the Venezuelan Revolution: Hugo Chavez Talks with Marta Hanecker.* [R]

31 Oct—The Role of NGOs

⇒Hulme, David and Karen Moore. 2006. “[Why Has Microfinance Been a Success in Bangladesh and Beyond?](#)” University of Manchester Working Paper. +++

⇒Cooley, Alexander and James Ron. 2002. “[The NGO Scramble.](#)” *International Security* 27: 9-18. +++

5 Nov—The Role of the State and Politics

- ⇒Rapley, Ch. 2
- ⇒Kohli, *State-Directed Development*, Introduction [R]
- ⇒Sen, *Development as Freedom*, Ch. 6 [R]

7 Nov—Institutional Approaches

- ⇒De Soto, *The Mystery of Capital*, Ch. 1 [R]
- ⇒Acemoglu, Daron. et al., “[An African Success Story: Botswana](#)” +++
- ⇒Rodrik, Dani. 2004. “[Getting Institutions Right](#)” +++

12 Nov—Corruption

- ⇒Easterly, *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, Chs. 11, and 12
- ⇒Hall, Rodney Bruce. 2003. “[The Discursive Demolition of the Asian Development Model.](#)” *International Studies Quarterly* 47: 71-99. +++

14 Nov—Social Investments

- ⇒Sachs, Ch. 10
- ⇒Easterly, *Elusive Quest for Growth*, Ch. 4 and 5 [R]
- ⇒Sachs, Jeffrey and Pia Malaney. 2002. “The Economic and Social Burden of Malaria.” *Nature* 415: 680-685. +++

19 Nov—The Resource Curse?

- ⇒Auty and Mikesell, *Sustaining Development in Mineral Economies*, Chs. 13 and 14 [R]
- ⇒Sachs, Jeffrey and Andrew Warner. 1995. “[Natural Resource Abundance and Economic Growth.](#)” NBER Working Paper. +++
- ⇒Scheiner, Charles and La’o Hamutuk. 2004. “[Can Timor Leste Avoid the Resource Curse?](#)” +++

26 Nov—Debt Relief

- ⇒Easterly, *The Elusive Quest for Growth*, Chs. 6 and 7 [R]
- ⇒Sachs, Jeffrey. 1999. “[Cracking the Shell Game.](#)” +++

28 Nov—Presentations

3 Dec—Presentations

5 Dec—Presentations

10 Dec—Presentations

12 Dec—Presentations, Wrap-Up and Conclusions

Final Paper Due in my office by Thursday, 20 December at 2:00pm!