

PS1338: Politics in Developing Countries

Fall 2015

T/Th 9:30-10:45

221 Cathedral of Learning

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Office hours: T/Th 4:00-5:00 or by appointment

This course investigates why so many developing countries are mired in poverty, bad governance, and civil conflict and explores their prospects for mitigating these challenges in the future. We will begin by examining arguments about the effects of geography, colonialism, and slavery on how the state and political institutions of developing countries evolved. We will look at why some developing countries achieved strong states where others suffer from failed states, and why some countries experienced successful transitions to democracy where others did not. The second part of the course then confronts pernicious obstacles to development, including ethnic divisions, conflict, and natural resources. We will conclude by debating the role of international aid and what, if anything, wealthy countries can and should do to promote development.

This course draws on a dynamic field of research in the political economy of development. We will be discussing both classic and cutting-edge research conducted by both political scientists and economists. We will study not only particular countries throughout the developing world but also broad patterns across countries. By the end of the course, you should be able to think critically not only about the causes and consequences of under-development but also about the different approaches for advancing development in the future.

COURSE MATERIALS

The readings are divided into required and recommended readings. All required readings for the course (and some of the recommended readings) will be posted on CourseWeb.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

This course will typically be conducted seminar-style, which means that each week will be centered around a set of readings that you will be expected to do *in advance* and come prepared to discuss. There is a lot of reading, sometimes 150 pages/week, and much of it is challenging. Please try to do it all or at least to do it smartly (i.e. identify the main points). Not keeping up with the reading will limit what you will get out of the course personally as well as what we all will get out of our class-time together.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and participation (10%): You are expected to attend class and keep up with the readings. Remember, since this is a seminar-style class, you should come prepared to answer questions, ask your own questions, and share your opinions or respond (respectfully!) to the opinions of others. You will

receive an A if you participate often; a B if you participate sometimes; a C if you participate rarely; and a D if you never participate.

Unannounced quizzes on the reading (10%): Because reading, attendance, and participation are so important to this course, ten percent of your grade will be based on your scores on unannounced quizzes on the required readings. These will be held periodically at either the start or end of class. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped. There will be no make-up quizzes (!), including for those who have excused absences, or for those who miss a quiz because they arrive late or leave early on days they are given.

Midterm exam (25%): There will be a take-home midterm exam that will be due on CourseWeb by Friday October 16 at 11:59 p.m. Details will be announced closer to the date.

Group country development debates (25%): Early in the semester you will be assigned randomly to groups and *pairs* of groups will be assigned to a country. One group in each pair will be assigned the role of 'government' and will have the task of defending their country's development record. The other group will be assigned the role of 'civil society organization' and will have the task of challenging the country's development record. Each group will have approximately 15 minutes to present and 10 minutes to field questions. Group country presentations will be in the final sessions of the semester (see the syllabus). More detailed instructions on the country debates will be provided after the midterm.

Final exam (30% total): The final will be worth 30% of your grade; details will be announced closer to the date.

GRADING POLICIES

Grading scale:

97-100	A+	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	60-70	D
93-96	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	<60	F
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-		

Late papers: Late papers will be penalized 1/2 letter grade per day (e.g. from a B+ to B-) including weekends and holidays, except in the case of a verified emergency or documented medical excuse.

Re-grading policy: You have one week after you receive your graded work to request a re-grade. You need to include a written statement about why you think your work needs to be re-graded and which part(s) I should re-grade. Remember that after re-evaluating your work, your grade may remain unchanged or could be adjusted higher *or* lower.

Academic Integrity: Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity (<http://www.pitt.edu/~provost/ai1.html>).

Special provisions: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both me and Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union,

(412) 648-7890/(412) 383-7355(TTY), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

PART I: FOUNDATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT

Session 1 [Sept 1]: Course Intro

Session 2 [Sept 8]: What is development?

Cypher, James and James Dietz. 2009. *The Process of Economic Development*: Chapter 1 (3-29) (chapter 2 has a handy summary of measures of economic development)

Sen, Amartya. 1999. *Development as Freedom*: Chapters 1-2 (pp. 3-53).

Recommended

Video: [World Bank Global Links. 2001. Hear our Voices—The Poor on Poverty.](#)

UNDP Human Development Report, 2013 (read the summary, full report also available)

Sessions 3 [Sept 10]: Geography

Diamond, Jared. 1997. *Guns, Germs and Steel*: Prologue + Chapter 4 (pp. 13-32 and 85-92).

Sachs, Jeffrey, Andrew Mellinger and John Gallup. 2001. "The Geography of Poverty and Wealth," *Scientific American* 284(3): 70-75.

Session 4 [Sept 15]: Institutions and colonialism

Hochschild, Adam. 1998. *King Leopold's Ghost*: Chapters 8, 10 (pp. 115-139 and 150-166).

Acemoglu and Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*: Chapters 1-3 (pp. 7-95).

Session 5 [Sept 17]: Other legacies of history

Nunn, Nathan. 2008. "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123(1): 139-176 (focus on parts I-III).

Timur Kuran. 2003. "The Islamic Commercial Crisis: Institutional Roots of Economic Underdevelopment in the Middle East," *Journal of Economic History* 63(2): 414-446.

Acemoglu and Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*: Chapter 4 (pp. 96-123)

Session 6 [Sept 22]: The origins of modern states

Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime" in *Bringing the State Back In* (eds. Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol): pp. 169-185.

North, Douglass and Barry Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth Century England," *The Journal of Economic History* XLIX(4): 803-832.

Recommended

Centeno, Miguel Angel. 1997. "Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Nineteenth-Century Latin America" *The American Journal of Sociology* 102 (6): 1565-1605.

Session 7 [Sept 24]: Failed states

Jackson Robert and Carl Rosberg. 1986. "Sovereignty and Underdevelopment: Juridicial Statehood in the African Crisis." *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 24(1), pp. 1-31.

Herbst, Jeffrey. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*: Chapters 1 and 9 (pp. 11-31 and 251-272).

Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2004. "Neotrusteeship and the Problem of Weak States," *International Security* 28(4): 5-43.

Session 8 [Sept 29]: Developmental states

Doner, Richard and Bryan Ritchie and Dan Slater. 2005. "Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of Developmental States: Northeast and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective," *International Organization* 59: 327-361.

Kohli, Atul. 2004. *State Directed Development*: Chapter 1 (pp. 1-24).

Recommended

Spruyt, Hendrik. 2002. "The Origins, Development, and Possible Decline of the Modern State," *Annual Review of Political Science* 5: 127-49.

Page, John. 1994. "The East Asian Miracle: An Introduction," *World Development* 22(4): 615-625.

Session 9 [Oct 1]: Obstacles to Democratization

Sen, Amartya. 1999. *Development as Freedom*: Chapters 6-7 (pp. 146-159 and 160-188).

Carothers, Thomas. 2002. "The End of the Transition Paradigm," *Journal of Democracy* 13.1, p. 5-21.

Bratton, Michael and Nicolas van de Walle. 1994. "Neo-Patrimonial Regimes and Political Transitions in Africa" *World Politics* 46: 453-89.

Recommended

Karl, Terry and Phillipe Schmitter. 1991. "What Democracy Is...and is Not." *Journal of Democracy* 2(3), pp. 75-88.

Ake, Claude. 1996. "Rethinking African Democracy" in *The Global Resurgence of Democracy* (ed. By Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner): Chapter 5 (63-75).

Session 10 [Oct 6]: So when does democratization succeed?

Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2006. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*: Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-47).

Lindberg, Staffan. 2006. "The Surprising Significance of African Elections" *Journal of Democracy* 17(1): 139-151.

Recommended

Rueschemeyer, Dietrich and Evelyne Stephens and John Stephens. 1992. *Capitalist Development and Democracy*: Chapter 3 (pp. 40-78).

Session 11 [Oct 8]: Overflow and Midterm Review

[Oct 13]: No class – Fall break

Session 12 [Oct 15]: No class (professor at conference)

*****Take home midterms are due on CourseWeb by Friday, October 16 at 11:59 p.m.*****

PART II: OBSTACLES TO DEVELOPMENT

Sessions 13 [Oct 20]: (Ethnically) divided societies

Easterly, William. 2002. *The Elusive Quest for Growth*: Chapter 13 (pp. 255-283).

Horowitz, Donald. 1986/2000. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*: Chapters TBA (1-2, or 3-4).

Session 14 [Oct 22]: (Ethnically) divided societies (cont'd)

Miguel, Edward. 2004. "Tribe or Nation? Nation-building and Public Goods in Kenya versus Tanzania," *World Politics* 56: 327-362 (focus on parts I-III).

Horowitz, Donald. 1993. "Democracy in Divided Societies," *Journal of Democracy* 4(4): 18-38.

Habyarimana, James et al. 2008. "Is ethnic conflict inevitable? Parting ways over nationalism and separatism," *Foreign Affairs* 87(4): p. 138.

Session 15 [Oct 27]: Patronage and corruption

Manin, Bernard and Adam Przeworski and Susan Stokes, "Elections and Representation" in *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation* edited by Adam Przeworski, Susan Stokes and Bernard Manin. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999. pp. 29-54.

Van de Walle, Nicholas. 2003. "Presidentialism and Clientelism in Africa's Emerging Party Systems" *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 41(2): 297-321.

Session 16 [Oct 29] Patronage and corruption (cont'd)

Manzetti, Luigi and Carole Wilson. 2007. "Why Do Corrupt Governments Maintain Public Support?" *Comparative Political Studies* 40: 949-970. (Skim for main argument).

Stokes, Susan and Thad Dunning and Marcelo Nazareno and Valeria Brusco. 2013. *Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism: The Puzzle of Distributive Politics*: Chapter 8 (pp. 200-242).

Recommended

Svensson, Jakob. 2005. "Eight Questions about Corruption," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 19(3): 19-42.

Session 17 [Nov 3]: Movie interlude (movie TBD)

Session 18 [Nov 5]: Civil war

Gurr, Ted Robert. 1968. "Psychological Factors in Civil Violence," *World Politics* 20: 245-278.

Collier, Paul. 2006. "Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and their Implications for Policy," *unpublished manuscript*.

Session 19 [Nov 10]: Civil war (cont'd)

Weinstein, Jeremy. 2005. "Resources and the Information Problem in Rebel Recruitment," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(4): 598-624.

Session 20 [Nov 12]: The resource curse

Ross, Michael. 2012. *The Oil Curse: Chapters 1-3* (pp. 1-109)

Session 21 [Nov 17]: The resource curse (cont'd)

Ross, Michael. 2004. "How do Natural Resources Influence Civil War: Evidence from Thirteen Cases," *International Organization* 58 (pp. 35-67).

Ross, Michael. 2012. *The Oil Curse: Chapter 7* (pp. 223-253)

Session 22 [Nov 19]: The aid debate

Radelet, Steven. 2006. "A Primer on Foreign Aid," *Center for Global Development Working Paper 92*. Washington, D.C.

Sachs, Jeffrey. 2005. *The End of Poverty: Chapters 3, 13, and 16* (pp. 51-73, 244-265, and 309-328).

Session 23 [Nov 24]: The aid debate (cont'd)

Easterly, William. 2006. *The White Man's Burden: Chapters 1-2* (pp. 3-59).

[Moyo, Dambisa. 2009. "Why Foreign Aid is Hurting Africa," Wall Street Journal, March 21:W1.](#)

Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo. 2011. *Poor Economics: Chapters 1 and 10* (pp. 1-19 and 235-265).

[Nov 26]: No class – Thanksgiving Break

Session 24 [Dec 1]: Group country presentations I – BRAZIL

Session 25 [Dec 3]: Group country presentations II – INDIA

Session 26 [Dec 8]: Group country presentations III

Session 27 [Dec 10]: Review for final