

PS1338: Politics in Developing Countries

Spring 2020

M/W 11:00-12:15

233 Lawrence Hall

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Office hours: M 3:30-4:30 pm

This course investigates why so many countries worldwide 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 the consequences of strong states for development. We will also consider the relationship between democracy and development and examine the determinants of successful democratization. The second part of the course then confronts pernicious obstacles to development, including corruption, ethnic divisions, conflict, and natural resource wealth. 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 on the political economy of development. We will be discussing both classic and cutting-edge research conducted by political scientists, economists, and other social scientists. 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 promoting 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 arguments). 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 to keep up with the readings. Readings listed under each session heading are required. All readings listed as ‘Recommended’ are

suggested for your reference but are not required. 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 are expected to attend regularly, meaning that you do not miss more than a few (2-3) classes in the semester. Conditional on your attending regularly, you will receive an A if you participate actively during class, a B if you participate occasionally, and a lower grade if you participate rarely or never.

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 an in-class midterm exam on **February 19**. Details will be announced closer to the date.

Group country development debates (25%): Early in the semester you will be assigned randomly to countries and to actors within those countries (e.g. poor citizens, the private sector, or government). Students assigned to represent the government will have the task of defending their country's development record. Students assigned to represent citizens or the private sector will be responsible for challenging that record and pushing for improvements. The goal of these debates is to give students a chance to grapple with real world development challenges and policy solutions while gaining deeper knowledge of specific countries. Group country presentations will be in the final sessions of the semester. 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-		

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 [Jan 6]: Course Intro

Session 2 [Jan 8]: What is development?

Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo. 2007. "The Economic Lives of the Poor" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 21(1): 141-167.

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

Acemoglu, Daron. 2008. *Introduction to Modern Economic Growth*: Chapter 1 (pp. 3-27).

Boo, Katherine. 2012. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*. Random House.

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)

Session 3 [Jan 13]: Geography and development

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 [Jan 15]: Colonialism, institutional legacies, and development

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).

[Jan 20] – NO CLASS, MLK DAY

Session 5 [Jan 22]: 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 [Jan 27]: 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 [Jan 29]: Failed states

Jackson Robert and Carl Rosberg. 1986. "Sovereignty and Underdevelopment: Juridical 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 [Feb 3]: 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 [Feb 5]: Democracy, dictatorship, and development

****Will give country group assignments****

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

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce et al. 2001. "Political Competition and Economic Growth" *Journal of Democracy* 12(1): 58-72.

Recommended

Watch: [TED talk by Economist Yasheng Huang](#) (18 minutes).

Session 10 [Feb 10]: Democratization I

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

Inglehart, Ronald. 2000. "Culture and Democracy" in *Culture Matters*, Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington (eds): pp. 80-97.

Session 11 [Feb 12]: Democratization II

Huntington, Samuel. 1996. "Democracy's Third Wave" in *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner (eds): pp. 3-25.

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 (skim).

Recommended

[Coleman, Isobel and Terra Lawson-Remer. 2013. "A User's Guide to Democratic Transitions" *Foreign Policy*.](#)

Session 12 [Feb 17]: Overflow and midterm review

Session 13 [Feb 19]: In-class midterm

PART II: SOURCES OF STATE AND POLITICAL FAILURE AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Session 14 [Feb 24]: Democratic failure, corruption, and criminality

Fearon, James, "Electoral Accountability and the Control of Politicians" in *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation* edited by Adam Przeworski, Susan Stokes and Bernard Manin. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999. pp. 55-97.

Vaishnav, Milan. 2017. *When Crime Pays*. Yale University Press. Chapters 1 and 5 (pp. 3-24 and 157-204).

Recommended

Fisman, Ray and Miriam Golden. 2017. *Corruption: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press. Chapters: pp. 23-53.

Session 15 [Feb 26]: Clientelism

****You will have time to meet with your country debate groups****

Stokes, Susan, Thad Dunning, Marcelo Nazareno and Valeria Brusco. 2013. *Brokers, Voters, and Clientelism*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 8 (pp. 3-27 and 200-242).

Session 16 [March 2]: (Ethnically) divided societies

Horowitz, Donald. 1986/2000. *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*: Chapters 1 and 4.

Recommended

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

Tajfel, Henri. 1982. "Social Psychology of Intergroup Relations" *Annual Review of Psychology* 33:1-39.

Session 17 [March 4]: Solutions for ethnically divided societies?

Lijphardt. 2004. "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies" *Journal of Democracy* 15(2): 96-109.

Reilly, Benjamin. 2002. "Electoral Systems for Divided Societies" *Journal of Democracy* 13(2): 156-170.

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).

Recommended

Allport, Gordon. 1954. *The Nature of Prejudice*: pp. 261-282.

Norris, Pippa. 2005. "Stable Democracy and Good Governance in Divided Societies: Do Power-Sharing Institutions Work?" *Harvard University Faculty Working Paper Series*.

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.

[SPRING BREAK]

Session 18 [March 16]: In-class movie (Virunga)

Session 19 [March 18]: The resource curse

Ross, Michael. 2012. *The Oil Curse*: Chapters 1-3 and 7 (pp. 1-109, 223-253)

Session 20 [March 23]: Policy solutions for the resource curse

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

Karl, Terry Lynn, "Ensuring Fairness: The Case for a Transparent Fiscal Social Contract," in *Escaping the Resource Curse*: 256-285.

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Session 21 [March 25]: Civil war

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

Aspinall, Edward. 2007. "The Construction of Grievance: Natural Resources and Identity in a Separatist Conflict," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 51(6): 950-972.

Ross, Michael. 2012. *The Oil Curse*: Chapter 5 (pp. 223-253)

Recommended

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

Session 22 [March 30]: 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).

Recommended

Documentary: [Good Fortune](#)

Session 23 [April 1]: The aid debate continued

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).

Session 24 [April 6]: Country development debate I

Session 25 [April 8]: Country development debate II

Session 26 [April 13]: Country development debate III

Session 27 [April 15]: Final review