

POIS 480: THE POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT

Spring 2016

Instructor: Florian Justwan, Ph.D.

Class: Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 08:30 am - 09:20 am (AD 317)

Office Hours: Monday 2:00-5:00 & By Appointment (Administration 323)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main goal of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of the domestic and structural influences on development. After a short introduction in which we discuss the state of development around the world, we investigate the role of culture and institutions as well as the consequences of “bad governance.” In the third part of the course, we take a closer look at the impact of structural factors such as geography, foreign aid and globalization. At the end of the term, students should be able to: (1) identify the relative strengths and weaknesses of the theories covered in class and (2) discuss the role of agency in economic development.

COURSE MATERIALS

You will need to buy one book for this class:

- P. Collier (2008). “The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It.” Oxford University Press, New York.

Many of our weekly readings will come from this book. All other material will be uploaded to bblearn. It is absolutely essential that you carefully read all of the required material prior to each class session. I expect you to take your responsibilities seriously. Failing to do so will both significantly impact your grade and the quality of our in-class debate.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

10%	Country Profile for In-Class Simulation
15%	Attendance & Participation
20%	6 Reading Quizzes
25%	Midterm Exam (February 29)
30%	Final Exam (May 13) <i>OR</i> Paper (Due Date: May 13; at 5pm)

Attendance

Each unexcused absence will lower your final participation grade (calculated on a scale from 0 – 100) by 5 percent. I will take attendance every day. Therefore, it is essential that you show up on time. If you do come in late, it is your responsibility to approach me *directly after class* (as long as I am still in the classroom) and make sure that I checked your name on the class roll.

Participation (15 percent)

Your participation grade will be based on the quality and quantity of your oral contributions during class. As stated above, I expect you to read and think about the assigned material prior to our meetings. In class, you should be able to discuss the main arguments and demonstrate that you are able to connect the readings with the larger context. Please note that your participation grade is only affected by *active* participation. If you don't talk, your final participation grade will be a 60 (minus 5 x *number of unexcused absences*). If you have any concerns about your participation grade, contact me as soon as possible.

Reading Quizzes (20 percent)

There will be 6 unannounced readings quizzes over the course of the term. The quizzes will be composed of multiple choice and/or short answers that cover the assigned readings for each day. Reading quizzes will NOT be made-up if you are absent. However, only five of those six quizzes will be used to calculate your grade. In other words, I will drop your lowest score at the end of the semester.

Exams

There are 2 exams in this class – 1 midterm (25 percent) and 1 final exam (30 percent). Exam material will be drawn from the following: lecture notes, assigned required readings, class discussion, movies shown in class, and any other supplementary materials. **All exams are cumulative.** One piece of advice: Do the required readings, attend class, and participate and you will be very well prepared for both exams.

Paper (optional)

As an alternative to the final exam, I give you the opportunity to write a 12-page essay (around 3,500 words) on a question that I provide to you on April 23rd. You can choose to write this essay OR to take the final exam.

Country Profile (10 percent)

At the end of the term, we will conduct a small in-class simulation conference. This will give you the possibility to (1) apply the knowledge acquired in this course, (2) learn new aspects about a country of your choice, and (3) have fun interacting with your fellow class mates. As part of your preparation for this simulation, you will be required to compose a short 2-page country profile that outlines the positions that you are going to take during the in-class simulation. The paper is due on April 25 (Monday) before class.

GRADE SCALE

Note: final grades will NOT be rounded

- A = 90.00-100.00
- B = 80.00-89.99
- C = 70.00-79.99
- D = 60.00-69.99
- F = 00.00-59.99

COURSE POLICIES

Absences & Make-Up Exams

As stated above, attendance is absolutely essential if you want to succeed in this class. You are permitted TWO unexcused absences. Every other absence will lower your participation grade by 5 percent, unless you have a valid excuse (medical, academic, etc.) AND proper documentation. Make-up exams are ONLY offered for documented absences. If you know in advance that you have a conflict preventing you from taking one of the exams at the scheduled date, please contact me as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty

All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe, and ignorance of the academic honesty policy is not an acceptable defense. Each student must meet the standards laid down in the University of Idaho's "Student Code of Conduct" (<http://www.uidaho.edu/DOS/judicialaffairs/studentcodeofconduct>). I will report all instances of academic dishonesty.

Disabilities

Students who need note-takers or are supposed to take their tests at Disability Services should let me know as soon as possible so we can make accommodations for you.

Classroom Etiquette

The use of cell phones, iPods, iPads, or any other electronic device will not be permitted during class meetings. I will permit you a laptop ONLY to take notes and review online readings. Please note that I reserve the right to reverse this policy at any time

Grade Appeals

If you believe your exams or assignments have been graded unfairly, you can appeal your grade in written form. You have to hand in your appeal on the day after the assignment or exam was returned. Comparisons to other students' graded assignments will not be accepted for a complaint. Hand in the original copy of the graded assignment/exam together with the written appeal. I will reevaluate your grade in light of the argument that you made. However, the new grade may be the same, higher, or lower than the original grade and it will be final.

COURSE SCHEDULE (This is only a tentative schedule for this course. Content may change)

PART I: Introduction		
Week 1		Introduction I: Defining “Development” and “Progress”
	Jan. 11 (M)	Winter Break
	Jan. 13 (W)	This Syllabus
	Jan. 15 (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porter, M.E. & Stern, S. (2014). Social Progress Index 2014: Executive Summary. • Slaper, T. & Hall, T. (2011). The triple bottom line: what is it and how does it work? Indiana Business Review, 86(1), 4-8. • Gertner, J. (2010). The Rise and Fall of the GDP (May 13, 2010). From: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/16/magazine/16GDP-t.html?_r=0
Week 2		Introduction II: The State of Development around the World
	Jan. 18 (M)	No Class. MLK Day
	Jan. 20 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP, Human Development Report, 2013: Chapter 1 (pp. 21-43). • Freedom House (2013). “Freedom in the World 2015.”
	Jan. 22 (F)	I. Ortiz and M. Cummins (2011). “Global Inequality: Beyond the Bottom Billion.” UNICEF Social and Economic Policy Working Paper, pp. 10 – 38.
PART II: Domestic Variables		
Week 3		Culture I
	Jan. 25 (M)	P. Gourevitch (2008). “The Role of Politics in Economic Development.” In: Annual Review of Political Science 11, pp. 137-145 only!
	Jan. 27 (W)	H. Kahn (1993). “The Confucian Ethic and Economic Growth.” In: M. Seligson, J.T. Passe-Smith (Eds.), Development & Underdevelopment. Lynne Rienner, Boulder, CO, pp. 169-171
	Jan. 29 (F)	S. Becker and L. Woessman (2007). “Was Weber Wrong? A Human Capital Theory of Protestant Economic History.” Disc. Pap. No. 1366, Dep. Econ., Univ. Munich, pp. 1-10.
Week 4		Culture II: The role of Social Capital and Trust
	Feb. 1 (M)	W. Easterly and R. Levine (1997). “Africa’s Growth Tragedy: Policies

		and Ethnic Divisions.” In: Quarterly Journal of Economics 112 (4), pp. 1203-1250 (<i>ignore the stats!</i>)
	Feb. 3 (W)	E. Miguel (2004). “Tribe or Nation? Nation-building and Public Goods in Kenya versus Tanzania.” In: World Politics 56 (3), pp. 327 – 362 (pages 331 -339 and 360 – 362 only)
	Feb 5 (F)	F. Fukuyama (1995). “Social Capital and the Global Economy. A Redrawn Map of the World.” In: Foreign Affairs 74 (5), pp. 1-10
Week 5		Institutions I: Regime Type
	Feb. 8 (M)	R. Barro (1996). “Democracy and Growth.” In: Journal of Economic Growth 1 (1), pp. 1-26.
	Feb. 10 (W)	J. Gerring, P. Bond, W. Barndt, C. Moreno (2005). “Democracy and Economic Growth. A Historical Perspective.” In: World Politics 57 (3), pp. 323-364.
	Feb. 12 (F)	No readings.
Week 6		Institutions II: Economic Institutions
	Feb 15. (M)	No class. President’s Day
	Feb. 17 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Acemoglu, S. Johnson, and J.A. Robinson (2001). “The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation.” In: American Economic Review 91 (5), pp. 1369–1377 only. • M. Sochua and C. Wikstroem (2012). “Land Grabs in Cambodia.” Available: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/19/opinion/land-grabs-in-cambodia.html?_r=0
	Feb. 19 (F)	N. Nunn (2008). “The Long-Term Effects of Africa’s Slave Trades.” In: Quarterly Journal of Economics 123 (1), pp. 139–176.
Week 7		Regime Type Redux: The other Causal Direction
	Feb. 22 (M)	S. Lipset (1960). “Economic Development and Democracy.” In: idem, Political Man. New York, Doubleday, pp. 45-76.
	Feb. 24 (W)	R. Inglehart and C. Welzel (2009). “Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy.” In: L. Mayer, D. Patterson, and F. Thames (eds). Contending Perspectives in Comparative Politics. CQ Press, Washington, pp. 485-514.
	Feb. 26 (F)	EXAM REVIEW

Week 8		Midterm Exam & The Role of Corruption
	Feb. 29 (M)	<i>MIDTERM EXAM</i>
	March 2 (W)	Collier Chapter 5.
	March 4 (F)	J.-S. You and S. Khagram (2005). "A Comparative Study of Inequality and Corruption." In: American Sociological Review 70 (1), pp. 136-157
		PART III: Structural Variables
Week 9		International Trade
	March 7 (M)	Oatley Chapter 2
	March 9 (W)	Oatley Chapter 6
	March 11 (F)	Oatley Chapter 7
Week 10		Spring Break
	March 14 (M)	No class.
	March 16 (W)	No class.
	March 18 (F)	No class.
Week 11		International Trade: A Case Study
	March 21 (M)	Media Day 1
	March 23 (W)	Media Day 2
	March 25 (F)	No class. Instructor at Conference.
Week 12		Wrap up Trade Civil War and Political Violence
	March 28 (M)	Collier Chapter 6 Collier Chapter 10
	March 30 (W)	Collier Chapter 2.
	April 1 (F)	C. Blattman and J. Annan (2010). "The Consequences of Child Soldiering." In: The Review of Economics and Statistics 92 (4), pp. 882–898.

Week 13		Foreign Aid
	April 4 (M)	Collier Chapter 7.
	April 6 (W)	D. A. Bräutigam and S. Knack (2004). "Foreign Aid, Institutions, and Governance in Sub-Saharan Africa." In: Economic Development and Cultural Change 52 (2), pp. 255–285.
	April 8 (F)	No readings. Tentative Plan: Guest Speaker.
Week 14		Geography I
	April 11 (M)	Background Material for in-class simulation.
	April 13 (W)	Collier Chapter 3.
	April 15 (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ricardo Soares De Oliveira (2015). "Angola's Perfect Storm." Available: https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/angola/2015-10-28/angolas-perfect-storm • Malik, A. (2015). "The Gulf Economies' Coming Meltdown?" Available: https://www.foreignaffairs.com/print/1115909
Week 15		Geography II
	April 18 (M)	Collier Chapter 4.
	April 20 (W)	J. Sachs and P. Malaney (2002). "The Economic and Social Burden of Malaria." In: Nature 415 (6872), pp. 680 – 686.
	April 22 (F)	A. DeWaal (2003). "How Will HIV/AIDS Transform African Governance?" In: African Affairs 102(406), pp. 1-23
Week 16		In-Class Simulation
	April 25 (M)	In-Class Simulation 1
	April 27 (W)	In-Class Simulation 2
	April 29 (F)	In-Class Simulation 3 / Presentation of Results
Week 17		Final Discussion

	May 2 (M)	tba
	May 4 (W)	Bringing it all together: agency vs. structure; institutions vs. culture vs. geography.
	May 6 (F)	Exam Review
Week 17		Final Exam Week
	May 13 (F)	Final Exam (8:30 am – 9:30 am)
	May 13 (F)	Due Date for Final Paper (5pm via email: fjustwan@uidaho.edu)