

POL 337
POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT
SYLLABUS

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Office: Chambers 2031
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Spring Semester 2005
Chambers 1003
T-Th 10:00-11:15

“The widening gap between the developed and the developing countries has become the central problem of our times”

The Pearson Commission, 1974

“Over the past three decades the income gap between the world’s richest fifth and its poorest fifth has more than doubled, to 74 to 1. And with that gap comes migration, environmental pressure, conflict, instability, and other problems rooted in poverty and inequality.”

UNDP Human Development Report 1999

“The events of September 11, 2001 taught us that weak states, like Afghanistan, can pose as great a danger to our national interests as strong states. Poverty does not make people into terrorists and murderers. Yet poverty, weak institutions, and corruption can make weak states vulnerable to terrorist networks and drug cartels within their borders.”

White House, *The National Security Strategy of the United States* 2002

This course explores the political, economic, and social challenges of Third World development. It covers a wide range of contemporary issues affecting developing countries, and focuses especially on aid and development policies aimed at reducing poverty and underdevelopment. In a world where 840 million people are malnourished, where nearly 1.3 billion people live on less than a dollar per day, and where dozens of countries constitute “failed states,” the development challenges faced by Third World areas are unquestionably one of the most important concerns of our time.

Purpose of the Course:

- 1) to provide you with a survey of the major theoretical and conceptual tools available to us for the analysis of development and underdevelopment;
- 2) to familiarize you with the particular features of Third World politics and economics, and to engage in comparative assessment of the problems of development in different regions of the world;
- 3) to expose you to some of the most innovative public policy solutions for managing and meeting the challenges of development in the Third World;
- 4) to critically examine the notion of "development" as a concept and an enterprise both at home and abroad;
- 5) to provide you with an opportunity to enhance your research and analysis skills by producing a policy-oriented development assessment study.

Structure of the Course:

The course format will draw on both lectures and seminar-style group discussion of required reading and current events. Discussions will sometimes be devoted to critical assessment of required reading. It is expected that participants attend class regularly, complete reading assignments, and keep closely informed on current events occurring in developing countries.

Evaluation:

Course grades will be determined as follows:

Participation:	10%
review #1:	30%
review #2:	30%
final exam:	30%

Numerical grades will be translated into letter grades as follows:

93-100 A
90-92 A-
87-89 B+
83-86 B
80-82 B-
and so on.

Class Participation: Active and meaningful participation in class discussions constitute the basis for this portion of the grade.

Reviews: Reviews will typically consist of short answer and essay questions. Some are in-class, others take-home or a combination of both.

This is a reading-intensive course, so no research paper is required.

Office Hours:

Monday: 11:00-12:00

Tuesday: 2:30-3:30 pm

Wednesday: 10:00am -11:00pm

Thursday: 2:30-3:30pm

Friday: 11:00-12:00

and by appointment. I will place a sign-up sheet on my door; please schedule your own meeting with me on that sheet to insure I will be available for you at that time.

Reading Material:

The following books are required reading. All (except the Sachs book) are available for sale in the bookstore:

Uvin, Peter. *Human Rights and Development* (Kumarian. 2004)

World Bank. *World Development Report 2004: Making Services Work for Poor People* (Oxford University Press, 2003)

World Bank. *Globalization, Growth, and Poverty: Building an Inclusive World Economy*

(Oxford University Press, 2002)

Additional reading will also be made available via electronic reserve reading in the library.

You are expected to keep closely informed about all current events related to the Third World. The *New York Times* is mandatory reading; please subscribe at the Bookstore or follow the NY Times website. There are a number of other websites which you should use as a supplement for news on the Third World:

BBC News: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

One of the best news sources in the world. Check regional news and special feature stories related to the Third World.

UN, IRIN: <http://www.irinnews.org/>

UN's Integrated Regional Information Network, provides daily stories on underreported countries and crises in Africa and Asia.

Reliefweb: <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf>

Another UN news website, this one devoted to countries with humanitarian emergencies.

Miscellaneous course policies:

Honor code. The Honor Code is of course in effect at all times. Please be especially careful not to plagiarize. If in doubt, play it safe and consult me.

Accommodations for religious observances. Secular and religious holidays/ holy days are noted in the schedule. Should a class obligation conflict with a faith observation, students are encouraged to seek alternative arrangements with me.

Accommodations for students with disabilities. Full accommodations are the legal right of students with learning and physical disabilities. If you are a student with a learning disability documented by Davidson College who might need accommodations, please identify yourself to me within the first week or two of class, so that I can learn from you as early as possible how to best work with your learning style. Students with other disabilities are also encouraged to self-identify if there is any way in which I can make accommodations that will enhance your learning experience. All such discussions will be fully confidential unless you otherwise stipulate.

Late papers/late take-home reviews. Work turned in late is not acceptable and will receive a one letter grade (or 10 pt.) penalty for each day past the due date. Excused delays on assignments will only be considered for emergency cases – a death in the family, a severe illness, etc. Excuses based on illness or events occurring within 24 hours of the due date will not be accepted if the student cannot provide evidence of significant progress on the incomplete assignment (ie., do not wait until the day before to work on an assignment – you're begging for trouble). Computer-related excuses are not accepted –

please save your work often and on a diskette or CD as well as hard drive. Print a hard copy of partially completed drafts too.

Communications. E-mail queries are welcome for issues which do not merit an office visit. Please allow 12-24 hours for a response. Use this wonderful tool of communication judiciously – random questions sent at 3:00am create unnecessary back-logs of email.

Course Schedule

Part I: History of an Idea: Development in Theory and Practice

In this section of the course, we explore a variety of competing theories which claim to explain the nature of third world poverty and underdevelopment, and which (usually) purport to provide a course of action for achieving political and economic development. These theories are thus said to be both “explanatory” and “prescriptive.”

In few other domains of social science has theory had as dramatic an impact on public policy as in the field of development. Billions of dollars of foreign aid have been allocated and hundreds of thousands of development projects have been launched on the basis of models and theories of development. So here, “theory” is not some abstract discussion confined to the university. It is a tool which can make the difference between success and failure, between food self-sufficiency and starvation, for communities on the receiving end of development assistance.

These competing theories have not arisen in a vacuum, but are instead reflections of different periods of time and events since the 1950s. This section of the course presents a series of development theories in roughly chronological order, linking them to trends and events of each decade, and noting the impact that each theory had on the shaping of foreign assistance and political organization in the Third World. Look then for three parallel themes in this section: (1) the variety of competing development theories; (2) the context in which these theories emerged; and (3) the impact of these theories on actual policies of both development agencies and Third World states.

Tuesday, January 11:

- Introduction to the Course
- Case Study: The Tsunami Crisis in Asia: What do we learn about Third World government capacity and reach? About the international relief and development community? About the sequencing and challenges of disaster relief?

Thursday, January 13:

- Defining the Field of Inquiry (What do we mean by the “Third World?” What do we mean by Development?)

Read:

1. Todaro, *Economic Development in the Third World* (6 page excerpt) (class handout);
2. World Bank, *World Development Report*, pp. 1-5.
3. World Bank, *Voices of the Poor*, ch. 2, “Definitions of Poverty” (electronic reserve)

Monday January 17: Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 18:

- Before the Third World was the Third World: Key Historical Themes and Observations

- Competing Explanations for the Historical Development of the Western World

Read:

1. Ricardo Hausmann, "Prisoners of Geography" (electronic reserve)
2. Paul Harrison, *Inside the Third World*, ch. 2 (electronic reserve)
3. Anthony Giddens, "Introduction" in Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (electronic reserve)

Thursday, January 20:

- Development in the Context of the Cold War and Decolonization; the Rise of Foreign Aid
- Orthodox Economic and Political Development Models; Modernization Theory

Read:

1. Claude Welch, "The Comparative Study of Political Modernization" (electronic reserve)
2. Lucian Pye, "The Concept of Political Development" (electronic reserve)
3. Inkeles and Smith, *Becoming Modern*, excerpts (electronic reserve)

Jan. 21: Islamic celebration of Eid al-Adha

Tuesday, January 25:

- The Rise of Coups and Instability in the Third World in the 1960s and 1970s
- Conflict and Trade-Off Theories

Read:

1. Samuel Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies*, excerpts (electronic reserve)

Thursday, January 27:

- Corruption, Authoritarianism, Patronage, and the Rise of Statist Economies
- Socialist versus Capitalist Routes to Development: The False Debate
- Theories of Statism and Rent-Seeking

Read:

1. Robert Bates, *Markets and States in Tropical Africa*, excerpts (electronic reserve)
2. Peter Berger, *Pyramids of Sacrifice* ch. 1, 6. (electronic reserve)

Tuesday, February 1:

- The Rise of Third World Voices in Development/ The Rise and Fall of the NIEO in the 1970s
- Underdevelopment and Dependency Theories

Read:

1. Todaro, "New International Economic Order" (electronic reserve)
2. Galtung, "A Structural Theory of Imperialism" (reserve reading).
3. Franz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, excerpts (reserve reading).

Thursday, February 3:

- The Rise of the NICs in the 1970s and 1980s
- Theories of Dependent Development and the Role of the State

Read:

1. Vogel, *The Four Little Dragons*, excerpts (electronic reserve)

Tuesday, February 8:

- The Rural Crisis; War and Famine in the 1970s and 1980s
- Basic Needs Approach; Rural Development; Small is Beautiful Approaches
- Anthropological Theories of Development: Capitalism and the Peasantry

Read:

1. James C. Scott, *The Moral Economy of the Peasant* (1976), pp. 1-34 (electronic reserve)
2. Mayur and Daviss, "How Not to Develop an Emerging Nation" (1998) (electronic reserve)

Feb. 9: Ash Wednesday

Feb. 10, Islamic New Year

Thursday, February 10:

- The Context of Debt and Structural Adjustment in the 1980s and 1990s
- The "Washington Consensus and the Return of Neo-Liberal Development Strategy -- and Its Critics

Read:

1. Nancy Birdsall, "Life is Unfair: Inequality in the World" (electronic reserve)
2. Ransom, "The Dictatorship of Debt" (electronic reserve)
3. Hanlon and Pettifor, "Kicking the Habit" (electronic reserve)

Tuesday, February 15:

- The End of the Cold War: Democratization, Liberalization, Globalization, Marginalization

Read:

1. Samuel Huntington, *The Third Wave*, excerpts (electronic reserve)

Thursday, February 17: Review #1, in class

Part II: Contemporary Trends and Challenges in the Developing World

Feb. 21: President's Day

Tuesday, Feb. 22:

- Trends in Governance: Hyphenated-Democratization, Backsliding, or Consolidation?

Read: Thomas Carothers, "Democracy without Illusions" (electronic reserve)

Thursday, Feb. 24:

- The State and Service Delivery

Read:

1. World Bank, *World Development Report 2004* Overview, chapters 1-6, 10.

Feb 26-March 6 – Spring Break, no class

Tuesday, March 8:

- The State and Social Delivery, cont'd: Key Sectors

Read: World Bank, *World Development Report 2004*, chapters 7-9.

Thursday, March 10:

- Failed States, State Collapse, and Complex Emergencies

Read:

1. Robert Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy," *The Atlantic Monthly* (electronic reserve)
2. Zartman, "Posing the Problem of State Collapse" (electronic reserve)

Tuesday, March 15:

- The New Wars

Read:

1. Keen, "Incentives and Disincentives for Violence," in Berdal and Malone, eds., *Greed and Grievance: Economic Agendas in Civil Wars* (electronic reserve)

Wednesday March 16: 7:00-7:30pm, short film, Yusuf Shaheen, "Cairo: As I See It," Chambers 1003

Thursday, March 17:

- Sectarian Politics: The Rise of Political Islam
- Ethno-politics in the Developing World

Read:

1. Bowen, "Ethnic Conflicts: Challenging the Myths" (electronic reserve)
2. Wiktorowicz, "The New Global Threat: Transnational Salafis and Jihad" (electronic reserve)

Tuesday, March 22:

- Challenges of Globalization

Read: World Bank, *Globalization, Growth, and Poverty*, all

Thursday, March 24:

- Challenges of Globalization, continued

Review #2, Take-home exam, handed out in class March 24, due in class Tuesday April 5.

March 24: Maundy Thursday

March 25: Good Friday

March 26-29 – Easter Break, no class

Part III: Contemporary Trends and Challenges in International Development Assistance

Thursday, March 31:

- Criticisms of the Aid Industry

Read:

1. Coggins, “The Development Set” (poem) (class handout)
2. Hancock, *Lords of Poverty*, excerpts (electronic reserve)
3. Naim, “Fads and Fashions in Economic Reform: Washington Consensus or Washington Confusion?” (electronic reserve)
4. Stiglitz, “The Insider” (electronic reserve)

Tuesday, April 5:

- Reforms and Innovations in Development Assistance: Does Aid Work?
- How Do We Know if Aid Works? Challenges of Monitoring and Impact Assessment

Read:

1. World Bank, *Does Aid Work?* Excerpts (electronic reserve)
2. Menkhaus, “Impact Assessment in Peacebuilding Projects: The State of the Art.” (electronic reserve)

Thursday, April 7:

- Humanitarian Intervention: Learning to Respond to Complex Emergencies

Read:

1. Weiss and Collins, *Humanitarian Challenges and Interventions*, intro, ch 2, 5. (electronic reserve)

Tuesday, April 12:

- Peace enforcement and nation-building: challenges of militarized intervention

Read:

1. Weiss and Collins, *Humanitarian Challenges and Interventions*, ch 6 (electronic reserve)

Thursday, April 14:

- Post-conflict Assistance: State of the Art
- Prevention and Third World Sovereignty

Read:

1. Menkhaus, “Conflict Prevention and Human Security: Issues and Challenges.” (electronic reserve)
2. Menkhaus, “Vicious Circles and the Security-Development Nexus in Somalia” (electronic reserve)

Tuesday, April 19:

- Development as Global Security Agenda – Third World and Terrorism

Read:

1. Powell, “No Country Left Behind” (electronic reserve)

2. Center for Global Development, *On the Brink: Weak States and US National Security* (electronic reserve)
3. Menkhaus, "Quasi-States, Nation-Building, and Terrorist Safe Havens." (electronic reserve)

Thursday, April 21:

- Debt Forgiveness and HIPC
- Millenium Development Goals: Halving World Poverty

Read:

1. Easterly, "Debt Relief: Think Again" (electronic reserve)
2. "Millenium Development Goals" articles TBA (electronic reserve)

April 21: Islamic holiday of the Prophet's Birthday

April 24: First day of Passover

Tuesday, April 26:

- Rights-based Approaches to Development

Read:

1. Peter Uvin, *Human Rights and Development*, all

Thursday, April 28:

- Trade, Not Aid – Trends in Preferential Trade Access as Development Catalyst
- Direct Foreign Investment and the Impact of China's Economic Growth on the Third World

Lecture/discussion only

April 30: Last day of Passover

May 1: Orthodox Easter

Tuesday, May 3:

- The Future of Aid, Development, and the Third World: Can the Development Industry "Put Itself Out of Business" in Your Lifetime?

Read:

1. Excerpts from the forthcoming book by Jeffery Sachs, *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time* (electronic reserve)

Thursday, May 5: Reading Day

May 6-11: Final exam week (May 6-9 for seniors)

May 15 -- Commencement