Political Science 368 (Winter 2019)
The Political Economy of Development

Northwestern University
Department of Political Science
Tues. & Thur. 9:30 - 10:50PM, Harris Hall L07

Instructor: Jordan Gans-Morse
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COURSE SUMMARY

Why are some countries rich and others poor? This course explores key factors that shape the development trajectory of nations, drawing on work from political science, economics, and sociology. We will examine various aspects of development, including but not limited to economic growth. A primary focus of the course is how political institutions influence development outcomes. Topics covered include the relationship between democracy and development, the role of the state, consequences of natural resources and corruption, and the impact of foreign aid. Lectures and readings will include examples from various countries around the world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to complete all required readings prior to each lecture and to attend all lectures and discussion sections. If you have a legitimate reason to miss a session (e.g., a religious holiday), please discuss this with the professor and your TA at the beginning of the term. Neither the readings nor the lecture slides will provide comprehensive coverage of the materials you are expected to know for the paper and exams.

There will be three assignments: a midterm exam, a 5- to 7-page paper, and a final exam. The paper assignment and exams will be based on the lectures and required readings. Evaluation in the course will be decided as follows:

Midterm: 25%
Paper: 25%
Final: 30%
Attendance and Participation: 20%

*Syllabus prepared in collaboration with Simeon Nichter of UCSD*
The midterm will be held on **Thursday, February 7** during the regular lecture time. The paper will be due on **Monday, March 11 at noon**. The final exam will be held on **Tuesday, March 19** from **12:00-2:00PM**.

Late assignments will be penalized a half grade per day late (e.g., an A becomes an A-, an A- becomes a B+, etc.), with the exception of documented cases of illness or family crisis. In such cases, a request must be made to the professor and TA prior to the assignment’s due date. The failure to turn in a paper or to attend an exam session will result in an F for the given assignment. Papers previously or simultaneously submitted for another course will not be accepted.

**RESEARCH STUDY PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT**

Students enrolled in this course are required to complete a research assignment that can include up to four hours of research study participation. These studies require that students set up an appointment to complete participation at a laboratory on campus (or via an on-line survey). Students will learn how studies are conducted and will receive a synopsis at the conclusion of the quarter describing the study’s goal, result, and relevance to the class. Students who prefer not to participate in research as a subject may opt for an alternative that entails reading any one chapter about political science research and writing a 5-page reaction paper. The typical chapter is about 20 pages and thus reading it and writing a 5-page paper should take approximately four hours.

During the first week of the quarter, students will receive an e-mail asking them whether they prefer study participation or the alternative assignment. The e-mail will also include details on how to complete either requirement. Failure to complete the requirement during the quarter will result in an incomplete. Failure to complete the requirement during the following quarter will result in a failing grade for the class. *Note that if you are enrolled in multiple classes that require participation, you only need to satisfy the requirement one time. Also, if you already completed the requirement in another course in a previous quarter, you are excused from the requirement.*

**IN-CLASS ELECTRONICS POLICY**

Please turn all phones off before the lecture. Note that this implies no texting as well as no calls. Laptops may be used for note taking only. Use of email, Facebook, or other activities unrelated to lecture is strictly prohibited and may result in a grade deduction.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Instructors are required by university policy to report violations of academic integrity standards to the Dean’s Office. A non-exhaustive list of behaviors that violate standards of academic integrity includes: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, obtaining an unfair advantage, aiding and abetting dishonesty, falsification of records and official documents, and unauthorized access to computerized academic or administrative records or systems. Note that even unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether
to cite or how to cite a source, then confer with the professor or teaching assistant. Information about Northwestern’s academic integrity policies can be found at http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/students/integrity/.

You are strongly encouraged to take issues of academic integrity seriously. Nearly 20 Northwestern students were suspended last year due to violations of academic integrity standards. Such violations can end up on your academic record and may become a red flag for employers and graduate schools.

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

All necessary accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. Please notify the professor at the beginning of the term so that we can work together with AccessibleNU to make arrangements.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, the aim is that you will have improved your ability to:

- Apply critical thinking and analysis to the study of contemporary political and economic events;
- Apply analytical writing skills;
- Use theories of comparative politics and political economy to develop explanations of variation across political systems and across countries.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

There are *no required books* for this course. All readings will be made available in electronic form through Blackboard.

While no book purchases are mandatory, I encourage those of you with a strong interest in development to consider purchasing your own copies of the following books, from which we will be reading excerpts:

- Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (Oxford University Press, 2007)
COURSE OVERVIEW

Lecture 1: Introduction and Overview of Development Indicators
Tuesday, January 8

  o Read pages 27-31, 44-48, 125-130
- Hans Rosling, TED lecture
  o www.ted.com/talks/hans_roslingShowsTheBestStatsYouVeEverSeen.html

Lecture 2: What is Development?
Thursday, January 10

  o Chapters 1 and 2
  o Chapter 1

Lecture 3: Traditional Economic Approaches to Development
Tuesday, January 15

  o Read pages 1-18
  o Chapters 2 and 3

Lecture 4: Fundamental Causes of Growth – Geography, Global Markets, and Trade
Thursday, January 17

Lecture 5: Fundamental Causes of Growth – Institutions  
*Tuesday, January 22*

  - Chapter 1
  - Read pages 7-9, Chapter 2 (all), and pages 70-79
  - Read pages 3-10

Lecture 6: Inequality and Development  
*Thursday, January 24*

- Andrew Berg and Jonathan Ostry, “Equality and Efficiency: Is There a Trade-Off Between the Two or Do They Go Hand in Hand?” *Finance & Development* (September 2011)
  - Read pages 1-9

Lecture 7: Democracy and Development  
*Tuesday, January 29*

  - Chapter 2
  - Read pages 79-95

Lecture 8: Case Study – Non-Democratic Development in Chile and China  
*Thursday, January 31*

  - Chapter 7
Lecture 9: Rule of Law, Property Rights, and Development  
*Tuesday, February 5*

  - Read pages 1-12  
  - Chapter 2

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7: MIDTERM EXAM**

Lecture 10: Case Study – Property Rights in Russia and China  
*Tuesday, February 12*

  - Read pages 297-314, 318-322

Lecture 11: States and Development  
*Thursday, February 14*

  - Read pages 47-60  
  - Chapter 10

Lecture 12: Case Study – Statist Development in East Asia and Latin America  
*Tuesday, February 19*

  - Read pages 1-34  
  - Read pages 14-24
Lecture 13: Corruption and Development  
Thursday, February 21

  - Chapter 12
  - Chapter 4

Lecture 14: Clientelism  
Tuesday, February 26

  - Read pages 3-23
  - Chapter 4 and Conclusion

Lecture 15: Natural Resources and Development  
Thursday, February 28

- Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (Oxford University Press, 2007)
  - Chapter 3
  - Read pages 1-14 and Chapter 6

Lecture 16: Aid and Development  
Tuesday, March 5

- Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (Oxford University Press, 2007)
  - Chapter 7
Lecture 17: The Future of Development/Review

Thursday, March 7

- Pew Research Center, “Emerging and Developing Economies More Optimistic than Rich Countries About the Future” (October 9, 2014)

MONDAY, MARCH 11: PAPER DUE BY NOON

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 12:00-2:00PM: FINAL EXAM