**Comparative Political Economy of Development**  
**WWS 561/POL 523**  
**Princeton University**  
**Fall 2005**

Professor: Deborah Yashar  
Time: Wed 1:30-4:30  
219 Bendheim Hall  
Room: Robertson Hall, Bowl 1  
Phone: 258-2771  
Office Hours: Thursdays, 2-4  
Email: dyashar@princeton.edu  
Discussion Sections, if needed: TBD  
Course Grader: Maya Tudor

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is a graduate-level course on the comparative political economy of development. The class is organized around three main questions:

**Part I:**  
**Concepts: What is Development?**
What constitutes development? And what kind of development is desirable and likely? The course begins by reading key debates and discussing their theoretical and practical implications.

**Part II:**  
**What are Classic Questions/Prevailing Arguments about Development?**
One of the central tropes in the field has been the debate about states and markets. While neoclassical and neoliberal policies have emphasized the importance of markets, it was once commonly argued that the state was a necessary agent of development. We evaluate this central debate and juxtapose it against other arguments about regime type (democracy versus authoritarianism) and social capital. This section of the course, therefore, provides the analytic arsenal for evaluating different development paths.

To evaluate these debates, we will consider why some parts of the developing world succeeded at "development," while others have not? For whereas East Asia has often been viewed as economically successful (at least until recently), sub-Saharan Africa has just as often been treated as a failure. Latin America and South Asia are commonly perceived as mixed cases, with both pockets of success and failure. This section will focus mostly on the arguments, but we will analyze these arguments in light of these different developmental trajectories.

**Part III:**  
**What Are Some of the Contemporary Challenges for Development?**
This section focuses on several contemporary challenges and policy debates. We begin by analyzing crises that have precipitated state action (state failures, neoliberal reforms) and then turn to ongoing domestic challenges, including poverty, redistribution, gendered development, health, and activism. We conclude by debating foreign aid and the challenges and opportunities that it poses for development.
OVERVIEW OF TOPICS

Part I: Concepts

Week 1 (September 21)  What is Development?

Part II: Classic Questions

Week 2 (September 28)  States and Development
Week 3 (October 5)  Democracy and Development
Week 4 (October 12)  Civil Society and Social Capital

Part III: Contemporary Challenges

Week 5 (October 19)  Debating the Role of States and Institutions
Week 6 (October 26)  The Washington Consensus, Neoliberal Reforms….

Fall Recess (October 29-November 6)

Week 7 (November 9)  Poverty, Inequality, and Redistribution
Week 8 (November 16)  Health, Development, and Human Rights
Week 9 (November 23)  From Women &/in Development to Gender in Development

Thanksgiving Vacation (November 24-25)

Week 10 (November 30)  Civil War, Development, and Postwar Reconstruction
Week 11 (December 7)  Activism, NGOs, and Protest: Transnational Movements
Week 12 (December 14)  Foreign Aid, Development Assistance, and the Millennium Development Goals
**Readings for the Course**

**Recommended and Required:** Each week you will see a list of required and recommended readings.

All required readings are on reserve at the WWS Library. Most of these will be on e-reserve. Where possible, I have included web links.

The recommended readings are not on reserve and I do not expect you to read these for class. I have included these recommended lists for those of you who might be particularly interested in any given theme.

**First Week’s Class:** You are expected to do the readings prior to the first class as there will be a discussion on that first day (September 21).

**Getting Access to Readings for First Week:** If you are enrolled for the class, you should be able to access readings via Blackboard (the course webpage). If you cannot do so, contact me and I will send you the ID and Password to access the readings via the library webpage.

**Books Available for Purchase at U-Store**

Several books are available at the Princeton University Bookstore. One can, of course, also buy these books online at Amazon.com and/or other internet bookstores.

**Required:**

Course Requirements:

Class Participation: The course depends on active and ongoing participation by all members of the seminar. Participation includes:

a. Weekly Discussions: 20%
   Seminar participants are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings on a weekly basis.

b. Précis: 10%
   Each week, 2 people will generally take responsibility for the readings, including writing a 2-3 page precis that a) lays out the main argument(s), b) critically evaluates the readings, and c) poses questions for class discussion. These handouts will be distributed via email to the rest of the class by Wednesday at 9AM. In class, presenters will then make an informal five-minute presentation designed to initiate focused and critical discussion of the readings.

Three short paper (6-8 pages). Each seminar participant will write three papers. The papers do not require any outside reading. Rather they are intended to provide you with the forum to address, analyze, and compare the readings discussed in each part of the course.

a. One 7-8 Page Critical Literature Review (25%)
   Paper focuses on readings from Parts I and II. Due on October 17 by noon.

b. One 7-8 Page Policy Paper (25%)
   Paper focuses on one of the themes introduced in Part III. Paper is due no later than December 5 by noon.

c. One 7-8 Page Group Memo: (20%)
   Small groups will be assigned to write a short “consensus paper” for the last class. Papers will focus on one of the two topics noted below. These papers will replace the individual précis and presentations noted in 1b above. Group memos will be distributed to the entire class via email on December 14 for discussion in the last class.
   - How should we define development?
   - Possibility for agency (on an issue of your choice: i.e., poverty, health, postwar reconstruction, etc.) in the contemporary global economy?

NB: Ph.D. Students have the option of writing a 25-30 page research paper in lieu of these three short papers. Students pursuing this option must notify me of this choice and topic by October 17. Paper is due by January 5.

Late Policy. Extensions will only be granted in case of emergency. This is out of respect to those who have abided by deadlines, despite equally hectic schedules.
PART I: CONCEPTUALIZING DEVELOPMENT

WEEK 1 (SEPTEMBER 21): WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT?

**Required:** NB: Come to class ready to discuss these readings.


**Recommended**


PART II: CLASSIC QUESTIONS

WEEK 2 (SEPTEMBER 28): STATES AND DEVELOPMENT

Required:


• Atul Kohli. 2004. State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Read Book with particular attention given to the argument outlined in Introduction and Conclusion (1-26, 367-425). Skim the case studies (South Korea, Brazil, India and Nigeria), and focus energies on main themes, logic of argumentation, empirical substantiation, and generalizability; you do no need to command all of the empirical details for discussion.

Recommended on role of the state:


Raúl Prebisch.

Chalmers Johnson. MITI and the Japanese Miracle


Kiren Chaudhry. “The Myths of the Market and the Common History of Late Developers.” *Politics and Society* 21, no. 3 (September 1993) 245-274.


**Recommended on Markets and Modernization**


Max Weber. *The Protestant Ethic*


WEEK 3: (OCTOBER 5) DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT:

Required:


- Amartya Sen. Development as Freedom, Chs. 6-7 (pp. 146-188).


Recommended:


WEEK 4 (OCTOBER 12): CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

Required:


Recommended on Social Capital


Recommended on Culture and Modernization
Max Weber. The Protestant Ethic.


Mitchell A. Seligson and John T. Passé-Smith, eds., Development and Under-Development: The Political Economy of Inequality.


PART III: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

WEEK 5 (OCTOBER 19): DEBATING THE ROLE OF STATES AND INSTITUTIONS

Required:

• Anne Krueger. “Government Failures in Development.” Journal of Economic Perspectives 4, no. 3 (Summer) 9-23.


Recommended:

John Waterbury. Exposed to Innumerable Delusions: Public Enterprise and State Power in Egypt, India, Mexico, and Turkey


Dani Rodrik, “Getting Institutions Right” (April 2004) http://ksghome.harvard.edu/~drodrik/ifo-institutions%20article%20_April%202004_.pdf

WEEK 6 (OCTOBER 26): THE WASHINGTON CONSENSUS, NEOLIBERAL REFORMS AND THE POLITICS OF ECONOMIC REFORM

Required:


Recommended:


Javier Corrales. “Market Reforms in Latin America: Why they were done and why there were not so market-oriented.” In Jorge I. Domínguez and Michael Shifter, eds., Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America. (forthcoming).


**FALL RECESS (OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 6)**
WEEK 7 (NOVEMBER 9): POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND REDISTRIBUTION

Required:


Recommended


Angus Deaton "Measuring Poverty." - July 2004 (paper available online at Deaton’s website).

Charles Tilly. Durable Inequalities. Selections


WEEK 8 (NOVEMBER 16): HEALTH, DEVELOPMENT, AND HUMAN RIGHTS,

Required:


Recommended:


WEEK 9 (NOVEMBER 23): FROM WOMEN AND/IN DEVELOPMENT (WID) TO GENDER IN DEVELOPMENT (GAD)

Required:


- Shahra Razavi and Carol Miller. 1995. From WID to GAD: Conceptual Shifts in the Women and Development Discourse. UNRISD; Fourth World Conference on Women (February).


Recommended:


Carole Sweetman and Rachel Masika. *Gender, Development and Climate Change* (Oxfam Focus on Gender Series).

Gender Justice, Development, and Rights (Paperback) by *Maxine Molyneux* (Editor), *Shahra Razavi* (Editor)

Nalini Visvanathan, Lynn Duggan, Laurie Nisonoff and Nan Wiegersma, eds., *The Women, Gender and Development Reader*.

Lourdes Beneria. *Gender, Development and Globalization: Economics as if People Mattered*.

November 24-25: Thanksgiving Holiday
WEEK 10 (NOVEMBER 30): CIVIL WAR, DEVELOPMENT, AND POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION

Required:


- Journal of Conflict Resolution 49, no. 4 (August 2005):


Recommended


WEEK 11 (DECEMBER 7): ACTIVISM, NGOS, AND PROTEST: THE ROLE OF TRANSNATIONAL MOVEMENTS

Required:

- Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, Read pp. 1-38, 199-217 closely. Read at least one case study (environment, women, and human rights) and others according to interest.


- Peter Evans and Mark Anner. “Building Bridges Across a Double-Divide: Alliances between U.S. and Latin American Labor and NGOs” Development in Practice. 14(1-2)[2004]:34-47 (also available at Evan’s website, under publications: http://sociology.berkeley.edu/faculty/EVANS/publications.htm)


Recommended:


WEEK 12 (DECEMBER 14): FOREIGN AID, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Required:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  

Recommended

Aid for the Poorest?
http://www.chronicpoverty.org/pdfs/Aid%20for%20the%20Poorest-%20WP35.pdf


**Recommended Authors on Globalization**

Eichengreen, Rodrik, Sachs, Singer, Stiglitz, Wade, among others