This course will provide a graduate level introduction to the comparative study of development. The course is organized around the issue of why some parts of the developing world have done better at “development” than other parts. Whereas Asia is often viewed as developing rapidly, sub-Saharan Africa has just as often been treated as a failure. Latin America is commonly perceived as a mixed case, with pockets of both success and failure. While defining what success or failure may mean, and qualifying these assessments as necessary, our collective focus will be on how best to understand such variations. The main contending explanations of developmental success and failure that we will examine generally point to varying roles of national states, markets and of globalization.

The course is divided into three parts. After a brief overview that will emphasize the interaction of states, markets and globalization as our conceptual framework, we will examine a variety of development pathways. The readings will introduce you to main regions of the developing world—and to their experience with development—as well as to same specific countries. I will often draw my examples from four cases, namely, Korea, Nigeria, India, and Brazil. The cross-regional focus will also enable us to discuss some standard issues that ought to be covered in such a course: state-led growth, growth versus distribution, managing external dependencies, structural adjustment, role of institutions, and democracy versus authoritarianism. We will finally end the course by focusing on emerging issues that cut across the regions and that are likely to be significant enough to merit our special attention. I have picked four such issues for discussion: Globalization; Democracy, Ethnic Conflict; and Distribution and Poverty.

Course Requirements:

The course is designed as a heavy reading course. Do notice that no readings are assigned for the first and the last session. If you spread out your ten week concentrated readings over 12 weeks, the reading load ought to be manageable. All seminar members will be expected to keep up with the readings and to participate in discussions; a grade
will be assigned to the quality of participation in the precepts. There will be two take-home exams, a mid-term and a final. I will provide further details in the class. Doctoral students will have the option of writing a research paper. Depending on the size of the class, the structure of the course and of the assignments may have to be modified. Three precepts (discussion groups) are currently scheduled; each will meet for one hour on Wednesday mornings (starting in the second week of the course; the time for one of these three precepts may be changed; location of where these precepts will meet will be announced in class).

**Readings:**

All “required” readings are (or ought to be) on e-reserve set up by the WWS library. The books that you will read cover to cover (or nearly) have been ordered at the university bookstore and ought to be available; these are listed below. You can also order these from Amazon.

**Books Ordered:**


Weekly Course Topics and Readings

Session 1: Introduction to the course; no readings are assigned for the first week.

Note: Do get started on readings for next week and try to stay ahead.

Session 2: Four major debates in comparative political economy of development:
   a. States versus Markets
   b. Global arena: opportunity or constraint
   c. Growth versus Distribution (as ends but also as means)
   d. Democracy versus Authoritarianism (as ends but also as means)

Robert Wade, Governing the Market 1990. 8-33.


Supplementary Readings:


Peter Evans, et al., *Bringing the State Back In*, 1985.


**Session 3: The East Asian “Miracle”**


Atul Kohli, *State-Directed Development*, Chs. 1-3 (skim Ch. 1).


**Supplementary Readings:**

**Note:** Korea Economic Institute of America publishes an annual review of the Korean economy that provides a non-technical overview of recent developments; the opening issue of *Asian Survey* every year provides articles that analyze recent political and economic developments in all major Asian countries, including South Korea.


Session 4: From Crisis to Crisis in Africa


Atul Kohli, *State-Directed Development,* Chs. 8 and 9 (skim Ch. 8).

Supplementary Readings:

Steven Radelet, *Emerging Africa: How 17 Countries are Leading the Way,* 2010

Dambiso Moyo, *Dead Aid: Why Aid is not working and how there is a better way for Africa,* 2009.


Nicholas van de Walle, *Overcoming Stagnation in Aid-Dependent Countries,* 2005.


**Session 5: Dependent Development and Beyond: Latin America**


Atul Kohli, *State-Directed Development*, Chs. 4 and 5 (skim ch. 4).

Kurt Weyland, et. al. eds, *Leftist Governments in Latin America*, 2010 (selections)

**Supplementary Readings:**


*Daedalus*, Spring 2000 (Special issue on Brazil).


**Session 6: From Slow to High Growth: India**

Atul Kohli, *State-Directed Development*, Chs. 6 and 7 (skim Ch. 6).

Atul Kohli, *Poverty amid Plenty in the New India: Politics, Economics and Inequality* (forthcoming; ms. on reserve; depending on your interests, feel free to skip the long chapter on regional diversities).


**Supplementary Readings:**


Baldev Raj Nayar, India’s Mixed Economy, 1989.


**Session 7: Communism and Beyond: China**

Barry Naughton, The Chinese Economy: Transition and Growth, 2007, 55-112, 209-227 (if the Chinese economy is of special interest to you, also read pp. 271-325 in this volume; these pages will not be on e-reserve for copyright reasons).


**Supplementary Readings:**

Marc Blecher, China Against the Tide, 2010.


Barry Naughton, Growing Out of the Plan, 1995.


**Session 8: Globalization**


**Supplementary Readings:**

Colin Crouch, *The Strange Non-Death of Neoliberalism*, 2011


*Studies in Comparative International Development*, December 2009 (especially articles by Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Peter Evans; I also have an essay in this volume from which I will present some materials during the class).


Session 9: Democracy


Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War, 2010, 3-36.

Supplementary Readings:


Session 10: Ethnic Conflicts


Supplementary Readings:


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**Session 11: Poverty and Distribution**


United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Combating Poverty and Inequality, 2010, Overview (1-28) and Chapter 10 (257-82.)

**Supplementary Readings:**


Bina Agarwal, A Field of One’s Own, 1994.


Amartya Sen, Poverty and Famines, 1981.
Session 12: Conclusion (If you have not read it, please read the Conclusion to Kohli, State-Directed Development).