

International Development

Erin Lentz

SRH 3.257

Office Hours 2:30-4:30pm Thursdays

Course overview: Why are some nations rich and some nations poor? What seems to work or doesn't in the practice of global development? How do we know? What roles do institutions such as states, international agencies, civil society, and transnational corporations play? This class will seek to answer those questions. We will read studies employing diverse ideologies and methods to understand what has and has not worked in international development. In most weeks, we will complement key readings with a case study. This course focuses on both macro and micro approaches in development studies as well as a critical look at the role of international development aid. Much of our discussion will focus on historical experiences, debates and strategies for producing growth, reducing poverty and inequality, and improving societies' well-being.

Student progress will be evaluated on the basis of performance along four criteria: (1) a take-home final assignment; (2) a take-home mid-term; (3) leading two in-class discussions of readings and case studies; and (4) class participation. This is a reading-intensive course. Students should be prepared to read the equivalent of about one book or four scholarly articles per week.

Course objectives: My aim is for students to leave the class understanding what the main "schools of thought" are in development policy and practice today, and how the beliefs and assumptions within these schools lead to particular policy solutions. My goal is for students to leave the class able to understand what the underlying assumptions are that drive current approaches to development, assess whether the assumptions are reasonable / accurate, and consider the evidence of outcomes (when possible).

READINGS

- Required books available for purchase from the UT Coop, as well as from other locations.
 - Nick Cullather (2010) *The Hungry World: America's Cold War Battle Against Poverty in Asia*.
 - James Ferguson (1994) *The Antipolitics Machine: "Development", Depoliticization and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho*.
 - James Scott (1998) *Seeing like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*.
 - Dani Rodrik (2011) *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy*.
- Other articles and books are posted in Canvas for each class. Recommended readings are generally indented in each Module. Check your syllabus to verify which are required and which are recommended.
- Case studies are generally links in the syllabus. In some cases, readings may be posted in Canvas. Note that some case materials are videos.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Your course grade will be determined by:

- Attendance / participation: 15%
- Leading a case study 2 times: 10% each x 2 = 20%
- Submitting a reflection 2 times: 10% each x 2 = 20%
- Take-home midterm: 20%

- Final book review: 25%

Course work will emphasize direct engagement with primary materials and data and will focus on building critical writing, analytical and presentation skills that will demonstrate a broad understanding of the key issues and challenges facing international development today. Student responsibilities are as follows:

1. Attend class on a regular and punctual basis. Please notify me prior to class if you need to miss a class. One unexcused absence over the course of the semester is fine.
2. Complete the assigned reading for the scheduled class and participate actively, and productively in class.
3. Complete a take-home midterm, due **November 15, 2016, at 8pm.**
4. Lead class discussion twice, with one to two partners. Each leader will post to Canvas a short reflection piece prior to that week's discussion.
 - Discussion leaders will be responsible for guiding the class through the readings and for explaining how the readings can help us unpack the case (or vice versa). Barring exceptional situations, your group will receive the same grade for leading discussion.
 - Each student leader will post on Canvas a short reflection piece about the week's reading(s). The piece should be no more than 2 single spaced pages. The reflection should include (1) short synthesis of the reading(s) (2) how this reading relates to prior readings or to other readings in this week (3) discussion questions for the class. Your piece will be graded independently of your group.
 - Discussion groups can split up the readings for the reflection pieces. However, each person should be able to explain how the reading fits in with other readings that week or with readings from earlier classes. *Reflection pieces are due Tuesdays at 8pm on Canvas.*
5. Complete a book-review as final. **Post to Canvas by the start of our scheduled exam time (tbd).**

Some fine print:

- Texting, checking facebook, surfing the web, etc. are unacceptable during class-time. Your participation grade will be impacted if you spend time in class undertaking such activities.
- The syllabus, particularly the second half and the assigned case studies, is subject to change, depending on the pacing of the course and student interests.
- Please contact me if you have anything you would like to talk to me about that would help me work with you. Students with University-recognized disabilities who may need classroom accommodations should contact me as soon as possible. All discussions will remain confidential.
- Before you send me an email, check the course syllabus, other handouts, and the course website. Note that I check email at least once a day, usually in the morning. I do not necessarily check email over the weekend or outside of working hours. Therefore, please plan ahead.

Class 1: Development of what? For whom?

August 25, 2016

- James Ferguson. 1994. "Preface" *The Antipolitics Machine: "Development, Depoliticization, and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho."* University of Minnesota Press.
- Milanovic, B. 2004. "Chapter 1: The Three Concepts of Inequality Defined" *Worlds apart: Measuring International and global inequality 1950-2000*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Pp. 7-11
- Milanovic, B. 2004. "Chapter 2: The Other Differences Between Concepts" *Worlds apart: Measuring International and global inequality 1950-2000*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Pp. 12-19.
- Jerven, Morten. 2013. "Chapter 1: What do we know about income and growth in Africa?" *Poor Numbers: How We Are Misled by African Development Statistics and What to Do about It*: Cornell University Press.

Recommended:

- Alexander, Ruth 2012 "Dollar benchmark: The rise of the \$1-a-day statistic." BBC magazine. March 9. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17312819>
- Barbie savior: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-36132482>

Class 2: Inequality, poverty and health in broad perspective. And will we converge?

September 1, 2016

- *Bring laptop to class, if possible.*
- Deaton, A. 2013. "Chapter 3: Escaping Death in the Tropics" *The Great Escape: health, wealth, and the origins of inequality*. Princeton.
- Steven Radelet. 2015. "Chapter 1: A Great Transformation." "Chapter 2: Breakthrough from the Bottom" and "Chapter 13: Getting to Good." *The Great Surge: the ascent of the developing world*. Simon and Schuster.
- Milanovic, B. 2016. "Chapter 4: Global inequality in this century and next." *Global inequality: a new approach for the age of globalization*. Harvard University Press.

Case: \$2 a day poverty

- Angus Deaton: <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/globalization-hurts-poor-in-rich-countries-by-angus-deaton-2016-06>
- Response from Open Democracy Institute: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/democraciaabierta/vicen-navarro/world-poverty-misconceptions-of-winner-of-nobel-prize-in-economics>
- Response from Adam Smith Institute: <http://www.adamsmith.org/blog/angus-dollar>

Recommended:

- Frank, Andre Gunder. 1966. "Chapter 1: The development of underdevelopment" *The development of underdevelopment*: New England Free Press.
- Acemoglu, D. and J. Robinson. 2012. "Chapter 9: Reversing Development: Spice and Genocide." *Why nations fail: The origins of power, prosperity, and poverty*: Crown Business. Pp. 245-273.'
- <http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2014/08/america-poverty-global-context/how-poor-are-americas-poorest.pdf>

Logics of Development

September 8, 2016

Class 3: Modernization theory

- Rostow (1990(1960)) “Chapter 2: The five stages-of-growth—a summary” in *The Economic Stages of Growth: A non-communist manifesto*.
- Nick Cullather. 2010. *The Hungry World: America’s Cold War Battle Against Poverty in Asia*. Harvard University Press.

Case: Golden Rice

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ayv_EYi43E8
- <http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2013/03/07/173611461/in-a-grain-of-golden-rice-a-world-of-controversy-over-gmo-foods>
- <http://irri.org/blogs/golden-rice-blog/a-senseless-fight>

September 15, 2016

Class 4: High Modernism

- James Scott. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How certain schemes to improve the human condition have failed*. Yale University Press. Introduction, Part 1 (Chapters 1 – 3); Part 3 (Chapters 6-10)

Case: Gibe III dam in Ethiopia

- <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/mar/07/ethiopia-controversial-dam-criticism-communities>
- <http://www.mursi.org/pdf/dag-letter-to-goe-18-march-2014>
- <http://www.mursi.org/pdf/Meles%20Jinka%20speech.pdf>
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-30623571>

September 22, 2016

Class 5: Development as the Antipolitics Machine:

- James Ferguson. 1994. Read Chapters 1-3; skim 4-6; Read 9 & Epilogue. *The Antipolitics Machine: “Development, Depoliticization, and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho.”* University of Minnesota Press.

Case: The World Bank and Lesotho today

- <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lesotho/overview>
- 2006 World Bank’s Lesotho Country Assistance Strategy:
- http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/05/27/000334955_20100527043901/Rendered/PDF/517870CAS0p112101OfficialUseOnly1.pdf

September 29, 2016

Class 6: Washington Consensus, structural adjustment

- Van de Walle, N. 2001 “Introduction” and “Chapter 1: Approaches to Africa’s Permanent Crisis.” *African Economics and the Politics of Permanent Crisis: 1979-1999*. Cambridge
- Williamson, J. (2000) “What should the World Bank think about the Washington Consensus?” *World Bank Research Observer* 15(2). Pp.251-64
- Birdsall, N. and Fukuyama, F. (2011) “The Post-Washington Consensus” in *Foreign Affairs*. March/April.
- William Finnegan. “The economics of empire: Notes on the Washington Consensus.” *Harper’s*

Magazine.

Case: Development of commodities market in Ethiopia

- Dr. Gabre-Madhin, founder of the commodities market:
https://www.ted.com/talks/elene_gabre_madhin_on_ethiopian_economics?language=en
- <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-04-02/africa-s-commodity-exchanges-fail-to-bring-hoped-for-benefits>

Recommended:

- Film: A fate worse than debt (1989): Crelis.nl/?p=1486
- Carter, M. and Barrett, C. B. 2001. "Can't Get Ahead for Falling Behind" *Choices*. Winter.
<http://farmdoc.illinois.edu/policy/choices/20024/2002-4-06.pdf>
- Sebastian Vollmer et al. 2014. "Association between economic growth and early childhood undernutrition: evidence from 121 Demographic and Health Surveys from 36 low-income and middle-income countries" *The Lancet Global Health*, Volume 2, Issue 4, Pages e225 - e234, April.

October 6, 2016: Dr. Lentz is out;

Make up class scheduled for Monday, October 3, 7-8:30pm (tbc)

Class 7: Human Development and Capabilities Approach & Empowerment

- Amartya Sen (1999) *Development as Freedom* pp. 3-53
- Naila Kabeer (1999) "Resources, Agency, Achievements: Reflections on the measurement of empowerment." *Development and Change*.
- Uvin, P. 2007. "From the Right to Development to the Rights-Based Approach: How 'human rights' entered development" *Development in Practice*.

Case: Right to information and accountability in Bangladesh

- Nijera Kori: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQ_pq4_aWNw
- 2009 Summary of Bangladesh's Right to Information Act (skim)
 - <https://www.article19.org/resources.php/resource/38129/en/country-report:-the-right-to-information-in-bangladesh>

October 13, 2016

Class 8: Rights, Ethics and Development

- Class led by Prof. Stacey Kosko

October 20, 2016

Class 9: Globalization, Trade, & East Asian Miracle:

- Ferguson (2006) "Chapter 1: Globalizing Africa?: Observations from an Inconvenient Continent" from *Global Shadows: Africa in the neoliberal world order*
- Rodrik, D. (2011) "Introduction: Recasting Globalization's Narrative"; "Chapter 7: Poor countries in a rich world" ; "Chapter 8: Trade fundamentalism in the tropics"; "Chapter 12: A sane globalization" in *The Globalization Paradox*

- Dambisa Moyo. *Dead Aid: Why aid is not working and how there is a better way for Africa*. “The Republic of Dongo” (pp71-73); “Chapter 7: The Chinese are our friends”; “Chapter 8: Let’s Trade”

Case: Cotton Subsidies in the US and their impact on West Africa

- Farm Bill 2018 debates are heating up... what role is there for continued cotton subsidies?
 - <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2014/jun/19/farming-us-subsidies-west-africa-cotton>
 - <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/economic-intelligence/articles/2016-01-28/congress-should-stop-promoting-cotton-subsidies-to-benefit-the-cotton-lobby>
- Case from Per Pinstrup Andersen: <http://cip.cornell.edu/dns.gfs/1200428204>

October 27, 2016

Class 10: Microprocesses & microenterprise

- De Janvry and Sadoulet 2010. “Agricultural Growth and Poverty Reduction: Additional Evidence. *World Bank Research Observer*. 25(1).
<http://wbro.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/1/1.full>
- Elyachar, J. 2002. “Empowerment Money: The World Bank, Non-governmental organizations, and the value of culture in Egypt.” *Public Culture*. 14(3).
- C.K. Prahalad. 2004. “Chapter 1: The market at the bottom of the pyramid” *The fortune at the bottom of the pyramid*. Wharton School Publishing.

Case: Grameen Danone in Bangladesh

- Md. Yunus: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AV4WQV32ijs>
- Social Business: <http://knowledge.essec.edu/en/sustainability/a-social-business-success-story.html>
- Blog #1: <http://www.hunger-undernutrition.org/blog/2011/06/failure-or-success-waiting-to-happen-the-case-of-grameen-danone.html>
- Blog #2: <http://www.hunger-undernutrition.org/blog/2011/06/finding-the-path-forward-the-case-of-grameen-danone.html>

Recommended:

- Michelson, H. 2013. “Small farmers, NGOs, and a Walmart world: Welfare effects of supermarkets operating in Nicaragua.” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. 95(3)

November 3, 2016

Class 11: Communities, Community-led Development

- Daniel Immerwahr. 2015. “Chapter 2: Development without modernization” and “Epilogue: What is dead and what is undead in community development?” *Thinking Small: The United States and the Lure of Community Development*.
- Hardin, G. 1968. *Tragedy of the Commons*. *Science* **162** (3859): 1243–1248
- Elinor Ostrom. 1990. “Chapter 6: A framework for analysis of self-organizing and self-governing CPRs”. *Governing the commons: the evolution of institutions for collective action*. Cambridge University Press.
- Agrawal, B. “Participatory Exclusions, Community Forestry, and Gender: An analysis for South Asia and a Conceptual Framework.” *World Development*. 29(12).

Case: Bali water temples

- Stephen Lansing. 2006. "Chapter 1: Introduction" and "Chapter 4: Tyrants, Sorcerers, and Democrats" *Perfect Order: Recognizing Complexity in Bali*. Princeton University Press. (skim)
- (Watch Lansing's Ted talk here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZLLGCaz74M>)

******Midterm assigned******

November 10, 2016

Class 12: Sustainability, resilience

- Hopwood, B. et al. 2005. "Sustainable Development: Mapping Different Approaches." *Sustainable Development*.
- Barrett, C. B. and Constanas, M. 2014. "Toward a theory of resilience for international development applications." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
- Conway, G. 2012. "Chapter 17: Conclusion: Can we feed the world?" *One Billion Hungry: Can we feed the world?*

Case: Palm oil production in Southeast Asia

- http://worldgrowth.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/WG_Indonesian_Palm_Oil_Benefits_Report-2_11.pdf (skim)
- <https://ourenvironment.berkeley.edu/news/2015/12/palm-oil-expansion-triggers-ecological-cascade> (skim)
- <https://www.grain.org/article/categories/519-planet-palm-oil> (skim the document "Planet Palm Oil")

Recommended:

- DeFries R., et al. *Bioscience*. "Planetary opportunities: A social contract for global change science to contribute to a sustainable future." 62(6)

*** *Midterm due November 15, 2016 at 8pm* ***

November 17, 2016

Class 13: Macroprocesses: Role of Geography, History, Resources, Institutions

- Collier, Paul. 2008. "Chapter 1: Falling Behind and Falling Apart." And "Chapter 6: On missing the boat: the marginalization of the bottom billion in the world economy." *The bottom billion: Why the poorest countries are failing and what can be done about it*: Oxford University Press. Pp 3-13 and 79-96.
- Acemoglu, D. and J. Robinson. 2012. Chapters 3 & 4. *Why nations fail: The origins of power, prosperity, and poverty*: Crown Business.

Case: Oil in Chad

- Coll, S. (2012) "Chapter 7: The camel and the jackal" in *Private Empire*.
- World Resources Institute (2014): <http://www.wri.org/blog/2014/05/what-will-it-take-end-resource-curses>
- Guardian (2015): <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/apr/14/chad-oil-curse-africa-challenge-negative-impact>

Recommended:

- Acemoglu, D. and J. Robinson. 2012. Chapters 13 & 15. *Why nations fail: The origins of power, prosperity, and poverty*: Crown Business.

November 24th – Happy break!

December 1, 2016

Class 14: Aid, Accountability, and rise of the randomistas

- Kabeer, Naila. 2005. "Gender equality and women's empowerment: A critical analysis of the third millennium development goal 1." *Gender & Development* 13:13-24.
- Easterly, W. and Williamson, C. 2011. "Rhetoric versus Reality: The best and worst of aid agency practices." *World Development*. 39(11).
- Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo. 2011. "Chapter 1: Think, think again." "Chapter 10: Policies, politics" and "In place of a sweeping conclusion." *Poor Economics: A radical rethinking of the way to fight global poverty*. New York: Public Affairs.
- Lant Pritchett. 2013. Presentation to the conference on "Impact Evaluation: a useful tool for development effectiveness?" Office of Evaluation and Oversight, Inter-American Development Bank. November 2013. Video of presentation and powerpoints here:
<http://www.iadb.org/en/office-of-evaluation-and-oversight/impact-evaluation-an-useful-learning-tool-for-development-effectiveness,8917.html>

Case: World Humanitarian Summit or Poverty Inc (tbc):

- <http://www.povertyinc.org>
- Chair's message from WHS:
<https://consultations.worldhumanitariansummit.org/bitcache/5171492e71696bcf9d4c571c93dfc6dcd7f361ee?vid=581078&disposition=inline&op=view>
- Summary by IRIN: <http://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2016/05/26/world-humanitarian-summit-winners-and-losers>
- Blogs by Steets
 - <http://www.gppi.net/publications/humanitarian-action/article/old-habits-die-hard-at-world-humanitarian-summit/>
 - <http://www.gppi.net/publications/humanitarian-action/article/we-need-less-paperwork-and-more-aid-in-humanitarian-work/>