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Advanced Topics in Public Policy: International Development

PA 388K Spring 2014
Thursdays 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
SRH 3.316/350

Course Description:

Any foray into international development must grapple with fundamental questions regarding how we understand poverty and development and how we know what works or doesn't work in the practice of global development. We begin the course with a discussion of the ways in which we may define, observe and measure development from multiple perspectives and methodologies. We then proceed to explore the development experiences through the lens of studies, which employ different ideologies and methodologies to understand what does and does not work in international development. This section focuses on macro, meso, and micro approaches in development studies, as well as a critical look at the role of international development aid.

This iteration of the course does not offer a grand survey of the history and practice of international development, although much of our discussion will focus on historical experiences, contending debates and strategies for producing growth, reducing poverty and inequality, and improving societies' well-being. Moreover, there is not enough time in the course to delve deeply into thematic issues in global development, such as gender, governance, and the environment or the effect of the current global challenges on the developing world, such as recent volatility in food and commodity markets, climate change, and the global financial crisis. Each of these topics will surface at various times in the class.

Throughout the semester, I will emphasize exposure to multiple points of view, from varying disciplines, methodologies, and ideologies. Students will gain experience with important statistical databases (such as the World Development Indicators, Human Development Indicators, and the new Multidimensional Poverty Index), and an exposure to a wide range of both quantitative and qualitative approaches to understanding and addressing poverty. Assignments will emphasize direct engagement with primary materials 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. Please bring your laptop to class. Whenever possible, we will refer to web resources during class discussion and will do interactive exercises with online databases.

This syllabus contains material that is designed to serve as a reference for your current and future study of international development. I include a long list of blogs sites, journal suggestions, links to relevant organizations, and data sources. I also include for each week a list of recommended readings. These are for your interest only, if you should so wish to continue reading on a particular topic. While I do expect you to read the required materials for each week prior to class (and come prepared to discuss those materials), I do not expect you to have reviewed the recommended readings.

Course Agenda and Deadlines

Part I: How Do We Define and Measure Poverty?

Jan.16:	How Do We Define and Measure Poverty and Development?
Jan.23:	The Human Development and Capabilities Approach
Jan.30:	Voices of the Poor and Dynamics of Poverty
Feb.6:	New Measures of Multidimensional Poverty and Well-Being
Feb.10:	Special Class (Monday): Presentation by Nina Munk, author of “The Idealist”
Feb.13:	No class meeting - Data Exercise Groups should meet to complete exercise

Part II: What Works (or Not) in Development?

Feb.20:	Rethinking Growth and Development, Part I
Feb.27:	Rethinking Growth and Development, Part II
Mar.6:	The Political Economy of Growth and Development
Mar.13:	No Class (Spring Break)
Mar.20:	The New Development (Micro)Economics
Mar.27:	No class (Professor at ISA conference in Toronto)
Apr.3:	Randomized Experiments and Development Impact Evaluation

Part III: Global Development Aid: Problem or Solution?

April 10:	The Global Aid Industry
April 17:	The Problems with Aid
April 24:	Fixing Aid?
May 1:	Group Project Presentations

Course Deadlines:

Sun., Feb.16:	Group Data Exercise Due at 5:00 pm by email to ceweaver@austin.utexas.edu.
Sun., Feb.23:	Blog #1 due at 5:00 pm; post to Canvas.
Fri., Mar. 7:	Abstract, outline and references due at 5:00 pm for final papers (both Option A and B); send by email to Dr. Weaver
Sun., Mar.30:	Progress Reports due by 5:00 p.m., send by email to Dr. Weaver
Sun., Apr.6:	Blog #2 due at 5:00 pm; post to Canvas
Sun., Apr.13:	Rough Drafts due at 5:00 pm, two copies by email to peer reviewers and Dr. Weaver
Sun., April 20:	Peer reviews of rough drafts due, two copies by email to groups/authors and to Dr. Weaver
Thurs., May 1:	In-Class Presentations of Option A final project and panel defense
Thurs., May 8:	Final drafts for both Option A and B due at 5:00

Required Books

Nina Munk. 2013. *The Idealist: Jeffrey Sachs and the Quest to End Poverty*. New York: Doubleday.

William Easterly. 2002. *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Available online through the UT electronic library.

Ben Ramalingam. 2013. *Aid on the Edge of Chaos*. New York: Oxford University Press.

All required readings not in the above books are available on Canvas in PDF format or available as free downloads on the internet (I have provided the website addresses in the reading schedule below). I have not pre-ordered a separate coursepack and have assumed that many of you will wish to read these documents on-line or print at your discretion. NOTE: I reserve the right to add or subtract readings from the required list during the course of the semester.

News Sources

The Economist <http://www.economist.com>

Financial Times of London: <http://www.ft.com>

Wall Street Journal: <http://www.wsj.com>

New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com>

Reuters World News: <http://www.reuters.com/news/world>

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

The Guardian Global Development page: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development>

International Monetary Fund News: <http://www.imf.org/external/news.htm>

United Nations Development Program News Bulletin: <http://www.undp.org/dpa/journalists/subscribe.html>

World Bank Press Reviews, Development News, and Research Bulletins:

<http://www.worldbank.org/news>

DevEx: <https://www.devex.com/en/news>

Blogs

Blogs are often informal opinion editorials, written quickly and often without substantial supporting evidence. Never read a blog uncritically. That said, blogs can be an excellent source of very timely analysis and can point you in the direction of the latest information on policy issues. Here are some of the blog sites I follow:

The Guardian Poverty Matters blog: <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters>

Duncan Green writes a daily blog, *From Poverty to Power*, for Oxfam International (<http://www.oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/>). It is one of the best places to find the newest reports on international development and the aid industry.

Center for Global Development Policy Blogs: <http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/>

World Bank Blog on Development Impacts <http://blogs.worldbank.org/impactevaluations/>

“Africa Can End Poverty” at <http://blogs.worldbank.org/africacan/>. It also contains occasional commentaries from other prominent World Bank officials. Another good World Bank blog is the “Future Development: Economics to End Poverty” at <http://blogs.worldbank.org/futuredevelopment/>

ODI (Overseas Development Institute)’s blog at <http://blogs.odi.org.uk/blogs/main/default.aspx>

Owen Barder is a British national who has worked for over 20 years in development and is now a Senior Fellow and Director for Europe at the [Center for Global Development](#) in Washington, D.C. He runs a very interesting blog called “Owen Abroad: Thoughts on Development and Beyond” at <http://www.owen.org/about>.

Dani Rodrik, Harvard development economist, keeps a blog at http://rodrik.typepad.com/dani_rodriks_weblog/

Chris Blattman, Professor at Columbia University, keeps a blog at <http://chrisblattman.com/>

New York University’s Development Research Institute (featuring William Easterly): <http://www.nyudri.org/blog/>

Boring Development: a blog written by, and devoted to, nerds who care about the nitty-gritty, unglamorous side of development work and are very critical of development aid. A good source of leads on new development studies and evaluation reports. <http://www.boringdevelopment.com>

Innovations for Poverty Action blog: <http://www.poverty-action.org/blog>

Gates Foundation Impatient Optimists: <http://www.impatientoptimists.org/>

IMF Blog: <http://blog-imfdirect.imf.org/>

MFAN (Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network) blog: <http://www.modernizeaid.net/pressroom/blog/>

The Project Syndicate (<http://www.project-syndicate.org/>): contains numerous op-eds from prominent economists (and the occasional political scientist) such as Nouriel Roubini, Jagdish Bhagwati, Joseph Stiglitz, Barry Eichengreen, Dani Rodrik, Martin Feldstein and many more.

Financial Times Beyond BRICs: <http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/#axzz1tkQHQ2s2>

Data Sources

World Bank World Development Indicators (WDI): <http://data.worldbank.org/>

- your one-stop guide to all kinds of country-level information, ranging from GDP to literacy rates to per capita cell phone use.
- Note that the World Development Report 2011 on Conflict, Security and Development has a nifty data visualizer tool online at http://wdr2011.worldbank.org/datafinder/BubbleChart00_101.html

United Nations Data Portal: <http://data.un.org/>

- The counterpart to the World Bank’s World Development Indicators, produced annually and now with an online interactive data site. Includes the HDI, IHDI, GII, and MPI

DevInfo: <http://devinfo.org/libraries/asp/Catalog.aspx>

- New searchable database of development indicators, endorsed by the United Nations.

GapMinder: <http://www.gapminder.org/>.

- Hans Rosling’s amazing world of visualized development and global health data.

www.WolframAlpha.com:

- a computational knowledge engine that digests simple searches and spits out answers in graphical and other data visualization forms (e.g. punch in “GDP per capita Ireland and Iceland” and it instantly produces a line graph).

MEDevEcon: <https://sites.google.com/site/medevecon/development-economics/devecondata>

- website that aggregates development data

Developmentdata: <http://www.developmentdata.org>

- a useful website that collects links to sources of data from international organizations and other official agencies on all kinds of things related to development (governance, population, debt, trade., etc).

World Bank POVCAL:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTPROGRAMS/EXTPOVRES/EXTPOVCALNET/0,,contentMDK:22716987~pagePK:64168427~piPK:64168435~theSitePK:5280443~isCURL:Y,00.html>

- The World Bank’s online interactive computational tool to replicate research from the World Bank’s research group.

World Bank Poverty Net:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/0,,menuPK:336998~pagePK:149018~piPK:149093~theSitePK:336992,00.html>

- World Bank’s interactive data site on regional poverty.

World Bank Microdata Library: <http://microdata.worldbank.org/>

- another World Bank site that aggregates development data

World Health Organization Global Health Expenditure Database:

<http://apps.who.int/nha/database/ResourcesPageFolder.aspx?doc=50517591&ws=0>

- Includes country National Health Accounts (NHS) data

USAID Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)

<http://www.measuredhs.com/>

- data on population, health, HIV, and nutrition through more than 300 surveys in over 90 countries

IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO), Global Financial Stability Reports and Global Monitoring Reports:

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubind.htm>

- The World Economic Outlook (WEO) and the Global Financial Stability and Global Monitoring reports present the IMF staff’s analysis and projections of economic developments at the global level, in major country groups (classified by region, stage of development, etc.), and in many individual countries. The WEO and GFSR focus on major economic policy issues as well as on the analysis of economic developments and prospects. They are usually prepared twice a year, as documentation for meetings of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, and are primary instruments of the IMF’s global surveillance activities. The IMF also publishes WEO outlook updates on a more frequent basis.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Statistics: <http://www.unctadstat.org>

- statistics, policy analysis and other information on global trade, finance and development with a particular focus on issues relevant to developing countries.

United Nation World Income Inequality Database:

http://www.wider.unu.edu/research/Database/en_GB/database/

- data on income inequality for developed, developing, and transition countries

United Nations MDG Indicators: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx>

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development: <http://www.oecd.org>

- a good source of macroeconomic data on the OECD member states, as well as many analytical reports on salient economic policy issues

OECD Development Assistance Committee: <http://www.oecd.org/dac>

- the OECD's site for tracking official development aid data from the OECD donors. It also includes several analytical reports, evaluations, and links. For the creditor reporting system (CRS), see <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1>.

OPHI's Multidimensional Poverty Index: <http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/multidimensional-poverty-index/>

- a new development index developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, now adopted by the United Nations Development Program for integration into the annual Human Development Reports.

AidData: <http://www.aiddata.org>

- An independent course of data on international aid flows and analysis on aid, in partnership with Development Gateway.

On Academic Integrity

Students are expected to respect the LBJ School's standards regarding academic dishonesty. You owe it to yourself, your fellow students, and the institution to maintain the highest standards of integrity and ethical behavior. A discussion of academic integrity, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, as well as helpful information on citations, note taking, and paraphrasing, can be found at the Office of the [Dean of Students web page](#) and the [Office of Graduate Studies](#). The University has also established disciplinary procedures and penalty guidelines for academic dishonesty, especially Sec. 11.304 in Appendix C of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities section in UT's General Information Catalog.

Assignments and Grading

I. In-Class Participation (10%)

Minimal participation in classroom discussion requires that you read, think about, and bring to class the assigned reading materials; be prepared to discuss the reading materials; and show respect for other participants as well as the instructor. The discussion evaluation guideline attached to the end of this syllabus differentiates contributors in the following areas: mastery of material, quality of ideas, effectiveness of argumentation, respectful and active engagement of others in the discussion, and general impression. Positive and constructive class participation is not based on a quantitative measure of how many times you speak in class. Rather, good participation entails actively staying engaged during class by asking questions, making useful comments, and posing an argument relevant to the topic at hand. A willingness to play devil's advocate is encouraged.

As part of your participation, you are also expected to read and respond to the discussion board blogs. Your responses may be posted on the Canvas discussion board site (as a reply to a thread) or provided during class discussion.

II. Discussion Board Blogs (2 @ 10% each = 20%)

As part of this course, you are required to post two "blogs" on the course discussion board (available on Blackboard). The purpose of this assignment is twofold: (1) to help you critically engage with the readings and (2) gain experience in policy-oriented blogging.

You are required to blog two (2) times over the course of the semester at the specified times (see below). Each blog should be at least 500-1000 words and be written in a professional manner; ie: no incomplete sentences, improper grammar, slander, crude remarks, etc. Each of the blogs should respond to one of the provided prompts / titles, although I encourage you to be creative in how you interpret and use these prompts to shape your blog entry. Remember, the key point of a blog is to seriously engage an important topic, but to do so in an accessible, smart, fun, and jargon-free manner. Blogs should also include hyperlinks to other sources, and charts, graphs and other visuals where appropriate.

I encourage you to submit your blog entries early. If you submit the entries late (and please note that Canvas discussion board time stamps each entry), you will receive a 10% grade deduction for every 24 hours past the deadline. No exceptions will be made without prior approval, so if you are sick or have other extenuating circumstances, please email me before you miss the deadline.

Stern words aside, have fun with this. Blogging is an acquired taste, but is fast becoming a good way to hone policy-writing skills, get recognized, and develop professional networks. For good models of blog entries, see all of the above recommended blog sites.

Prompts (Choose one prompt under each topic for your blog entry):

Blog #1: Rethinking Development [Due Sunday, Feb.23 at 5:00 pm]

Prompt A: Development and Data: Beauty and the Beast?

Prompt B: What Really Defines Development?

Prompt C: The Big Push, and the Push Back: What Future for the Millennium Villages Project?

Blog #2: Getting the Incentives Right [Due Sunday, April 6 at 5:00 pm]

Prompt A: What 50 Years of Economic Orthodoxy Got Wrong

Prompt B: Scaling Up by Scaling Down: How Rigorous Impact Evaluation Can (or Cannot) Inform the MDGs

Prompt C: Institutions for Development: Can We Fixed Failed States?

III. Group Development Data Exercise (25%)

A key objective of this course is to attain familiarity with the various ways that poverty and development are defined and measured, particularly through the major sources of data collection and dissemination. This assignment is designed to help you, in groups of 3-4 students each, learn to navigate frequently used development databases, as well as compare and critically evaluate various ways of collecting relevant data and calculating levels of poverty and development. For the purpose of syncing the data exercise to the first part of our course, the exercise is organized into four parts:

Part I: Discovering Development Data

Part II: Measuring Capabilities? Measuring Vulnerabilities?

Part III: Participatory Poverty Assessment

Part IV: Exploring the MPI, GII, and GNH

The Group Data Exercise due on **Sunday, Feb.16** by 9:00 pm by email (to ceweaver@austin.utexas.edu)

IV. Final Paper – Option A: Group Regional Development Report (45%)

As a follow-on to the data exercise, this assignment is a staged group regional development report. The purpose of this report is to conduct an analysis of the current development status of a region (using the six regional groupings used by the World Bank, listed below), and derive insights and depth from 4-5 selected countries within that region. The final product will be an oral presentation and a written report composed of

three main parts: (1) introduction/overview to the region and its overall development status; (2) 4-5 chapters on individual countries within the region; (3) conclusion with policy recommendations on development priorities and strategies for the region.

Six Regional Groups (4-5 students each):

Latin America & Caribbean (LAC)
Middle East & North Africa (MENA)
Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)
East Asia & Pacific (EAP)
South Asia (SA)
Europe & Central Asia (ECA)

A critical part of this assignment will be your group's determination of what must be included (or not) in the analysis to properly assess the socioeconomic and human development progress of a region and its countries, identifying important differences between countries within the region. ***I strongly suggest that you narrow the focus of your report as quickly as possible to one development issue that your group sees as either defining or paving the path towards the development success of your region, or the issue that poses the biggest challenge to achieving the region's development goals.*** Selectivity and brevity are key here: you must be able to provide enough breadth to justify the selection of your thematic focus, and then you must provide enough depth on the thematic focus to enable your reader to fully understand the nature of the issue and the prescriptions that follow.

You will be expected to delve deeply into primary sources, including data indices (e.g. WDI, HDI, MPI, etc), primary reports (e.g. *World Development Reports*, *Human Development Reports*, UNDP regional and country reports, MDG regional and country reports, World Bank Country Assistance Strategy [CAS] or Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers [PRSPs]), and secondary sources from news, scholarly journals, and books. Your reports should be well documented, with a full list of references provided in your endnotes, and should include charts, graphs, maps, and photos as appropriate.

Students within each regional group will collectively write the introduction/overview and the conclusion/policy recommendations. Individual students will author the country chapters. I will evaluate the group and individual components separately to allow for a certain proportion of the grade to be based on the work of the collective and the remaining portion to be based on the work of the individual author.

The final reports should be approximately **25-35 single-spaced pages**, depending on the number of country chapters. This page limit includes all endnotes, charts, maps and appendices (as needed), so it's not nearly as long as you might assume. Below is a rough guide to the length of each section. Endnotes/references should be included at the end of each chapter.

Report Structure

- I. Cover Page (with list of authors)
- II. Executive Summary (1 page)
- III. Chapter 1: Introduction / Overview of the Region (4-5 pages)
- IV. Chapters 2-5: Country Chapters (4-5 pages each) [Note: the report may have less or more chapters depending on the number of students in each group]
- V. Chapter 6: Conclusion / Policy Recommendations (2-3 pages)

The presentation of the group regional reports will be on the last day of class (May 1). Each group will have 15 minutes to present, followed by 12-15 minutes of Q&A. Powerpoint presentations should be sent to Dr. Weaver the evening before. Grades on the presentations will be based upon the professor's score (50%) and the average of peer scores (50%). I will provide a rubric in advance of the presentations so that you are familiar with the expectations.

The combined work for the regional report is worth **45% of your overall grade** (15% is based your individual work on the country chapters and 30% upon collective work on all other parts). This is broken down for several stages of the assignment (with due dates listed below):

Abstract, Detailed Outline (including country selections) and References (0%):
Due March 7 by 5:00 pm

Progress Report – a form will be provided in advance (0%)
Due Sunday, March 30 by 5:00 pm (email)

Rough Draft (5% for group parts and 5% for single-authored country chapters):
Due Sunday, April 13 by 5:00 pm

Peer Review of Rough Draft (5% - group grade):
Due Sunday, April 20 by 5:00 pm

Presentation (10% - group grade):
In class on May 1. Please send powerpoint presentations to Dr. Weaver by 10:00 pm the night before

Final Written Report (10% for group parts and 10% for single-authored country chapters):
Due Thursday, May 8 at 5:00 pm by email

V. Final Paper – Option B: Book Reviews

For students who want to do an individual final project, I provide the option of reading two additional books and writing two 2,000-word book reviews. You may choose two books from the list below. Alternatively, you may propose two books, published between 2011-present (first editions), that are directly relevant to International Development, and present them to me for approval by **March 7**. These must be books you have NOT read before.

Each book review should, at a minimum, address the following issues:

- a. Who is the author of this book and who is his/her/their audience?
- b. What are the key objectives of the book?
- c. What is the central argument of the book?
- d. How does this argument fit into the body of theory and practice of international development? What key theories or modes of practice does this book challenge or promote?
- e. What evidence does the author deploy to support his/her argument?
- f. How persuasive or important is this book in terms of shaping the way we think about and pursue development policy? What are the key strengths/weaknesses?
- g. Who should read this book, and why?

Each book review will be worth 20% of your final grade. Rough drafts of the reviews (worth 5% each) will be due **April 13** at 5:00 by email. Final drafts (15% each) are due May 8 at 5:00 pm.

In addition to writing two book reviews, students choosing Option B for the final paper assignment will also provide written short (1 page) peer reviews for two book reviews of other students pursuing Option B (due **April 20**), and serve as a panelist for the final presentations of the Option A group reports on May 1. Peer reviews are worth 5% of your grade.

Options for books:

Angus Deaton. 2013. *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth and the Origins of Inequality*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

- William Easterly. Forthcoming March 2014. *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor*. New York: Basic Books.
- Duncan Green. 2013. *From Poverty to Power: How Active Citizens and Effective States Can Change the World*. London: Practical Action.
- Paul Collier. 2013. *Exodus: How Migration is Changing Our World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo. 2011. *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. New York: Public Affairs.
- Dean Karlan and Jacob Appel. 2012. *More than Good Intentions: Improving the Ways the World's Poor Borrow, Save, Farm, Learn, and Stay Healthy*. New York: Plume.
- David Roodman. 2011. *Due Diligence: An Impertinent Inquiry into Microfinance*. Washington, DC: Center for Global Development.
- Jagdish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya. 2013. *Why Growth Matters: How Economic Growth in India Reduced Poverty and Lessons for Other Developing Countries*. New York: Public Affairs.
- Roger Thurow. 2013. *The Last Hunger Season: A Year in an African Farm Community on the Brink of Change*. New York: Public Affairs.
- Thomas Carothers and Diane de Gramont. 2013. *Development Aid Confronts Politics: The Almost Revolution*. Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- Jennifer Clapp. 2012. *Hunger in the Balance: The New Politics of International Food Aid*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Justin Yifu Lin. 2012. *The Quest for Prosperity: How Developing Economies Can Take Off*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

READING SCHEDULE

Part I: Defining and Measuring Development

Jan.16: How Do We Define and Measure Poverty and Development?

Required Reading:

Hans Rosling, TED Talk on the Best Stats You've Ever Seen, February 2006.

http://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_shows_the_best_stats_you_ve_ever_seen.html

High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Available at

<http://www.post2015hlp.org/the-report/>

“Rethinking the Meaning of Development” CFR blog, 12 August 2013.

<http://blogs.cfr.org/development-channel/2013/08/12/rethinking-the-meaning-of-development/>

Sudhur Anand, Paul Segal and Joseph E. Stiglitz, eds. 2010. “Introduction.” In *Debates on the Measurement of Global Poverty*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp.1-25. [C]

Recommended:

Ch.2: Martin Ravallion, “The Debate on Globalization, Poverty and Inequality: Why Measurement Matters,” in Sudhur Anand, Paul Segal and Joseph E. Stiglitz, eds. 2010. “Introduction.” In *Debates on the Measurement of Global Poverty*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp.25-41.

Ch.3: Sanjay G. Reddy & Thomas Pogge, “How Not to Count the Poor.” In Sudhur Anand, Paul Segal and Joseph E. Stiglitz, eds. 2010. *Debates on the Measurement of Global Poverty*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp.42-86.

Marc Fleurbaey and Didier Blanchet eds. 2013. *Beyond GDP: Measuring Welfare and Assessing Sustainability*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Romina Boarini and Marco Mira d’Ercole. 2013. “Going Beyond GDP: an OECD Perspective,” *Fiscal Studies*, 34(3): 289-314.

Joseph Stiglitz, Sen, A. and Fitoussi, J-P. 2009. *Mismeasuring Our Lives: Why GDP Doesn’t Add Up*. Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, New York: The New Press.

Jan.23: The Human Development and Capabilities Approach

Required Reading:

Amartya Sen. 1999. *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books. Read pp.3-53. [C]

Esther Duflo. 2011. “Women Empowerment and Economic Development.” Draft paper, November 2011. [C]

Recommended Reading:

Martha Nussbaum. 2011. *Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach*. Boston, MA: Belknap / Harvard).

Sakiko Fukuda-Parr and David Stewart. 2010. "Unequal Development in the 1990s: Growing Gaps in Human Capabilities," Chapter 10 in Sudhur Anand, Paul Segal and Joseph Stiglitz eds. *Debates on the Measurement of Global Poverty*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Jan.30: Voices of the Poor and the Dynamics of Poverty

Required Reading:

Deepa Narayan, et al. 1999. "The Definitions of Poverty," Chapters 1 and 2 in *Voices of the Poor: Can Anyone Hear Us?* Washington, D.C.: World Bank. Available at:
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/0,,contentMDK:20619302~menuPK:336998~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336992~isCURL:Y~isCURL:Y,00.html>

Deepa Narayan, Lant Pritchett and Soumya Kapoor, eds. 2009. *Moving Out of Poverty: Success from the Bottom Up*. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank and Palgrave MacMillan. Read the overview chapter, available at
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/EXTMOVOUTPOV/0,,contentMDK:22095628~menuPK:2107081~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:2104396,00.html>

Caterina Ruggeri Laderchi. 2001. "Participatory Methods in the Analysis of Poverty: A Critical Review," QEH Working Paper Number 62. Available at
<http://www3.qeh.ox.ac.uk/pdf/qehwp/qehwps62.pdf>

Recommended Readings:

Andrew Norton, et al. 2001. *A Rough Guide to PPAs: Participatory Poverty Assessment – An Introduction to Theory and Practice*. London: UK Department for International Development. Available at <http://web.worldbank.org/servlets/ECR?contentMDK=20509327&sitePK=410136>

World Bank Participatory Poverty Diagnostics. Available at
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/EXTPCENG/0,,contentMDK:20507639~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:410306,00.html>

Institute for Development Studies. (undated). *Participatory Poverty Assessments*. Available at
<http://www.participatorymethods.org/method/participatory-poverty-assessments>

Feb.6: New Measures of Multidimensional Poverty, (In)Equality and Well-Being

Required Reading:

Skim: John Helliwell, Richard Layard, and Jeffrey Sachs, eds. 2013. *World Happiness Report 2013*. New York: United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Available at http://unsdsn.org/files/2013/09/WorldHappinessReport2013_online.pdf

Paul Shaffer. 2013. "Ten Years of 'Q-Squared': Implications for Understanding and Explaining Poverty." *World Development*, 45: 269-285. [C]

Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, webpage on MPI:
<http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/multidimensional-poverty-index/>

UNDP Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI). Available at
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/ihdi>

UNDP Gender Inequality Index: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/gii/>

Tom Vunderboet. 2013. "Poor but Happy?" World Bank Africa Can End Poverty Blog, 28 March 2013. Available at <http://blogs.worldbank.org/africacan/poor-but-happy>

Recommended Readings:

Sabina Alkire and James Foster. 2011. "Understandings and Misunderstandings of Multidimensional Poverty Measurement" *Journal of Economic Inequality*, 9(2): 289-314.

Sabina Alkire, Maria Emma Santos, and Karma Ura. 2008. "Gross National Happiness and Poverty in Bhutan: Applying the GNH Index Methodology to Explore Poverty," Available at <http://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/OPHI-RP-4a.pdf%3Fcdac6c1&sa=U&ei=UiD9TpLwNtL2gges0YG4Ag&ved=0CAQQFjAA&client=internal-uds-cse&usq=AFQjCNHh3K1QQuXVsrRnq9z4ESiGm0iQ9w>

"Recalculating Happiness in a Himilayan Kingdom." *New York Times*, 6 May 2009.
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/07/world/asia/07bhutan.html?_r=1

Gross National Happiness Index: <http://www.grossnationalhappiness.com/>

Grusky, D. and R. Kanbur. 2006. 'Conceptual Ferment in Poverty and Inequality Measurement: The View from Economics and Sociology'. Working Paper No. 21. Q-Squared, Toronto.

Di Tella, R. and MacCulloch, R. 2004. "Happiness Adaption to Income Beyond 'Basic Needs'," in E. Diener, J. Helliwell and D. Kahneman, eds., *International Differences in Well-Being*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Dolan, P., Peasgood, T. and White, M. 2008. "Do We Really Know What Makes Us Happy? A Review of the Economic Literature on the Factors Associated with Subjective Well-Being", *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 29: 94-122.

Eurostat. 2011. *Report of the Sponsorship Group on Measuring Progress, Well-Being and Sustainable Development*. Available at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/pgp_ess/0_DOCS/estat/SpG_progress_wellbeing_report_after_ESSC_adoption_22Nov1.pdf.

Ravallion, M. 2011. "On Multidimensional Indices of Poverty," *Journal of Economic Inequality*, 9: 235-48.

Feb.10 (Note special day/time): Nina Munk's presentation on The Idealist (Bass Lecture Hall 12:00-1:45 pm)

Required Reading:

Nina Munk. 2013. *The Idealist: Jeffrey Sachs and the Quest to End Poverty*. New York: Doubleday.

Recommended Reading:

Michael Clemens and Gabriel Demombynes. 2010. "When Does Rigorous Impact Evaluation Make a Difference? The Millennium Villages," Center for Global Development Working Paper 225, 11 October 2010. Available at <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424496/>.

Madeleine Bunting. 2011. "Millennium Villages Project: Does the "Big Bang" Approach Work?" *The Guardian*, 10 October 2011. Available at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/oct/10/millennium-villages-project-impact-questions>

Jeffrey Sachs. 2011. "The Millennium Villages Project is Working Well," *The Guardian*, 13 October 2011. Available at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/oct/13/millennium-villages-project-working-well>

"The Big Push Back" *The Economist*, 3 December 2011. Available at <http://www.economist.com/node/21541001>

Dambiso Moyo. 2009. "Why Foreign Aid is Hurting Africa," *Wall Street Journal*, 22 March 2009. Available at <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123758895999200083.html#articleTabs%3Darticle>

Millennium Development Goals: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

UNDP/ Millennium Development Goals Monitor: <http://www.mdgmonitor.org>
Millennium Villages Project: <http://millenniumvillages.org/>

Paul Pronyk, John McArthur, Prabhjot Singh & Jeffrey Sachs. 2011. "Evaluating the Millennium Villages: A response to Clemens and Demombynes," Available at <http://blogs.millenniumpromise.org/index.php/2010/10/13/evaluating-the-millennium-villages-a-response-to-clemens-and-demombynes/>. Posted 13 October 2011.

David McKenzie. 2011. "Jeff Sachs, the Millennium Villages Project, and Misconceptions about Impact Evaluation," on blogs.worldbank.org, posted 19 October 2011. (Read also the other materials linked in the blogpost). Available at <http://blogs.worldbank.org/impactevaluations/jeff-sachs-the-millennium-villages-project-and-misconceptions-about-impact-evaluation>

**** Feb.16 (Sunday): Group Data Exercise due by 9:00 pm ****

Part II. What Does and Does Not Work in Development?

Feb.20: Macroeconomic Approaches to Development: Rethinking Growth and Development, Part I

Required Reading:

William Easterly. 2002. *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Read pp. 1-70; 101-139. (recommended only: pp.71-100).

Recommended Reading:

Aghion, Philippe, and Patrick Bolton. 1997. "A Theory of Trickle-Down Growth and Development." *The Review of Economic Studies* 64 (2) (April 1): 151–172.

Dani Rodrik. 2007. *One Economics, Many Recipes: Globalization, Institutions, and Economic Growth*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Jagdish Bhagwati. 2013. *Why Growth Matters: How Economic Growth in India Reduced Poverty*. New York: Public Affairs.

****Sunday, Feb.23: Blog #1 due at 5:00 p.m.****

Feb.27: Macroeconomic Approaches: Rethinking Growth and Development, Part II

Required Reading:

William Easterly. 2002. *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Read pp.141-291.

"Africa's Hopeful Economies: the Sun Shines Bright," *The Economist*, 3 December 2011. Available at <http://www.economist.com/node/21541008>.

"Aspiring Africa," *The Economist*, 2 March 2013. Available at <http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21572773-pride-africas-achievements-should-be-coupled-determination-make-even-faster>.

"Africa is Not Rising, Survey Shows." *The Guardian*, 2 October 2013. Available at <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/02/africa-not-rising-survey>

Recommended Reading:

Romain Wacziarg. 2002. "Review of Easterly's *The Elusive Quest for Growth*," *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol.XL (September): 907-918.

Angus Deaton. 2013. *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth and the Origins of Inequality*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

****March 3 (Sunday): Blog #2 due****

March 6: The Political Economy of Growth and Development

Required Reading:

Dani Rodrik. 2007. "Institutions for High Quality Growth" and "Getting Institutions Right," ch.5-6 (pp.153-192) in *One Economics, Many Recipes: Globalization, Institutions, and Economic Growth*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. [C]

Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. New York: Crown. Read ch.2, 13-14 [pp. 45-69; 368-426].

World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators. Available at <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#home>

World Bank. Actionable Governance Indicators Data Portal. Available at <https://www.agidata.org/Site/Default.aspx>

Recommended Reading:

Douglass North. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance*. Cambridge, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Edward Miguel and William Easterly, eds. 2009. *Africa's Turn?* Cambridge: MIT Press.

Hernando de Soto. 2003. *The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else*. New York: Basic Books.

**** March 7: Option A abstracts/outlines and Option B book choices due****

March 13: Spring Break – No class

March 20: The New Development (Micro)Economics

Required Reading:

Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo. 2008. "The Experimental Approach to Development Economics." NBER Working Paper 14467, November 2008. Available at http://www.nber.org/papers/w14467.pdf?new_window=1

Jessica Cohen and William Easterly. 2009. "Introduction: Thinking Big versus Thinking Small." in Cohen and Easterly, eds., *What Works in Development? Thinking Big and Thinking Small*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, pp. 1-23.

Skim thoroughly: Macartan Humphreys, Raul Sanchez de la Sierra, Peter van der Windt. 2012. *Social and Economic Impacts of Tuungane: Final Report on the Effects of a Community Driven Reconstruction Program in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo*. <http://cu-csds.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/20120622-FINAL-REPORT.pdf>

Recommended Viewings/Reading:

Esther Duflo. TED Talk on “Social Experiments to Fight Poverty,” February 2010.
http://www.ted.com/talks/esther_duflo_social_experiments_to_fight_poverty.html

Macartan Humphrey's lecture at the Munk Policy School in Toronto. He offers some great insight into the motivations behind RCTs as well as the initial community intervention:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXu9eWILYtE>

Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo. 2011. *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. New York: Public Affairs.

Esther Duflo, Rachel Glennerster, and Michael Kremer. 2007. *Using Randomization in Development Economics Research: A Toolkit*. Centre for Economic Policy Research Discussion Paper No. 6059, January 2007. Available at <http://economics.mit.edu/files/806>
Christopher Blattman, Nathan Fiala, and Sebastian Martinez. 2013. “Generating Skilled Self-Employment in Developing Countries: Experimental Evidence from Uganda,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (forthcoming).

Macartan Humphreys and Jeremy Weinstein. 2009. “Field Experiments and the Political Economy of Development,” *Annual Review of Political Science*, 12: 367-378. [BB]

William Savedoff. 2011. “Incentive Proliferation: Making Sense of a New Wave of Development Programs.” Center for Global Development Essay, August 2011. Available at <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1425405>

March 27: In-class group work on Regional Development Reports (Professor in Toronto for ISA conference, March 25-29)

Group consultations with Dr. Weaver will be scheduled for Monday, March 24 in one-hour blocks.

****March 30: Progress Reports Due****

April 3: Randomized Experiments and Development Impact Evaluation

Required Reading/Viewing:

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. (Full video of the presentation and link to the powerpoint available at <http://www.cgdev.org/media/impact-evaluation-learning-tool-development-effectiveness-presentation>).

Robert Picciotto. 2012. “Experimentalism and Development Evaluation: Will the Bubble Burst?” *Evaluation*, 18: 213-229. [C]

Michael Woolcock. 2013. “Using Case Studies to Explore the External Validity of “Complex” Development Interventions.” CID Working Paper No.270, October 2013. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Center for International Development. [C]

Recommended Reading:

Dani Rodrik. 2009. "The New Development Economics: We Shall Experiment, but How Shall We Learn?," in Cohen and Easterly, eds., *What Works in Development? Thinking Big and Thinking Small*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, pp. 24-47.

Carlos Barahona. 2010. "Randomised Control Trials for the Impact Evaluation of Development Initiatives: A Statistician's Point of View." Working Paper, Institutional Learning and Change Initiative. Available at http://www.bioversityinternational.org/fileadmin/bioversity/publications/pdfs/1391_Randomised%20control%20trials%20for%20the%20impact%20evaluation%20of%20development%20initiatives.pdf

**** Sunday, April 6: Blog #2 Due****

Part III: International Development Aid: Problem or Solution?
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April 10: The Global Aid Industry: An Overview

Required Reading:

Abebe Adugna Dadi, Rocio Castro, Boris Gamarra and Stefano Migliorisi. 2011. *Finance for Development: Trends and Opportunities in a Changing Landscape*. Washington, DC: World Bank. Available at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/CFPEXT/Resources/299947-1322067209001/WorkingPaper_FinanceforDevelopmentTrendsandOpportunities.pdf

William Easterly and Claudia R. Williamson. 2011. "Rhetoric versus Reality: The Best and Worst of Aid Agency Practice." *World Development*, 39(11): 1930-1949. [C]

Romily Greenhill, Annalisa Prizzon, and Andrew Rogerson. 2013. "The Age of Choice: Developing Countries in the New Aid Landscape: a Synthesis Report," Overseas Development Institute Working Paper 364. Available at <http://eudevdays.eu/sites/default/files/8188.pdf>

OECD Development Assistance Committee, webpage on Aid Architecture: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/aid-architecture/>

Recommended Reading:

Craig Burnside and David Dollar. 2000. "Aid, Policies, and Growth." *American Economic Review*, 90: 847-68.

William Easterly, Ross Levine, and David Roodman. 2004. "Aid, Policies, and Growth: Comment." *American Economic Review*, 94: 774-80.

Craig Burnside and David Dollar. 2004. "Aid, Policies, and Growth: Reply." *American Economic Review*, 94: 781-84.

IDA. 2008. *Aid Architecture: An Overview of the Main Trends in Official Development Assistance*. Washington, DC: the World Bank. Skim report for general introduction to the structure and agencies of development aid.

Nancy Birdsall, Homi Kharas, and Rita Perakis. 2011. *The Quality of Aid: QuODA, Second Edition*. Read the brief for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan, South Korea, Nov.29-Dec.4, 2011). Brief available at <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1425642/>

Julie Walz and Vijaya Ramachandran. 2010. *Brave New World: a Literature Review of Emerging Donors and the Changing Nature of Foreign Assistance*. Center for Global Development Working Paper 273. Available at <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1425691>

Center for Global Development. 2013 *Commitment to Development Index* (brief and full, interactive report): <http://www.cgdev.org/publication/commitment-development-index-2013>

Hudson Institute, Center for Global Prosperity. 2013. The Index of Global Philanthropy and Remittances 2013, with a Special Report on Emerging Economies. Available at <http://www.hudson.org/files/documents/2013IndexofGlobalPhilanthropyandRemittances.pdf>

**** Sunday, April 13: Rough Drafts Due***

April 17: The Problems with Aid

Required Reading:

Ben Ramalingam. 2013. *Aid on the Edge of Chaos*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read Part I (pp.3-130)

Recommended Readings:

David Roodman. 2008. "Macro Aid Effectiveness Research: A Guide for the Perplexed." Center for Global Development, Working Paper 135, 12/10/2007. Available at <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/15003>

Lant Pritchard. 2010. *The Best of Aid: Guiding the Movement*. Lecture delivered to the 2010 Development Research Institute annual conference. Slide presentation and audio, available at <http://www.slideshare.net/Aidwatch/pritchett-the-best-of-aid-n-e-w-s-l-i-d-e-s>

William Easterly. 2006. *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. New York: Penguin.

Dambiso Moyo. 2009. *Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Robert Calderisi. 2007. *The Trouble with Africa: Why Foreign Aid Isn't Working*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

**** April 20: Peer reviews due****

April 24: Fixing Aid?

Required Reading:

Ben Ramalingam. 2013. *Aid on the Edge of Chaos*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read Part III (pp.239-359)

Recommended Reading:

Roger Riddell. 2009. *Does Foreign Aid Really Work?* Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

William Easterly, ed. 2008. *Reinventing Foreign Aid*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

May 1: In-class presentations

No required reading.

**FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE MAY 8 AT 5:00 PM BY EMAIL.
THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM IN THIS CLASS.**

USEFUL (ENGLISH-LANGUAGE) GENERAL JOURNALS AND OTHER SCHOLARLY SERIES:

African Development Review
Asia-Pacific Development Journal
Comparative Politics
Democratization
Development and Change
Development Policy Review
Development Studies
Economic Development and Cultural Change
Economic Journal
Environment and Development Economics
Environmental Politics
Finance and Development
Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy
Global Environmental Change
Global Environmental Politics
Global Governance
Journal of Democracy
Journal of Development Economics
Journal of International Development
Journal of International Relations and Development
Journal of International Trade & Economic Development
New Political Economy
Oxford Development Studies
Public Administration and Development
Peace, Conflict, and Development
Review of International Political Economy
Studies in Comparative International Development
Third World Quarterly
World Development
World Politics

SELECTED MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS (MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL)

African Development Bank (AfDB): www.afdb.org
Asian Development Bank (ADB): www.adb.org/
Canadian Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (formerly CIDA): www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/index-e.htm
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD): www.ebrd.com
European Commission – Development and Cooperation (EC): ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm
German Corporation for Technical Cooperation (GTZ, now GIZ): <http://www.giz.de/en/>
InterAmerican Development Bank (IDB): www.iadb.org
International Monetary Fund (IMF): www.imf.org
Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA): www.jica.go.jp/english/
Millennium Challenge Corporation: www.mcc.gov
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (Danida): www.um.dk/en
New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD): www.nepad.org/
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): www.oecd.org
OECD Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC): <http://www1.oecd.org/dac>
United Kingdom Department for International Development: www.dfid.gov.uk
United Nations AIDS Program (UNAIDS): www.unaids.org/
United Nations Development Fund for Women: www.un.org/popin/programmes/unifem.html
United Nations Development Program (UNDP): www.undp.org/
United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UNFAO): www.fao.org
United State Agency for International Development (USAID): www.usaid.gov/
World Bank: www.worldbank.org

USEFUL NGO AND THINK-TANK SITES:

AidData: www.aiddata.org

Bank Information Center: www.bicusa.org

Bread for the World: www.bread.org

Bretton Woods Project: www.brettonwoodsproject.org

Brookings Institution: www.brookings.edu/

CARE International: www.care-international.org/

Center for Global Development: www.cgdev.org

Catholic Relief Services: www.catholicrelief.org/

Center for Economic and Policy Research: www.cepr.net

Development GAP (D'GAP): www.developmentgap.org

Development Gateway: www.developmentgateway.org/

Environmental Defense Fund: www.edf.org

International Development Research Center (IDRC): www.idrc.ca

International Rivers Network: www.irn.org

Natural Resources Defense Council: www.nrdc.org

Overseas Development Institute: <http://www.odi.org.uk/>

Oxfam International: www.oxfam.org

Oxford Development Studies: www.rmplc.co.uk/eduweb/sites/rmext05

United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER):
www.wider.unu.edu/

World Resources Institute: www.wri.org/

World Vision: www.worldvision.org

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

“A” Contributor

- Contributions in class and on the BB discussion board reflect exceptional preparation as evidenced by frequent authoritative and/or creative use of textual/material evidence.
- Ideas offered are always substantive (i.e., unusually perceptive, original, and/or synthetic) and provide one or more major insights as well as direction for the class.
- Agreements and/or disagreements are well substantiated and persuasively presented.
- *If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished markedly.*

“B” Contributor

- Contributions in class and on the BB discussion board reflect thorough preparation as evidenced by competent and occasionally authoritative and/or creative reference to textual/material evidence.
- Ideas offered are usually substantive, provide good insights and sometimes direction for the class.
- Agreements and/or disagreements are fairly well substantiated and/or sometimes persuasive.
- *If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished.*

“C” Contributor

- Contributions in this class reflect satisfactory preparation as evidenced by at least some acquaintance with textual/material evidence.
- Ideas offered are sometimes substantive, provide generally useful insights, but seldom offer a new direction for discussion.
- Sometimes disagreements and agreements are voiced with little to no substantiation.
- *If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished somewhat.*

“D-F” Contributor

- Contributions in class reflect inadequate preparation.
- Ideas are seldom substantive, provide few if any insights, and never a constructive direction for the class.
- Integrative comments and effective challenges are absent.
- *If this person were not a member of the class, valuable air-time would be saved.*

Non-Participant

- Little or nothing contributed in class; hence, there is not adequate basis for evaluation.
- If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would not be changed.
- Said persons need to leave this category and move into a contributor category.

GUIDELINES FOR PEER REVIEWS OF ROUGH DRAFT REPORTS

Constructive peer reviews contain the following elements:

1. A concise summary of the driving questions, objectives and significance of the report. This is essential, as it compels the reviewer to pay close attention and reiterate in his or her own words the key points of the report. If this summary is off, it signals to the author(s) that the arguments and organization are not clear and more work needs to be done on this front.
2. Comments on the overall organization of the paper, pointing out areas of confusion and offering helpful suggestions for reorganization, if needed.
3. Explanations of the weaknesses or flaws in the underlying logic of the report or use of evidence.
4. Helpful suggestions on additional literature or data sources to consult, if needed, as well as suggestions on where visuals (charts, graphs, maps, etc) can be edited (for clarity), added or subtracted.
5. Points out weaknesses in evidence and offers suggestions on where and how new evidence might be brought to bear to support the central arguments.
6. Discussion of whether or not the offered policy prescriptions are persuasive, are logical given the prior analysis, and seem feasible and/or desirable.
7. Generally corrects grammar, misspellings, awkward sentences, etc. However, it is not the job of the peer reviewer to micro-edit the paper. If you see consistent problems in the grammar or style of writing, point out an example, explain what is wrong, and tell the author that this occurs throughout the paper and needs to be fixed.
8. End the peer review with a concise summary of the key problems to address in revisions. While the tone should not be overly critical, it is not the job of the peer review to play cheerleader unless the draft paper is really in good shape. The majority of the peer review will be focused on the weaknesses of the paper.

A proper review is 2-3 pages, minimum, for the group regional report and 1-1.5 pages for a book review.