

Syllabus • Spring 2012 • Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
Comparative Development • Dr. Kirk Bowman • Kbowman@gatech.edu
Wed. 6-9 pm • G17, Habersham Building • Office Hours, Wed. 2-4 and by
appointment. Office, 151 Habersham • Professor reserves right to change syllabus.

Comparative development has been a major topic of politics and academia for over a century. From the development of GNP and PPP, to the measuring of Gini coefficients, to indices of democracy and poverty, comparison of development has been and continues to be a rich source of academic writing, dinner table conversation, op-eds, and political squabbling. The role of the state, or international organizations, or NGOs, or private philanthropy, or weather, or global warming, or trade negotiations, or religion, or geography, or history, or technology, or war, or god, or education/human capital, or innovation, freedom, or just plain good fortune have been proposed and defended as the explanations for relative differences in levels of development.

In the past couple of years, new debates have emerged over the role of aid in development and in the gap between rich and poor, both within countries and across countries. Why are there still more than a billion desperately poor people? This course explores the development and those cases that have not benefited from the multiple advances in recent decades. Our adventure will require a lot of reading, thinking, discussing, and writing.

Required Readings:

There are 6 required books. They are available at Engineers books and are relatively inexpensive and very readable for the most part. I may also send links to The Economist articles. I urge all of you to subscribe, but it is not necessary for this class.

- 1..Mitchell Seligson and John Passe Smith Editors
Development and Underdevelopment: the Political Economy of Global Inequality: 4th
edition
Lynne Reiner, 2008
1588265846
2. Easterly, William
The Elusive Quest for Growth
MIT Press 2002
0262550423
3. Jeffrey Sachs
The End of Poverty
Penguin
2006
0143036580
4. Dani Roderick
The Globalization Paradox

Norton 2011
0393071618

5. Amartya Sen
Development As Freedom
Anchor 2000
0195655265

6. Paul Collier
The Bottom Billion
2008 Oxford
0195373383

Outline of course and grading

- a. Participation 30%, made up of 3 parts of 10% each
1. Each week different students will provide a 4-5 page précis of the readings that lays out the main arguments, indicates what was provocative or helpful, and poses 2-3 provocative questions for the class. These will be emailed to me by 9 pm on Tuesday of the night before class, and I will forward via tsquare email. Everyone who prepares a précis should be prepared to provide a 3-4 minute presentation to the class. Each student will be assigned 2 weeks to present and write précis.
 2. 1000 words of blogging at class blog (to come in two weeks) in at least 5 separate posts on issues and responses to development. One blog must be your definition of development and one must be a critique of another student's definition
 3. contribution to discussion in class
- b. Policy Memo: 5-7 pages to PROTUS answering the question: Does Aid Work and in what form should US international development assistance continue? 15%. Due, March 14. No late papers accepted.
- c. Research paper. 10 pages undergrads and 20 pages grad students. Pick a pair of countries from this list (or approved)
- Brazil and Chile
Guatemala and Costa Rica
China and South Korea
India and Pakistan
Nigeria and Ghana
Egypt and Jordan
Kenya and Tanzania
Mali and Bolivia
- Your paper should compare and contrast development strategies, policies, successes, shortcomings, and present lessons learned for other developing countries. This paper needs 4-5 or more books and 4-5 or more academic papers as sources.
- 25%

Final Exam: 30%

January 18th. Easterly through 170
 January 25, Easterly 171 to end.
 February 1st: Library day. Research topic and citations due next class
 February 8th: Sen through 145
 February 15: Sen 146 to end.
 February 22: Sachs through 187
 February 29: Sachs 188 through end
 March 7: Collier all
 March 14: Rodrik through 135
 March 21: SPRING BREAK
 March 28: Rodrik 136 to end.

April 4th—Seligson

- Preface.
- The Dual Gaps: An Overview of Theory and Research—*M.A. Seligson*.
- IS THERE A GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR COUNTRIES?
- Characteristics of the Income Gap Between Countries—*J.T Passé-Smith*.
- The Rising Inequality of World Income Distribution—*R.H. Wade*.
- Empirics of World Income Inequality—*G. Firebaugh*.
- Assessing Contending Measures of the Income Gap—*J.T Passé-Smith*.
- THE HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF THE GAP.
- The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective—*A. Maddison*.
- Why Did Human History Unfold Differently on Different Continents for the last 13,000 Years?—*J. Diamond*.
- Institutions Rule: The Primacy of Institutions Over Geography and Integration in Economic Development—*D. Rodrik, A. Subramanian, and F. Trebbi*.
- The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation—*D. Acemoglu, S. Johnson, and J.A. Robinson*.
- The Great Escape: The Industrial Revolution in Theory and in History—*G. Clark*
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April 11--Seligson

- THE OTHER GAP: DOMESTIC INCOME INEQUALITY
- Economic Growth and Income Inequality—*S. Kuznets*.
- Should Equity Be a Goal of Economic Policy?—*IMF Fiscal Affairs Department*.
- Inequality and Insurgency—*E.N. Muller and M.A. Seligson*.
- THE CLASSIC THESIS: CONVERGENCE OR DIVERGENCE?
- The Five Stages of Growth—*W.W. Rostow*.
- Productivity Growth, Convergence, and Welfare: What the Long-Run Data Show—*W.J. Baumol*.
- Productivity Growth, Convergence, and Welfare: Comment—*J.B. De Long*.

April 18--Seligson

- CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT.
- The Achievement Motive in Economic Growth—*D.C. McClelland*.

- Underdevelopment Is a State of Mind—*L.E. Harrison*.
- The Confucian Ethic and Economic Growth—*H. Kahn*.
- The Effect of Cultural Values on Economic Development: Theory, Hypotheses, and Some Empirical Tests—*J. Granato, R. Inglehart, and D. Leblang*.
- DEPENDENCY AND WORLD SYSTEMS THEORY: STILL RELEVANT?
- The Development of Underdevelopment—*A.G. Frank*.
- American Penetration and Canadian Development: A Case Study of Mature Dependency—*H-J. Hammer and J.W. Gartrell*.
- The Irish Case of Dependency: An Exception to the Exception?—*D. O'Hern*.
- Transnational Corporations in World Development: Still the Same Harmful Effects in an Increasingly Globalized World Economy?—*M. Herkenrath and V. Bornschieer*.

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April 25--Seligson

- THE ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS.
 - Big Bills Left on the Sidewalk—*M. Olson Jr.*
 - Mauritius: A Case Study—*A. Subramanian*.
 - Urban Bias and Inequality—*M. Lipton*.
 - Political Regimes and Economic Growth—*A. Przeworski and F. Limongi*.
 - Inequality as a Constraint on Growth in Latin America—*N. Birdsall and R. Sabot*.
 - THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION.
 - Globalisation—*A. Giddens*.
 - Globalization and Inequality—*B. Milanovic*
 - The New Wave of Globalization and Its Economic Effects—*A World Bank Research Report*.
 - CONCLUSION.
 - Inequality in a Global Perspective: Directions for Further Research—*M.A. Seligson*.
- Appendix: Basic Indicators of the Gaps Between Rich and Poor Countries.

This class follows the honor code. Citations are expected in papers and policy memos, but not necessarily in blogs. Students found to plagiarize, copy, or in any other way subvert the educational process will be turned over to the honor code system.

Do NOT email me with any questions except to set up an appointment. If you have a question, that is what class is for, and others might have the same questions.

GOOD LUCK!