

## Perspectives on International Development (INTL 240)

Instructor: R. Glenn Mittermann, MA, JD

Syllabus Fall 2017

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Lecture:	180 PLC	Lecture Hours:	M & W 14:00 – 15:20
Office Hours:	M & W 15:30 – 16:45 or by appt.	Office:	306 PLC
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This course will challenge students to consider the striking inequity between the enormous range of comforts and choices in the rich countries and the extreme poverty in much of the developing world. Students will be introduced to the *problématique* of development, explore competing explanations for underdevelopment, major challenges facing developing societies today, and reflect on what we in the materially rich societies can do to address global poverty and underdevelopment.

**Lecture.** Classes will typically consist of about an hour of lecture, followed by questions / discussion. Lectures will sometimes be supplemented by guest lectures, video clips or other activities. Attendance is mandatory. The tentative schedule of the topics to be covered during lecture is as follows:

- Week 1: The *Problématique* of Development
- Week 2: Poverty and Inequality
- Week 3: Theoretical Perspectives on Development
- Week 4: Geography and Culture
- Week 5: Rural / Urban Dynamics
- Week 6: Health
- Week 7: Globalization
- Week 8: Environment
- Week 9: Governance
- Week 10: Development Assistance

**Readings and videos.** All required readings are included in the reading packet - which will be available from the University bookstore - or on the Internet or Canvas. A few copies of the reading packet will also be put on reserve at Knight Library. Students are expected to complete all of the readings as well as other assigned work before the class for which they are assigned. Lectures and discussion will often refer to the readings and other work, but neither the lecture nor the discussion sections will summarize them.

**Exams.** There will be *daily quizzes and a final exam*. *Quizzes and exams* will be based on lecture, readings/videos and other assignments. *You must have your iClicker with you to participate in daily quizzes*. Students who have read all of the material, viewed the assigned videos, kept up with the news and participated in all of the lectures and discussion sections will be best placed to succeed on the exams.

**Focus Country:** You will be assigned a focus country, which will be the subject of course assignments. We can help you get started in researching development issues in your countries. Be sure to take a good look at the various links on **Canvas** under Country Background.

**News Source:** You are expected to read a good source for international news every day (e.g.: *New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, CNN, BBC*, many others; ask if you're not sure). Paper or online versions OK. Engage all the major international news of the day, since it all touches on development broadly understood. If you develop a regular news reading habit, you will do much better in International Studies and related courses, as well as in life.

**Attendance and participation.** *Attendance is mandatory*. Students are also expected to participate in class discussions. Absences must be excused in advance by the Instructor.

**Grading.** Attendance, participation and pop quizzes (30%), three short papers (10% each, 30% total), comprehensive final exam, 40%.

**Communication.** We will use e-mail as the normal mode of communication. You should also regularly consult the course web-page on Canvas where you can find the latest news about the class, required reading assignments, a copy of the syllabus, and links to supplementary information.

**Office hours.** Please take full advantage of office hours, or make appointments outside of office hours to pose questions, discuss readings, or explore related topics. These hours are set aside by the instructor and GEs for you; feel free to drop by to talk or raise any questions, concerns or comments that you may have. If you encounter a line during office hours, please make sure the instructor/GE knows that you are waiting, and he/she will do his/her best to accommodate everyone as quickly as possible.

## **Ground Rules**

- Come to every class prepared to ask questions, discuss the readings, offer comments, and engage in informed conversation about topics covered in the news, readings and lecture.
- Complete/view all the reading/videos for a topic by the first date on which we are scheduled to discuss that topic, unless you are informed otherwise by the Instructor.
- Be present and attentive in lecture. Don't do anything that might distract others in class. Exercise common sense. Otherwise, you will be asked to leave and will lose attendance and participation credit.
- Use of laptops are not allowed in class, except with prior approval from the instructor. If you need the laptop for note-taking you must request and receive approval first, and will be required to sit in the first few rows of the classroom.
- Plagiarism results in an automatic grade of "F", and is reported to the University, which can result in other sanctions. If you are not sure what plagiarism is, consult the course resource links on Canvas.

- Absences which have not been excused in advance count against your grade. *The final exam will only be given on the date scheduled: 14:45 Thursday, December 7.* You should not enroll in the class (or drop it now) if your plans would prevent you from attending the scheduled final.

## Readings, Videos and iClicker

Key readings will be taken from the books listed below. A packet containing those materials is available from the University Bookstore. Other readings and videos are available on the Internet or on Canvas. You should purchase an iClicker (available at the U of O Bookstore), register it on Canvas and bring it to class every day.

### Reading Packet Bibliography

Collier, Paul. *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (Oxford University Press 2007)

Isbister, John. *Promises Not Kept: Poverty and the Betrayal of Third World Development*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (Kumarian Press, Inc.) (2006)

Landes, David. *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations: Why Some People are So Rich and Some So Poor* (W. W. Norton & Company, New York & London) (1998)

Narayan, Deepa and Petesch, Patti eds. *Voices of the Poor: From Many Lands*. (World Bank/Oxford University Press. Oxford) (2002)

Seligson, Mitchell and J. Passe Smith. *Development and Underdevelopment: The Political Economy of Global Inequality* 4<sup>th</sup> edition (2008)

Sen, Amartya. *Development as Freedom* (New York, Oxford Press) (2001)