COURSE SUMMARY

Why are some countries rich and others poor? This course explores key factors that shape the development trajectory of nations, drawing on work from political science, economics, and sociology. We will examine various aspects of development, including but not limited to economic growth. A primary focus of the course is how political institutions influence development outcomes. Topics covered include the relationship between democracy and development, the role of the state, consequences of natural resources and corruption, and the impact of foreign aid. Lectures and readings will include examples from various countries around the world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to complete all required readings prior to each lecture and to attend all lectures and discussion sections. If you have a legitimate reason to miss a session (e.g., a religious holiday), please discuss this with the professor and your TA at the beginning of the term. Neither the readings nor the lecture slides will provide comprehensive coverage of the materials you are expected to know for the paper and exams.

There will be three assignments: a midterm exam, a 5- to 7-page paper, and a final exam. The paper assignment and exams will be based on the lectures and required readings. Evaluation in the course will be decided as follows:

Midterm: 25%
Paper: 25%
Final: 30%
Attendance and Participation: 20%
The midterm will be held on Monday, October 25 during the regular lecture time. The paper will be due on Wednesday, December 1 at noon. The final exam will be held on Friday, December 10 from 9:00-11:00AM.

Late assignments will be penalized a half grade per day late (e.g., an A becomes an A-, an A- becomes a B+, etc.), with the exception of documented cases of illness or family crisis. In such cases, a request must be made to the professor and TA prior to the assignment’s due date. The failure to turn in a paper or to attend an exam session will result in an F for the given assignment. Papers previously or simultaneously submitted for another course will not be accepted.

RESEARCH STUDY PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

Students enrolled in this course are required to complete a research assignment that can include up to four hours of research study participation. These studies require that students set up an appointment to complete participation at a laboratory on campus (or via an on-line survey). Students will learn how studies are conducted and will receive a synopsis at the conclusion of the quarter describing the study’s goal, result, and relevance to the class. Students who prefer not to participate in research as a subject may opt for an alternative that entails reading any one chapter about political science research and writing a 5-page reaction paper. The typical chapter is about 20 pages and thus reading it and writing a 5-page paper should take approximately four hours.

During the first week of the quarter, students will receive an e-mail asking them whether they prefer study participation or the alternative assignment. The e-mail will also include details on how to complete either requirement. Failure to complete the requirement during the quarter will result in an incomplete. Failure to complete the requirement during the following quarter will result in a failing grade for the class. Note that if you are enrolled in multiple classes that require participation, you only need to satisfy the requirement one time. Also, if you already completed the requirement in another course in a previous quarter, you are excused from the requirement.

COVID-19 POLICIES

COVID-19 Classroom Expectations

Students, faculty, and staff must comply with University expectations regarding appropriate classroom behavior, including those outlined below and in the COVID-19 Code of Conduct. With respect to classroom procedures, this includes:

- Policies regarding masking and social distancing evolve as the public health situation changes. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with current masking, testing, Symptom Tracking, and social distancing requirements.
- In some classes, masking and/or social distancing may be required as a result of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation for the instructor or a student in the class even when not generally required on campus. In such cases, the instructor will notify the class.
- No food is allowed inside classrooms. Drinks are permitted, but please keep your face covering on and use a straw.
• Faculty may assign seats in some classes to help facilitate contact tracing in the event that a student tests positive for COVID-19. Students must sit in their assigned seats.

If a student fails to comply with the COVID-19 Code of Conduct or other University expectations related to COVID-19, the instructor may ask the student to leave the class. The instructor is asked to report the incident to the Office of Community Standards for additional follow-up.

COVID-19 Testing Compliance Statement

To protect the health of our community, Northwestern University requires unvaccinated students who are in on-campus programs to be tested for COVID-19 twice per week. Students who fail to comply with current or future COVID-19 testing protocols will be referred to the Office of Community standards to face disciplinary action, including escalation up to restriction from campus and suspension.

Exceptions to Class Modality

Class sessions for this course will occur in person. Individual students will not be granted permission to attend remotely except as the result of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation as determined by AccessibleNU.

Maintaining the health of the community remains our priority. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID do not attend class and update your Symptom Tracker application right away to connect with Northwestern’s Case Management Team for guidance on next steps. Also contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange to complete coursework.

Students who experience a personal emergency should contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange to complete coursework. Should public health recommendations prevent in person class from being held on a given day, the instructor or the university will notify students.

IN-CLASS ELECTRONICS POLICY

Please turn all phones off before the lecture. Note that this implies no texting as well as no calls. Laptops may be used for note taking only. Use of email, Facebook, or other activities unrelated to lecture is strictly prohibited and may result in a grade deduction.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students in this course are required to comply with the policies found in the booklet, “Academic Integrity at Northwestern University: A Basic Guide.” All papers submitted for credit in this course must be submitted electronically unless otherwise instructed by the professor. Your written work may be tested for plagiarized content. For details regarding academic integrity at Northwestern or to download the guide, visit: https://www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity/index.html
ACCESSIBILITY

Northwestern University is committed to providing the most accessible learning environment as possible for students with disabilities. Should you anticipate or experience disability-related barriers in the academic setting, please contact AccessibleNU to move forward with the university’s established accommodation process (email: accessiblenu@northwestern.edu; phone: 847-467-5530). If you already have established accommodations with AccessibleNU, please let the professor know as soon as possible, preferably within the first two weeks of the term, so we can work together to implement your disability accommodations. Disability information, including academic accommodations, is confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

SUPPORT FOR WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH

Northwestern University is committed to supporting the wellness of our students. Student Affairs has multiple resources to support student wellness and mental health. If you are feeling distressed or overwhelmed, please reach out for help. Students can access confidential resources through the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Religious and Spiritual Life (RSL) and the Center for Awareness, Response and Education (CARE). Additional information on all of the resources mentioned above can be found here:

https://www.northwestern.edu/counseling/
https://www.northwestern.edu/religious-life/
https://www.northwestern.edu/care/

CLASS RECORDINGS

This class or portions of this class will be recorded by the instructor for educational purposes, such as providing students who must quarantine due to Covid-19 concerns with access to lecture materials. If needed, the professor will provide additional information about how members of the class can access the recordings. Portions of the course that contain images, questions or commentary/discussion by students will be edited out of any recordings that are saved beyond the current term.

Prohibition of Recording Classes by Students

Unauthorized student recording of classroom or other academic activities (including advising sessions or office hours) is prohibited. Unauthorized recording is unethical and may also be a violation of University policy and state law. Students requesting the use of assistive technology as an accommodation should contact AccessibleNU. Unauthorized use of classroom recordings – including distributing or posting them – is also prohibited. Under the University’s Copyright Policy, faculty own the copyright to instructional materials – including those resources created specifically for the purposes of instruction, such as syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, and presentations. Students cannot copy, reproduce, display, or distribute these materials. Students who engage in unauthorized recording, unauthorized use of a recording, or unauthorized
distribution of instructional materials will be referred to the appropriate University office for follow-up.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, the aim is that you will have improved your ability to:

- Apply critical thinking and analysis to the study of contemporary political and economic events;
- Apply analytical writing skills;
- Use theories of comparative politics and political economy to develop explanations of variation across political systems and across countries.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

There are *no required books* for this course. All readings will be made available in electronic form through Canvas.

While no book purchases are mandatory, I encourage those of you with a strong interest in development to consider purchasing your own copies of some or all of the following books. Throughout the quarter, we will be reading experts from many of these.

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

Lecture 1: Introduction and Overview of Development Indicators  
*Friday, September 24*

  - Pages 27-31, 44-48, 125-130
- Hans Rosling, TED lecture  
  - www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_shows_the_best_stats_you_ve ever_seen.html

Lecture 2: What is Development?  
*Monday, September 27*

  - Chapters 1 and 2
  - Chapter 1

Lecture 3: Traditional Economic Approaches to Development  
*Friday, October 1*

  - Pages 1-18
  - Chapters 2 and 3

Lecture 4: Fundamental Causes of Growth – Geography, Global Markets, and Trade  
*Monday, October 4*


Supplementary reading:

Lecture 5: Fundamental Causes of Growth – Institutions
Friday, October 8

  o Chapter 1
  o Pages 7-9, Chapter 2 (all), and pages 70-79
  o Pages 3-10

Lecture 6: Inequality and Development
Monday, October 11

• Andrew Berg and Jonathan Ostry, “Equality and Efficiency: Is There a Trade-Off Between the Two or Do They Go Hand in Hand?” *Finance & Development* (September 2011)
• Nancy Birdsall, “Thomas Piketty’s *Capital* and the Developing World,” *Ethics & International Affairs* (December 12, 2014)
  o Pages 1-9

Supplementary reading:


Lecture 7: Democracy and Development
Friday, October 15

  o Chapter 2
  o Pages 79-95
Lecture 8: Case Study – Non-Democratic Development in Chile and China  
Monday, October 18

- Pamela Constable and Arturo Valenzuela, *A Nation of Enemies: Chile Under Pinochet*  
  o Chapter 7  

Lecture 9: Rule of Law, Property Rights, and Development  
Friday, October 22

  o Pages 1-12  
  o Chapter 2

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25: MIDTERM EXAM

Lecture 10: Case Study – Property Rights in Russia and China  
Friday, October 29

  o Pages 297-314, 318-322

Lecture 11: States and Development  
Monday, November 1

  o Pages 47-60  
  o Chapter 10
Lecture 12: Case Study – Statist Development in East Asia and Latin America
Friday, November 5

  o Pages 1-34
  o Pages 14-24

Lecture 13: Corruption and Development
Monday, November 8

  o Pages 23-42 and Chapter 4
  o Chapter 1

Lecture 14: Natural Resources and Development
Friday, November 12

- Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (Oxford University Press, 2007)
  o Chapter 3
  o Read pages 1-14 and Chapter 6

Lecture 15: COVID-19, Climate Change, & Other Novel Threats to Development
Monday, November 15

- Readings TBD

Lecture 16: Aid and Development
Friday, November 19

- Jeffrey Sachs, “The Case for Aid,” *Foreign Policy* (January 2014)
- Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (Oxford University Press, 2007)
  o Chapter 7
Supplementary reading:

- Paul Starobin, “Does it Take a Village?” *Foreign Policy* (July-August 2013)

Lecture 17: The Future of Development/Review
*Monday, November 22*


Supplementary reading:


**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1: PAPER DUE BY NOON**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 9:00-11:00AM: FINAL EXAM**