POLITICAL SCIENCE 231E
POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT
Spring 2013
Friday, 12 - 2:50 PM (SSB 104)

Prof. Simeon Nichter
nichter@ucsd.edu

Office Hours: Friday 3-4:30 PM
Social Sciences Building #367

COURSE SUMMARY

This graduate seminar 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, with a particular focus on economic growth. A primary area of inquiry 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. The seminar is designed for graduate students preparing for the comprehensive examination in comparative politics or designing a dissertation prospectus for study of the developing world, but students from other sub-disciplines are welcomed and encouraged to enroll.

Political Science 231E is organized around ten themes:
1. Defining Development
2. Traditional Economic Approaches to Development
3. The Rise of Institutional Economics
4. Democracy, Dictatorship, and Development
5. Rule of Law, Property Rights, and Development
6. States and Development
7. Corruption and Development
8. Clientelism and Development
9. Natural Resources and Development
10. Aid and Development

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation

Students are expected to complete all readings prior to each session and to attend every seminar. Seminar participation will count for 40% of the overall grade. In addition to unstructured contributions to the conversation, participation will consist of two other responsibilities:

(1) Weekly “defenses” of a reading: Each student will choose a particular reading that he or she wishes to “defend” during each seminar discussion. All research has flaws, and it is constructive to identify and discuss these shortcomings. But discussions in graduate seminars

* Syllabus prepared in collaboration with Jordan Gans-Morse of Northwestern University
sometimes become one-sidedly critical. In order to maintain a healthy appreciation for the challenges entailed in original research, the defender’s informal role will be to counter critiques of the particular reading and offer support for the scholar’s methodological approach or substantive claims. Students do not need to inform the instructor or other students which reading they plan to defend each week.

(2) Short presentations: During some weeks, students will be asked to prepare a brief presentation on a particular reading or debate. These presentations can be highly informal. The aim is to introduce the rest of the group to as broad a range of material as possible while keeping the mandatory reading at a reasonable level. Further information about these presentations will be provided at a later date.

**Final Paper**

The writing assignment in this seminar is a 5,000-word final paper, worth 60% of the overall grade. The paper deadline is **Tuesday, June 11th at 5 PM** – no late papers will be accepted unless extraordinary circumstances apply and you have prior permission from the instructor. A one-paragraph tentative proposal of your paper is due at the start of class on May 10th.

You may choose your own topic related to the study of development. The writing assignment may consist of a research paper or a critical literature review. With the first option, there is no expectation that you will write a full-fledged research paper; it is acceptable to write a paper that is somewhere between a research design and a research paper. The paper should clearly specify an empirical puzzle, synthesize the relevant literature, posit hypotheses, and analyze and discuss whether available evidence (quantitative and/or qualitative) supports your hypotheses versus alternative hypotheses. If you do not have sufficient evidence, specifically elaborate the type of evidence you would collect, and the types of analyses you would conduct to weigh different hypotheses. If you choose to write a critical literature review, there is no set number of books and/or articles that you must cover, but you should assess influential works representing multiple perspectives.

My primary aim is that the assignment facilitates students’ dissertation prospectus, publication of a journal article, and/or preparation for a field exam. With this in mind, I may be willing to tailor the assignment to individual students’ goals. You must e-mail or speak with me by May 10th about any such requests. Papers previously written or simultaneously submitted for another course will not be accepted.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

The course draws on a wide range of sources, and there are no books that we will read in their entirety. All journal articles and book chapters will be made available via the course website on TED. That said, I encourage you to purchase the following books if you do not own them already:


If you are unfamiliar with some of the econometric techniques in the readings, the following, PDFs of which can be found online for free, might be good resources:


For additional background on development debates, see the following:

• Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (Oxford University Press, 2007)
• Abhijit Banerjee, Roland Benabou, and Dilip Mookherjee, eds., *Understanding Poverty* (Oxford University Press, 2006)
COURSE OVERVIEW

Week 1: Defining Development
Friday, April 5

Key questions:

- How should development be defined?
- How should development be measured?
- How is economic growth related to other development indicators?
- What are the key development trends in recent years?

Assigned Readings:

  - Chapters 1-2

Other Readings:

Alternative Indicators to GDP


Overviews of Development Trends

  - Pages: 27-31, 44-48, 125-130
- Elhanan Helpman, The Mystery of Economic Growth (Harvard University Press, 2004) (see Chapter 1)
- Branko Milanovic. Worlds Apart: Measuring International and Global Inequality (Princeton University Press, 2007) (see Chapters 4-9)
• Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (Oxford University Press, 2007) (see Chapter 1)

*What are Markets?*

• Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom* (New York: Anchor Books, 1999) (see Chapter 5)
Week 2: Traditional Economic Approaches to Development
Friday, April 12

Key questions:

- What are the sources of economic growth?
- How well do theories explain actual economic growth?
- How have theories of growth evolved over time?

Assigned Readings:

  - Chapters 2-4
  - Chapters 2-3
  - Read pages 1-10

Other Readings:

For those who are encountering the Solow model for the first time, I encourage you to watch Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok’s short online overview here:

- [http://mruniversity.com/solow-model-1-%E2%80%93-introduction](http://mruniversity.com/solow-model-1-%E2%80%93-introduction)

On Methodological Approaches

  - Chp 1: The Fall and Rise of Development Economics
On Economic Theories of Growth


Empirical Work on Growth


Other Recommended Readings

Week 3: The Rise of Institutional Economics

Friday, April 19

Key questions:

- What are institutions?
- How do institutions affect development?
- How can institutions be studied?

Assigned Readings:

  - Chapter 1

Other Readings:

For those not familiar with instrumental variables or who need a review, see the Gertler et al. (2011) or Khandker et al. (2010) readings cited on Page 3, or alternatively:


*Debate Over “Colonial Origins” Paper*


*Debate Over Effects of Institutions*


General Work on Institutions and Development


Avner Greif, *Institutions and the Path to the Modern Economy* (Cambridge University Press, 2006)


Week 4: Democracy, Dictatorship, and Development
Friday, April 26

Key questions:

- Does development cause democracy?
- Does democracy cause development?

Assigned Readings:

  - Chapters 1 and 7
  - Read pages 517-524
  - Read pages 15-27

Other Readings:

*Development’s Effect on Regime*


• Seymour Martin Lipset, “Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics” (University of Chicago Press, 1963)


**Regime Effect on Development**


• James Mahoney, *Colonialism and Postcolonial Development: Spanish America in Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge University Press, 2010)


**Regime Type and Public Policy**

Week 5: Rule of Law, Property Rights, and Development

Friday, May 3

Key Questions:

- What is the role of law and property rights in development?
- What specific institutional arrangements are conducive to development?
- How do we account for growth in countries with poor institutions?

Assigned Readings:


Other Readings:

On property rights and credible commitment:

On the East Asia “puzzle” of growth with poor institutions:


Additional micro-level empirical works:


On the “legal origins” debate:


General Readings on the Rule of Law in Developing Countries


**On Origins of Property Rights**

Week 6: States and Development  
Friday, May 10

Key Questions:

- Can the state promote development? Under what circumstances?
- What is the “Developmental State?” How useful is the concept?

Assigned Readings:

  - Chapter 1
  - Introduction and Chapters 1-2
- Peter Evans, Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation (Princeton University Press, 1995)
  - Chapters 1-3
- Alice Amsden, Asia’s Next Giant: South Korea and Late Industrialization (Oxford University Press, 1989)
  - Chapters 1 and 6

Other Readings:

Some Classics

- Samuel Huntington, Political Order in Changing Societies (Yale University Press, 1968)
- Chalmers Johnson, MITI and the Japanese Miracle (Stanford University Press, 1982)

More on the Development State

- Meredith Woo-Cumings, ed., The Developmental State (Cornell University Press, 1999)


**On Rent-Seeking**


**On Governance**

Week 7: Corruption and Development
Friday, May 17

Key questions:

- What different types of corruption exist?
- What causes corruption?
- How does corruption affect development outcomes?
- How can corruption be studied?

Assigned Readings:

- Samuel Huntington, Political Order in Changing Societies (Yale University Press, 1968)
  - Read pages 59-71

Other Readings:

Methodological Approaches:


Background Reading:

• Susan Rose-Ackerman, *Corruption and Government: Causes, Consequences, and Reform* (Cambridge University Press, 1999)
• Robert Klitgaard, *Controlling Corruption* (University of California Press, 1988)
• Charles Blake and Stephen Morris, eds., *Corruption and Democracy in Latin America* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009)
• Frank Anechiarico and James Jacobs, *The Pursuit of Absolute Integrity* (University of Chicago Press, 1996)
• Maxim Mironov and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya, “Corruption in Procurement and Shadow Campaign Financing: Evidence from Russia,” unpublished manuscript
Week 8: Clientelism, Distributive Politics and Development  
*Friday, May 24*

Key questions:

- What is clientelism and how does it differ from other forms of distributive politics?
- What causes clientelism?
- How does clientelism affect development outcomes?
- How can clientelism be studied?

Assigned Readings:

  - Read pages 2-30

Methodological Approaches to the Study of Clientelism


Further Background Reading:

On Clientelism

- Simona Piattoni, “Clientelism in Historical and Comparative Perspective,” in *Clientelism, Interests, and Democratic Representation: The European Experience in Historical and Comparative Perspective*, Simona Piattoni, ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2001)
• Frederic Schaffer, ed., *Elections for Sale: The Causes and Consequences of Vote Buying* (Lynne Rienner, 2007)
• Fabrice Lehoucq and Ivan Molina, *Stuffing the Ballot Box: Fraud, Election Reform, and Democratization in Costa Rica* (Cambridge University Press, 2002)
• William Riordan, *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall* (New York: Signet, 1995)
Week 9: Natural Resources and Development
Friday, May 31

Key Questions:

- What are the effects of natural resources on economic development?
- What are the effects of natural resources on regime type?
- What types of institutional arrangements mediate these relationships?

Assigned Readings:

  - Chapters 1-3 and 6
  - Chapter 1

Other Readings:

- M. Steven Fish, *Democracy Derailed in Russia: The Failure of Open Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) (Chapter 5)
**Week 10: Aid and Development**  
*Friday, June 7*

**Key Questions:**

- What is the impact of foreign aid on development outcomes?
- How do political institutions influence aid effectiveness?
- What effect does foreign aid have on political institutions?

**Assigned Readings:**

  - Chapter 4

**Other Readings:**

*Foreign Aid and Development*

- Roger Riddel, *Does Foreign Aid Really Work?* (Oxford University Press, 2007)
• Paul Collier, The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It (Oxford University Press, 2007) (Chapter 7)

Aid and Democracy

• Helen Milner, Daniel Nielson and Michael Findley, “Which Devil in Development? A Large-N Survey and Randomized Field Experiment Comparing Bilateral Aid, Multilateral Assistance, and Government Action in Uganda,” working paper