Poli127: Politics of Developing Countries
Winter Quarter 2014

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Course materials are available on TED at https://ted.ucsd.edu. From the main TED page for poli127, click on “Content” in the upper left menu. This will bring you to the course syllabus, research guides, rubrics, and turnitin.com and PeerMark access. If you have any questions, please just let me, or one of your TAs know.

Course Description:
What do we mean by “development”? Why have some countries and regions of the world been more successful in their efforts to promote development than others? Why should “we” (in the “developed” world) care about development problems in the “developing” world, or should we? This course provides an introduction to competing conceptions and theories of development. We examine assumptions and predictions of different theoretical approaches to development, and assess the explanatory power of each in understanding the central problems faced by developing countries in the early 21st century. In so doing, the course has four primary objectives: (1) to critically evaluate dominant conceptions and theories of development in the political science literature; (2) to assess the relative value of these theories by applying them to specific case studies drawn from three regions of the developing world: Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia; (3) to compare and critique patterns of development across these three regions; and (4) to further develop our skills as social scientists in formulating and testing hypotheses concerning the causes and consequences of development and underdevelopment in our world today.

Course Requirements:
Summary:

(1) Class participation: peer instruction/clickers 10%
(2) Policy proposals due: week 3, Thursday, 23 January 5%
   • Hard copy due at end of class.
   • E-version due to TED by 11:59 p.m.
   • Both deadlines must be met to avoid late penalty (1/3 grade for each 24 hr. period late)
(3) Midterm exam: week 4, Thursday, 30 January 20%
(4) First draft policy brief (1500 word min.) due to TED: week 7, Thurs, 20 Feb., 11:59 p.m. 5%
(5) Feedback to two peers due to TED: week 8, Thurs., 27 February, 11:59 p.m. 5%
(6) Final policy papers due: week 9, Thursday, 6 March 30%
   • Hard copy due at the end of class
   • E-version due to turnitin.com (TED) by 11:59 pm
   • Both deadlines must be met to avoid late penalty (1/3 grade for each 24 hr. period late)
(7) Final exam, Tuesday, 18 March, 11:30 – 2:30 25%
**Exams:**
There will be two exams in this course: a midterm and a final. The midterm exam will constitute 20% of your final grade, and the (cumulative) final exam is worth 25%. Both exams will consist of short answer identifications questions and an in-class essay question. Please note that exams cannot be made up without well-documented evidence of an emergency, or prior approval by the professor.

**Research Projects:**
In addition to midterm and final exams, this course also requires that you research and write a short (8 - 10 page, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins) policy brief focused on a development problem in a developing country of your choice. For the purposes of this assignment, you will become a policy analyst employed by a development organization of your choice. This organization can either be a governmental organization (i.e. U.S. Agency for International Development –US AID), a nongovernmental organization (i.e. Oxfam, Center for Global Governance, Global Fund for Women, International Rescue Committee, Grameen Bank, etc.), or an intergovernmental organization (i.e. United Nations Development Program –UNDP; UNICEF, UN Woman, World Bank, IMF, WHO, ILO, etc.) of your choice. (Please see TED page for ideas re: orgs.) This research assignment is designed to give you the opportunity to engage in more in-depth analysis of a development problem that is of particular interest to you, further hone your critical thinking and writing skills in defending the human rights position(s) you put forth, and enable you to investigate a problem and case study not covered in the course. Because of the size of the class, and the importance of maintaining standards of fairness for all students, late assignments will be penalized one-third of a grade for each 24-hour period they are late. Please also note that there are two deadlines for the research proposal and final policy paper: (1) submission of your hard copy at the end of class, and (2) submission of an e-version to turnitin.com via TED (go to course content page). In order to avoid a late penalty, both parts of the assignment must be submitted by the deadlines. If you have any questions about this, please consult your TA or me. Please also note that e-mailed versions of assignments cannot be accepted under any circumstances. If an emergency should arise, please document this as best you can (include a written explanation as well as all supporting documentation), and staple this to the hard copy of your assignment. Submit these materials to me (envelope outside my office door) as soon as possible. I will review and contact you if I have questions.

Detailed writing guides and a grading rubric are posted on the course content page of TED. These guides provide links to sample policy briefs (e.g. http://www.brookings.edu/series/Brookings-Policy-Brief.aspx), as well as to policy briefs published by students in Prospect, UCSD's undergraduate journal of international affairs (http://prospectjournal.org). The political science research library at Geisel, Annelise Sklar, has also put together a terrific research guide and materials for your projects, which is linked to the course TED page and Geisel Library's home page. We love to talk about projects in office hours, so please come tell us about your research interests and findings as they evolve!

**Class Participation:**
As an upper-division political science course, you are expected to come to class meetings prepared to discuss central questions, puzzles and concerns that arise from course readings assigned for that day. The most recent academic literature on teaching and learning has documented a strong causal relationship between active participation through discussion of course content and student learning. In order to facilitate discussion and allow you each an opportunity to participate, I will use a relatively new pedagogy, “Peer Instruction,” together with clicker technology, to facilitate both small and large group discussions. The academic literature on teaching and learning finds significantly increased learning gains among students who have participated in this pedagogical approach with the use of clickers.

We will begin “practicing” with Peer Instruction and clickers weeks 1 and 2, but the “official” counting period will not start until week 3. If you do not yet have a clicker, this will allow you time to find a clicker to borrow (a friend or roommate?), or purchase (new or used) online or at the UCSD bookstore. (If you buy them online, be sure to purchase the i-clicker brand, which is what UCSD’s infrastructure supports. If you want to sell back to the UCSD bookstore ($24.00 buy back), get the i-clicker 2.)

Peer Instruction questions are geared toward enhancing your understanding of course readings and lectures, and will help you prepare for your exams and your policy paper projects. In general, I will ask two different
types of questions. One type will focus on a central point from your readings or a point covered in lectures. Pedagogically, these questions are used to strengthen our critical reading and thinking skills, and ensure that central concepts are generally understood before moving to a new topic. A second type of question will be a “polling” question, asking you to take a stand on a particular development problem or issue. These questions will be used to stimulate class discussion on different topics. The focus of these types of questions is also to hone our critical thinking skills and, specifically, our ability to articulate persuasive arguments to support our positions, based on logic and compelling, high quality evidence. For this second type of question, you will receive full points (1 pt.) simply for participating. For the first type of question, you will receive full points (1 pt.) for getting the question correct and .8 points for participating. In assessing your grade for this component of the course, you’re allowed to miss 20% of the total points without penalty. So, for example, if we ask 40 questions total over the quarter, and you receive 30 points, you will still get an “A” (20% of 40 is 32, and 30/32 = 93.75 or 94). In prior quarters, Peer Instruction participation bumped most students’ grades up by 1/3 of a step (e.g., from an A- to an A), and an overwhelming majority of students (more than 90%) reported that they believed Peer Instruction with clickers improved their learning and recommended them for future classes.

E-mail Policy: Please use the designated forums on the TED discussion board for all course and assignment related questions so that everyone can benefit from information exchanged. The TAs and I will monitor the board Monday – Friday, but also feel free to help each other out. Due to the size of our class, this will be the most efficient way for us to communicate. Because of the volume of email we all receive, let’s try to reserve this mode of communication for personal emergencies, etc. Instead, we will keep office hours every day of the week (M – F), and I’m always available after class, so let’s try to get to know each other in this way. Also, due to young children at home, I do not have Internet access after 5 pm on Fridays until Monday mornings. If you should urgently need to reach me on a weekend, please feel free to call me at home: 858.552.9264. If you do need to send email, please be sure to put the course number (poli127) in the subject line so that I can quickly locate it. Thanks!

Academic Integrity Policy:
Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD Policy on Academic Integrity and published in the UCSD General Catalog: http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html. Although you are encouraged to work together in preparing for class discussions and exams, each student is expected to do their own work on all written assignments and in-class essays. Violations will be subject to the disciplinary measures as outlined by the University. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please consult me or one of your TAs.

Course Texts:
Four texts are available for purchase at the UCSD bookstore. Please feel free to purchase these independently online or elsewhere. In addition, multiple copies of all texts have been placed on print reserves at Geisel Library. If you choose not to purchase the texts, and experience any problems obtaining a reserve copy, please let me know.


All additional course readings (articles, etc.) are available via electronic reserves from Geisel Library. To access course reserves, go to the library’s homepage: http://libraries.ucsd.edu. Click on the “Course Reserves” drop down menu on the top of the page, then select “Students.” From here you can search either by my name or the course number. One you find the course page, please enter the password: mf127. If you encounter any problems, please call 858.534.1857, or e-mail: userserv@ucsd.edu, or contact me.
Course Schedule:

**Week 1:** What Do We Mean by “Development”? How Do We Measure It?

**Tuesday, 7 January:** Course Introduction
Readings:
None.

**Thursday, 9 January:** What is “development”?
Readings:

**Week 2:** Global Inequality and the Development of Development Studies

**Tuesday, 14 January:** What is poverty? What is inequality? How are these measured? Discussion of research projects. Please do not miss this class...
Readings:

**Further Reading:** (These are provided to help guide additional/not required reading on topics.)
1. YouTube clip: GDP vs. GNP: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZ-4eKreH3I

**Thursday, 16 January:** Development and Modernization Theories
Readings:

**Week 3:** Development and Underdevelopment in Latin America

**Tuesday, 21 January:** Development and Dependency Theories
Readings:

**Thursday, 23 January: Development and Underdevelopment in Latin America**

*Hard copies of policy proposals due at the end of class today. E-versions due to TED no later than 11:59 p.m.* Midterm review sheet will be posted to TED by midnight on Friday. To ensure that all students have access to exam-related information exchanged, please use the designed TED forum for midterm questions, rather than e-mail to TAs or instructor. Thanks!

**Readings:**


**Week 4: Development and Underdevelopment in Latin America**

**Tuesday, 28 January: Development in Latin America: Contemporary and Future Challenges**

**Readings:**


**Thursday, 30 January: Midterm Exam**

**Readings:** None

**Week 5: The Politics of Development in Sub-Saharan Africa**

**Tuesday, 4 February: Introduction to Sub-Saharan Africa: Colonialism and Underdevelopment**

**Readings:**

Further Reading

Week 6: Dual Transitions in Sub-Saharan Africa and Introduction to East Asia

**Tuesday, 11 February:** Dual Transitions in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Readings:**

**Thursday, 13 February:** Pathways from the Periphery? East Asia

**Readings:**

Week 7: The Asia Economic Crisis of 1997 and the Millennium Challenge

**Tuesday, 18 February:** Asia Economic Crisis of 1997: Implications for Theories of Development and the Millennium Challenge

**Excerpts from PBS Film: “The Crash”**

**Readings:**

Further Reading:
1. Joseph E. Stiglitz, “The Asia Crisis Ten Years After,” July 2007: [www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/stiglitz89/English](http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/stiglitz89/English)

**Thursday, 20 February:** Asia Economic Crisis of 1997: Implications for Theories of Development and the Millennium Challenge

**First draft of policy paper (1500 words minimum) due to TED no later than 11:59 p.m. Please do not miss this deadline.** The submission board “transforms” to peer review at exactly midnight, so there is no way to upload submissions after 11:59 p.m. Also, in order to participate in the peer review process (5% of course grade), you need to have submitted a paper draft. (Peer reviews are randomly matched among those papers submitted.) **We cannot emphasize enough how important these deadlines are.**
Readings:

Week 8: Globalization and the Politics of Development

**Tuesday, 25 February:** Globalization and Development: Is “Free” Trade “Fair” Trade?

Readings:

Further Reading:

**Thursday, 27 February:** Globalization, Development and Multinational Corporations

*Peer review comments due to your peers via TED no later than 11:59 p.m. this evening. Please do not miss this deadline. (5% of course grade...)*

Readings:
3. Case study materials on Alta Gracia:
   - 2 – pg. Word doc. on TED (course content): "AGBackgroundorgfinal.doc".

Week 9: Sustainable Development: Saving the Planet and the Resource Curse

**Tuesday, 4 March:** Globalization and Sustainable Environment

Readings:

**Thursday, 6 March:** Sustainable Development and the Resource Curse

*Hard copies of policy papers due at the end of class today. E-versions due no later than 11:59 p.m. this evening. (Remember you can always over-write uploads until the deadline, so upload early and often...)*

Readings:
2. Jerry Useem, “Exxon’s Africa Adventure: how to Build a $3.5 Billion Pipeline –with the ‘Help’ of NGOs, the World Bank, and Yes, Chicken Sacrifices,” *Fortune*, v. 145, no. 8, April 15, 2002; pp. 102 – 106 (5 pp.).
Further Reading:

**Week 10:** The Ends and Means of Development: Future Possibilities, Future Challenges

**Tuesday, 11 March:** Development and Democracy

**Readings:**

**Further Reading:**

**Thursday, 13 March:** Where Do/Should We Go From Here?

**Readings:**

**Further Reading:**

**Final Exam:** Tuesday, 18 March, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

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Additional Books on Print Reserves at Geisel:
If you are interested in a future career in development, the following additional texts (from which we'll read excerpts) are also available on print reserves at Geisel: