**PSCI 4012: Global Development**

**Fall 2020**

**University of Colorado Boulder**

**Course Information**

Instructor: Trenton Marlar

Time and location of class: Tuesday & Thursday from 3:55pm – 5:10pm, MUEN E050

My office: Student hours held over Zoom

Student hours: Mondays 1:00pm-2:30pm or Wednesdays from 10:00am-11:30am over Zoom, or by request. Please book appointments here: [calendly.com/trenton-marlar](https://calendly.com/trenton-marlar)

My email: [trenton.marlar@colorado.edu](mailto:trenton.marlar@colorado.edu)

Course website: see Canvas

**Course Objectives**

Why are a few countries rich while so many others are relatively poor? This course sets out to explore possible answers to this important question. The course will begin by examining arguments that external actors (i.e. the West) are responsible for the Global South’s under-development. The course will then shift the focus to the less-developed countries themselves, evaluating whether poor governance (both economic and political) and/or cultural values are the primary source of this persistent under-development. Finally, this course will conclude by exploring whether underdevelopment is the result of forces largely outside of human control, namely geography. While evaluating these three distinct theoretical perspectives of development, students will also consider country case studies and other descriptive materials about the politics, economics, and societies of less developed countries.

This will be an active learning course. Rather than using our in-person days to absorb material through lectures, *students will come to class having already viewed the pre-recorded lectures and other course materials*. This allows students to actively engage with the course material, applying the weeks’ content to activities, discussions, and group assignments that will be completed during class.

**Course Format:**

**This course has been designated by the university as hybrid in-person/online and/or remote course.** This means that the course will be taught using a combination of in-person and online instruction. Given the enrollment of the course and classroom restrictions due to COVID, the class will be split into two cohorts that attend class in person on different days. Beginning Week 2, half of the class will attend class in-person on Tuesdays (i.e. the Tuesday cohort) and the other half of the class will attend in person on Thursdays (i.e. the Thursday cohort). **Students are not expected to attend the other cohort’s class remotely.** In addition to attending class in-person once a week on their cohort’s assigned day, students will view pre-recorded lectures/other course materials and complete weekly quizzes online over the course of the week. Students will be notified of their cohort during the first week of the semester.

**Required Texts**

There are **two** required books for this course:

-Shaping the Developing World (SDW): The West, the South, and the Natural World by Andy Baker (978-1608718559). **This textbook is available through the CU Bookstore’s Day 1 Digital Access program. Through this program, students receive access to a discounted digital version of the textbook through the Canvas course page and will have the cost of the eBook billed directly to their tuition and fees bill on September 11th at the discounted price. Students who wish to purchase the book from an outside vendor are free to do so and will need to opt out of the Day 1 Digital Access program no later than September 9th to avoid being charged on their tuition and fees bill.**

-Poor Economics (PE) by Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo (978-1610390934)

Throughout the semester, students will also read current event articles and other readings that relate to course themes. These readings will appear on the course schedule and will be posted to Canvas in advance.

**Assignments and Grading Criteria:**

Students will be evaluated on a wide array of assignments and skills, including exams, written essays, reading quizzes, and group assignments. Final grades will be determined according to the following breakdown:

1. **Exams 35%**
   1. **Midterm: 15%**
   2. **Final: 20%**
2. **Research Paper 25%**
3. **Group Assignments 15%**
4. **Weekly Quizzes 15%**
5. **Attendance 10%**
6. **Exams:** **35%** of the overall grade is based on two take-home examinations administered over Canvas.
   1. **Midterm (15%):** Roughly halfway through the semester, a take-home midterm will be administered. The midterm will open Thursday, October 22nd on Canvas. Students will have a 24-hour window to complete the midterm (i.e. Thursday at 12:00am-Thursday at 11:59pm). Once opened, students will have 75 minutes to complete the exam and upload their answers to Canvas. While the exam is open-book/open-notes, students must complete the exam individually.
      1. Content: The midterm exam will cover units 1 & 2
      2. Format: Students will answer several short answer questions and answer one essay prompt. Potential essay prompts will be provided prior to the exam
   2. **Final exam (20%):** At the end of the semester, a take-home final will be administered. The final exam will open Thursday, December 10th on Canvas. Students will have a 24-hour window to complete the final exam (i.e. Thursday at 12:00am-Thursday at 11:59pm). Once opened, students will have 150 minutes (2.5 hours) to complete the exam and upload their answers to Canvas. While the exam is open-book/open-notes, students must complete the examindividually.
      1. Content: Units 1, 2, 3, and 4 (i.e. cumulative)
      2. Format: Students will answer two essay prompts. Potential essay prompts will be provided prior to the exam
7. **Research paper: 25%** of the overall grade is based on a research paper. For this assignment, students will write a medium-length essay based on outside readings and research. More information about this assignment will be forthcoming.
   1. **Length:** 1500 words (roughly 5-7 pages)
   2. **Due date:** Sunday, December 6th at 11:59 pm on Canvas.
   3. **Late policy:** papers handed in after the specified due date will have 10% deducted from their final score each day they are late.
8. **Group assignments:** **15%** of the overall grade is based on several group assignments student will complete in class during cohort days. Each group assignment will be weighted equally. To minimize free-riding, your work and effort will be confidentially graded by your fellow group-members at the end of the semester. Your group members’ grades for your work/effort will then be averaged and this grade will be worth the equivalent of one group assignment for your overall group assignment grade.
   1. **Late policy:** group assignments handed in after the specified due date will have 10% deducted from their final score each day they are late.
   2. Students that make no efforts to assist their group with the group assignments will be removed from the group and expected to complete the group assignments individually.
9. **Weekly quizzes: 15%** of the overall grade is based on weekly quizzes that will be administered on Canvas. Quizzes will open on Wednesday of each week and will be due Friday by 11:59pm. The quizzes will cover the week’s lecture, readings, and other assigned materials. All quizzes will be weighted equally.
   1. Each student’s lowest **two** quiz scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.
   2. Because students have 48 hours to complete the quiz and student’s two lowest quiz scores are dropped, no make-up quizzes will be given.
10. **Attendance:** **10%** of the overall grade is based on the student’s attendance on their respective cohort day (i.e. one day a week). Given this course’s emphasis on active learning, attending the student’s cohort day (whether in-person or remotely) is crucial to the success of the student. Students who are in attendance but not actively engaged/participating in the activities of the day will be considered absent for that day.
    1. Students receive **three** attendance freebie days. Note that religious holidays, sickness, family emergencies, and other reasons for absence that are “legitimate” DO COUNT against a student’s freebie absences. Beyond three absences, the student’s attendance grade will be lowered by 10%, per each additional absence.
    2. Students who cannot attend their in-person cohort day because they are quarantining and/or ill will have the option to attend their cohort day remotely and earn full attendance points.
    3. Students that are going to miss a group assignment day are encouraged to reach out to their fellow group members and discuss ways in which they can still assist the group with the assignment.
    4. In the event that the class must move 100% online, students will still be expected to attend their cohort day remotely over Zoom.
    5. **Any student with concerns about their attendance should discuss with the instructor about possible alternatives to earn attendance points as soon as possible.**

**Final grades will be determined using the following scale. Note that final grades that fall on the number (but on or above .5%) between two letters will be automatically rounded up to the next letter grade (e.g. 89.5% rounds up to 90%, an A-).**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **A-** | **B+** | **B** | **B-** | **C+** | **C** | **C-** | **D+** | **D** | **D-** | **F** |
| 94-100 | 90-93 | 87-89 | 84-86 | 80-83 | 77-79 | 74-76 | 70-73 | 67-69 | 64-66 | 60-63 | <60 |

**Course communication policies:**

* This course will be using Slack, a messaging platform available on smart phones or computers, as its main method of communication. Students will be able to use Slack to:
  + Receive announcements from the instructor (**course announcements will also be posted on Canvas**)
  + Answer survey questions fielded by the instructor
  + Directly message the instructor with more personal/specific questions
  + Ask more general questions about the course and/or assignments to their peers and/or the instructor
  + Collaborate with their group members
* While the use of Slack is encouraged for a more expedited response, students are welcome to send emails to the instructor using their CU email address.
* Students will receive responses to their Slack messages and/or emails from the instructor within one workday of the message being sent (not including the weekends), if not earlier. The instructor will be replying to messages between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm on weekdays. Although the instructor may reply to messages outside of these hours or on the weekends, students should not expect a response until the following workday.
* Students are expected to use in Slack in a professional, respectful, and responsible manner. Those who act in an unprofessional manner may be subject to university discipline.
* Finally, if something is going on in the student’s life that is significantly impacting their ability to attend class and/or complete the course assignments, please reach out to the instructor and communicate what is going on as soon as possible. The instructor will work with the student to find a way to continue to make meaningful progress in the course.

**Assignment Due Dates:**

* Group Assignments:
  + Group Assignment 1: Tuesday, September 15th OR Thursday, September 17th (Week 4)
  + Group Assignment 2: Tuesday, September 22nd OR Thursday, September 24th (Week 5)
  + Group Assignment 3: Tuesday, October 6th OR Thursday, October 8th (Week 7)
  + Group Assignment 4: Tuesday, November 10th OR Thursday, November 12th (Week 12)
* In-class debate on Chinese development: Tuesday, September 22nd or Thursday, September 24th (Week 5)
* Midterm: Thursday, October 22nd (Week 9)
* Draft of research paper: Monday, November 30th (Week 15)
* Research paper: Sunday, December 6th (Week 15)
* Final exam: Thursday, December 10th (Week 16)

**Course Schedule:**

**Unit 1: Introduction**

**Week 1 (August 25th and August 27th): Course Guidelines and Themes**

**Remote for everyone 8/25; NO CLASS 8/27**

Assigned readings

* SDW Chapter 1
* *If you shouldn’t call it the Third World, what should you call it?* **(Canvas)**

Other assigned materials:

* Watch:Poor us: an animated history of poverty **(Canvas)**

Assignments due:

* Install/Sign-up for Slack and reply to my welcome post in the ‘course\_announcements’ channel
* Quiz 1 (Week 1 quiz) on Friday, August 28th by 11:59 PM on Canvas

**Week 2 (September 1st and September 3rd): Introduction to development**

Assigned readings:

* SDW Chapter 2
* Sen (1999) *Development as Freedom*, Chapter 1 (p.13-24… stop at Freedom, Capability and the Quality of Life) **(Canvas)**
* Cuba - *How Cubans Live as long as Americans at a tenth of the cost* **(Canvas)**

Assignments due:

* Quiz 2 (Week 2 quiz) on Friday, September 4th by 11:59 PM on Canvas

**Week 3 (September 8th & September 10th): Trends in Global Development**

Assigned readings:

* 2019 Human Development Report Overview, p.1-20 **(Canvas)**

Other assigned materials:

* Take Factfulness Quiz **(Canvas)**
* Watch: 2019 Human Development Report video recap **(Canvas)**

**Group Assignment 1: Generate a data report on some development trend**

* Due beginning of Week 4 cohort day (9/15 or 9/17)

Assignments due:

* Quiz 3 (Week 3 quiz) on Friday, September 11th by 11:59 PM on Canvas

**Week 4 (September 15th and September 17th): The ethics and desirability of development**

Assigned readings:

* SDW Chapters 3 and 14
* South Africa – *Why Cape Town is running out of water, and who’s next* **(Canvas)**
* Indonesia – *Indonesia defends deforestation for palm oil on economic grounds* **(Canvas)**

**Group Assignment 2: Write a position paper**

* Due beginning of Week 5 cohort day (9/22 or 9/24)

Assignments due:

* Group Assignment 1 due beginning of Week 4 cohort day (9/15 or 9/17)
* Quiz 4 (Week 4 quiz) on Friday, September 18th by 11:59 PM on Canvas

**Week 5 (September 22nd & September 24th): In-class debate on the ethics/desirability of Chinese development**

REMOTE CLASS FOR BOTH COHORT DAYS

In-class debate (as part of Group Assignment 2)

Assignments due:

* Group assignment 2 due beginning of Week 5 cohort day (9/22 or 9/24)

**Unit 2: The West: Colonialism, Trade, and Aid**

**Week 6 (September 29th and October 1st): Slavery and Western Colonialism**

REMOTE CLASS FOR BOTH COHORT DAYS

Assigned readings:

* SDW Chapter 4
* Nunn & Wantchekon (2011) “The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa”, p. 3221-3237 & 3249-3250 **(Canvas)**
* *Examining the slave trade – ‘Britain has a debt to repay’* **(Canvas)**
* Namibia – *Namibia rejects German compensation offer over colonial violence* **(Canvas)**

**Group Assignment 3: breaking down an academic journal**

* Due beginning of Week 7 cohort day (10/6 or 10/8)

Assignments due:

* Quiz 5 (Week 6 quiz) on Friday, October 2nd by 11:59 PM on Canvas

**Week 7 (October 6th and October 8th): Dependency theory and neo-colonialism**

REMOTE CLASS FOR BOTH COHORT DAYS

Assigned readings:

* SDW Chapter 5
* Brain Drain in Africa – *How severe is Africa’s Brain Drain?* **(Canvas)**
* Remittance to Africa – *Figure of the Week: Remittance flows to sub-Saharan Africa expected to slow after years of growth* **(Canvas**)

Assignments due:

* Group Assignment 3 due beginning of Week 7 cohort day (10/6 or 10/8)
* Quiz 6 (Week 7 quiz) on Friday, October 9th by 11:59 PM on Canvas

**Week 8 (October 13th and October 15th): Foreign Aid and Bretton Woods Institutions**

Assigned readings:

* SDW Chapter 6
* *The Case for Aid* **(Canvas)**

Other assigned materials:

* Watch: Duflo Social Experiments to Fight Poverty **(Canvas)**
* Watch: Interview with Professor Easterly on Foreign Aid **(Canvas)**

Assignments due:

* Quiz 7 (Week 8 quiz) on Friday, October 16th by 11:59 PM on Canvas

**Week 9 (October 20th and October 22nd): Midterm**

**Optional midterm review session over Zoom on Tuesday**

**Midterm Thursday (10/22) on Canvas**

**Unit 3: The South: Culture, Policy, and Information**

**Week 10 (October 27th & October 29th): Culture, psychology, and underdevelopment**

Assigned Readings:

* SDW Chapter 7 (p.158-172) … until “Causes of Underdevelopment”
* PE Chapters 1-4 (p.1-101)

**Group Assignment 4: design your own RCT**

* Due beginning of Week 12 cohort day (11/10 or 11/12)

Assignments due:

* Quiz 8 (Week 10 quiz) on Friday, October 30th by 11:59 PM on Canvas

**Week 11 (November 3rd and November 5th): Ethnic diversity, gender, and development**

Assigned readings:

* SDW Chapter 7 (p.172-181) & Chapter 12
* PE Chapter 5
* Bangladesh - *Conditional Cash Keeps Girls in School* **(Canvas)**

**Continue working on Group Assignment 4 (due Week 12)**

Assignments due:

* Quiz 9 (week 11 quiz) on Friday, November 6th by 11:59 PM on Canvas

**Week 12 (November 10th and November 12th): Economic institutions and development**

Assigned readings:

* SDW Chapter 8 and Chapter 9
* PE Chapters 6-9 (p.133-234)

Assignments due:

* Group Assignment 4 due beginning of Week 12 cohort day (11/10 or 11/12)
* Quiz 10 (week 12 quiz) on Friday, November 13th by 11:59 PM on Canvas

**Week 13 (November 17th and November 19th): Political institutions and development**

Assigned readings:

* SDW Chapter 10 & Chapter 11
* PE Chapter 10

Other assigned materials:

* Watch: Dambisa Moyo – *Is China the new idol for emerging economies?* **(Canvas)**

Assignments due:

* Quiz 11 (week 13 quiz) on Friday, November 20th by 11:59 PM on Canvas

**Week 14 (November 24th & November 26th): Thanksgiving Week**

**Optional Zoom session to discuss/workshop research papers on Tuesday (11/24)**

NO CLASS THURSDAY, NOVEMEBR 26th

**Unit 4: Nature: Geography and Prosperity**

**Week 15 (December 1st & December 3rd): Geography and economic prosperity**

REMOTE CLASS FOR BOTH COHORT DAYS

Assigned readings:

* SDW Chapter 13
* Bolivia – *Bolivia’s Morales in The Hague to petition World Court over Chile sea access* **(Canvas)**
* *As oil prices plummet, how can resource-rich countries diversify their economies?* (**Canvas)**

Assignment due:

* **Draft of research paper due Monday, November 30th**
* Quiz 12 (week 15 quiz) on Friday, December 4th by 11:59 PM on Canvas
* **Research paper due Sunday, December 6th by 11:59 PM on Canvas**

**Week 16 (December 10th): Final Exam**

**Final exam Thursday, December 10th on Canvas**

**University Policies**

**Classroom Behavior**

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Code of Conduct](https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/sites/default/files/attached-files/2019-2020_student_code_of_conduct_0.pdf).

**REQUIREMENTS FOR COVID-19**

As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements, and public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Required safety measures at CU Boulder relevant to the classroom setting include:

* maintain 6-foot distancing when possible,
* wear a face covering in public indoor spaces and outdoors while on campus consistent with state and county health orders,
* clean local work area,
* practice hand hygiene,
* follow public health orders, and
* if sick and you live off campus, do not come onto campus (unless instructed by a CU Healthcare professional), or if you live on-campus, please alert [CU Boulder Medical Services](https://www.colorado.edu/healthcenter/coronavirus-updates/symptoms-and-what-do-if-you-feel-sick).

Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/). For more information, see the policies on [COVID-19 Health and Safety](https://www.colorado.edu/policies/covid-19-health-and-safety-policy) and [classroom behavior](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.colorado.edu/osccr/). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please see the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

Before returning to campus, all students must complete the [COVID-19 Student Health and Expectations Course](https://www.colorado.edu/protect-our-herd/how#anchor1). Before coming on to campus each day, all students are required to complete a [Daily Health Form](https://www.colorado.edu/protect-our-herd/daily-health-form).

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home and complete the [Health Questionnaire and Illness Reporting Form](https://www.colorado.edu/protect-our-herd/daily-health-form) remotely. In this class, if you are missing class because you are sick or quarantined**,** please inform the instructor of your absence as soon as possible by email.

**Accommodation for Disabilities**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed.  Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment.  Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](https://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance.  If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions) on the Disability Services website.

**Preferred Student Names and Pronouns**

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

**Honor Code**

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](https://www.colorado.edu/osccr/honor-code).

**Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation**

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PnqVK4kkIJIZnf), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

**Religious Holidays**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please inform the instructor immediately if you have any religious holiday conflicts with the two scheduled exams that appears on this syllabus. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams) for full details.