

PSCI 4012: GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT
Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder
Spring 2021
Professor Andy Baker
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UMC 212
Tuesday and Thursdays 3:55-5:10PM
Zoom link for lectures:
<https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/91906190433>

Office hours: Thursdays 9AM-11AM at this Zoom
link: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/97967315473>



COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE

Why are a few countries rich while so many are relatively poor? This course will explore different answers to this incredibly important question. Are the world's vast inequalities due to centuries of exploitation of the global South by the West? Or do they exist because of bad leadership, poor institutions, and cultural values in the South itself? Alternatively, is global poverty due to something outside of human control, namely nature and geography? The course will give students a variety of theoretical and practical tools for thinking about these questions. Along the way, we will also consider several country cases and present other descriptive material about the politics, economics, and societies of less developed countries.

This class is being taught as a hybrid in-person/online class. Half of the class will be assigned to physically attend class on Tuesday and the other half to attend on Thursday. On the day you are not assigned to physically attend, you will still Zoom in to watch the lecture. As always, masks must be worn over mouth and nose at all times when students are present in the classroom. (Note that, because of university regulations, the course will be strictly remote and online until at least February 15.) There will also be active learning elements to this course, with occasional group assignments and classtime devoted to group projects.



READINGS

Two books are required reading for this course. They are as follows:

- (1) *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* by Walter Rodney (978-1-78873-118-8. Verso Books, although older editions of this book will be fine)
- (2) *Why Nations Fail* by Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson (978-0-307-71922-5)

Both are available for purchase at the CU Bookstore. They are also available to check out as e-books from Norlin library. You can also purchase either book from an online source. Other required readings will be made available electronically through the Canvas website for the course.

A suggested reading for this course is *Shaping the Developing World: The West, the South, and the Natural World: Second Edition* by Andy Baker (978-1071807071). Students may find this textbook to be a useful supplement, since it follows the outline of this course and contains much of the material that will be taught. The book is not at all required, however.



GRADING

Students' final grades will be determined according to the following distribution:

1)	<u>Examinations</u>	50%
	A. Four (out of five) quizzes:	10%
	B. Midterm:	20%
	C. Final:	20%
2)	<u>Individual paper assignments</u>	30%
	A. Grant proposal:	10%
	B. Research paper:	20%
3)	<u>Group paper assignments</u>	20%
	A. Three group papers	18%
	B. Peer assessment	2%

1) **Examinations:** 50% of the overall grade is based on examinations.

The *Quizzes* (10%) will be based on required readings and other course materials. They will be administered via Canvas during class time (i.e., synchronously). Quizzes will be open note and open book. Five quizzes will be offered, and grades will be calculated from students' best four quizzes. (In other words, if a student misses one quiz (thus receiving a zero), this will be the quiz that is dropped.) Quizzes will always be given at the beginning of class.

The *Midterm* (20%) will cover units 1 and 2 material. Students will take the midterm at home. More information to come.

The *Final* (20%) will cover ALL course material. Students will take the midterm at home. More information to come.

Examinations will not be given to anyone at a day or time other than that already specified on this syllabus. Students who require special arrangements because of a disability must show me authorization from Disability Services within the first three weeks of class and must take the examinations at the specified time.

2) **Papers:** 30% of the final grade is based on two papers written individually by students.

The *Grant proposal* (10%) is a short (500-word, 2-page) paper on a question about foreign aid priorities.

The *Research paper* (20%) is a medium-length (1000-word, 4 pages) paper based on outside readings and research. More information about each of these two assignments will be forthcoming.

Papers handed in after the specified time will have ten percentage points subtracted from their final score each day they are late. Students will submit papers to Canvas, where the papers will undergo a plagiarism check.

3) **Group Projects:** 20% of the final grade is based on a set of group papers, researched and written by students mostly during class time in four-person groups. For this portion of the final grade, there will be three group papers and a peer-review component. More information about each is forthcoming.



GRADING POLICIES

The teaching assistant (TA) and grader for this course is Trenton Marlar. It is best to contact Trenton by email (Trenton.Marlar@Colorado.edu) using your "@Colorado.edu" account. You must wait 24 hours after receipt of a grade before emailing Trenton with any follow-up questions.

There are no extra credit projects available in this course. Final grades will be determined using the following percentage scale: A=94.0-100, A-=90.0-94.0, B+=87.0-90.0, B=84.0-87.0, B-=80.0-84.0, C+=77.0-80.0, C=74.0-77.0, C-=70.0-74.0, D+=67.0-70.0, D=64.0-67.0, D-=60.0-64.0, F=<60.0. Please note that these are true cut-offs and there is no rounding.

As always, academic dishonesty is not tolerated; you will receive an "F" in the class and may be expelled. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, passing off the work of others (especially current or former students or published work) as your own, whether it be on a paper, a presentation, an exam, a quiz, or any other type of assignment. This means that sharing information and answers with classmates while you take quizzes or exams is not allowed. Also, a common practice in this day and age that you must nonetheless avoid is "cut-and-paste plagiarism," in which students directly copy and paste portions of an online source into their papers without quoting and citing it properly. If you copy four or more words from another author/person without putting the copied text in quotation marks AND immediately citing the source, you have committed plagiarism. Also note that you are not allowed to plagiarize yourself: In other words, your writing for this class must be original and cannot be from a paper you have written or are writing for another class.



LEARNING ASSISTANT

Ciara Coughlan (Ciara.Coughlan@Colorado.edu) is the undergraduate learning assistant (LA) for this course. She will assist the instructor with technology and other management tasks, and she is available to help students with their written work and group assignments. She is NOT, however, involved in grading.



GROUP ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

Working in a group is a reality of the workforce, and this course will give students plenty of experience and practice on this front. Group work, however, poses challenges along with rewards. Please keep in mind the following guidelines in your group work:

(1) The biggest problem with group assignments is the free-rider problem. Don't be the slacker. As a partial incentive, your work and effort will be confidentially graded by your fellow group members at

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UNIT 3: THE SOUTH: CULTURE, POLICY, AND INSTITUTIONS

Week 9: March 16 & 18
Culture, Psychology and Underdevelopment

Assignment

- *Reading: World Development Report 2012*, pp. 2-97 [posted on Canvas]
- *Quiz: Reading quiz 3* over *World Development Report 2012* on March 18

Week 10: March 23 & 25
Pause Week

Assignment

- No class March 25

Week 11: March 30 & April 1
Gender, Diversity and Development

Assignment

- *Reading: Start Why Nations Fail* (Preface and chapters 1-4)
- *Group assignment: Design-your-own-RCT paper* due on April 2 to Canvas

Week 12: April 6 & 8
Development Policy: States vs. Markets

Assignment

- *Reading: Why Nations Fail* (chapters 5-10)
- *Quiz: Reading quiz 4* over *Why Nations Fail* (Preface and chapters 1-10) on April 6

Week 13: April 13 & 15
Economic Institutions: Property Rights and Finance

Assignment

- *Reading: Why Nations Fail* (chapters 11-15)
- *Quiz: Reading quiz 5* over *Why Nations Fail* (chapters 11-15) on April 13

Week 14: April 20 & 22
Political Institutions: Governance

Assignment

- **Research paper** due, April 19

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(MINI-)UNIT 4: NATURE: GEOGRAPHY AND DEVELOPMENT

Week 15: April 27 & 29
Guns, Germs, and Steel and the tropical disadvantage

Assignment

- Study for Final Exam

Final Exam

Saturday, May 1, 1:30PM – 4:00 PM

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UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO 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](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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](#).

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](#). For more information, see the policies on [COVID-19 Health and Safety](#) and [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please see the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus. All students who are new to campus must complete the [COVID-19 Student Health and Expectations Course](#). Before coming to campus each day, all students are required to complete the [Buff Pass](#).

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. In this class, if you are sick or quarantined, do not come to class!

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](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [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; 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](#).

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. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate 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 instructors early in the semester if any of the examinations fall on a religious holiday for you. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.