

# PSCI 4012: Global Development

MWF 11:00-11:50 AM

Instructor: Dalton Dorr

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Office: Ketchum 211

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:00am & Wednesdays 2:00-3:00pm

## Course Description

Why are some countries rich and other countries poor? The single greatest predictor of how much you'll earn in your lifetime is your country of birth. Nearly half of humanity has "lost" this lottery of birth and subsists on less than \$2 a day. What or who is to blame for the vast economic inequalities that we see across the globe? This course will explore several broad explanations for what has divided the world into a poor "South" and a wealthy "West". We will approach evidence and theories from a variety of perspectives and methodological disciplines in order to systematically support arguments in favor or in opposition to development theories.

## Required Texts

*Shaping the Developing World*, Andy Baker (2014)

*Poor Economics*, Abhijit Banerjee & Esther Duflo (2011)

## Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following four criteria:

Participation 15%

Discussion Memos 25%

Midterm Exam 25%

Final Exam 35%

### **Participation - 15%**

The participation grade is based upon a student's preparation, effort, and involvement in class discussion and activities. Students are expected to complete all assignments and readings prior to class and come ready to engage in the scheduled activities for the class period.

### **Discussion Memos - 25%**

Memos are meant to get students to examine and critique the arguments posed in the week's readings. Students should concentrate on judging the strength of an argument from **one** of the week's readings. Each memo should consist of no more than 400 words and will be graded based upon the student's ability to argue in favor or in opposition to the arguments presented in the week's readings. Students must submit a total of ten (10) memos over the course of the semester.

Students may choose to frame their memos around a central question. I recommend that students be able to respond to the following questions in their memo responses:

- *Who are the main actors in the theory? Are there any assumptions made about how these actors behave?*
- *What type of methodological tools are used to further the authors' arguments?*
- *Are you convinced by the arguments presented in the paper/article/chapter? Why or why not?*

### **Midterm Exam - 25%**

The midterm exam will be held on Monday, October 30th. The exam will contain multiple choice as well as short answer and essay format questions. The exam will include the material covered from the readings and from lecture through the preceding Friday (Oct. 27th).

### **Final Exam - 35%**

The final exam will be held on TBD. The exam will contain multiple choice as well as short answer and essay format questions. The exam is comprehensive, which means it will cover material from the entire semester.

## **Letter Grade Scale**

A: >93; A-: 92-90  
B+: 89-87; B: 86-83; B-: 82-80  
C+: 79-77; C: 76-73; C-: 72-70  
D+: 69-67; D: 66-63; D-: 62-60  
F: <60

## **Assignments**

Assignments should be turned into the appropriate D2L dropbox by 11:00am on their due date (before class). Any submission after the class period starts is considered a late submission. Any assignment turned in late will be deducted 20% for each 24-hour period between their due date and their submission. Assignments must be submitted in a compatible format (.pdf, .doc, .docx), any submission submitted in an incompatible format will be considered late.

## **Class Structure**

Each week is roughly patterned as follows:

- Day 1 - Lecture review of reading material
- Day 2 - Debate / Simulation
- Day 3 - Discussion of theoretical extensions

Memos are intended to stimulate class discussion and student participation. I have therefore scheduled memos to be turned in before Debate and Simulation class periods to facilitate these goals.

## Course Outline

| Date          | Content   | Notes       |
|---------------|---|-------------|
| <b>Week 1</b> | <b>Intro to Global Development</b>                              |             |
| Aug. 28       | Introduction to the Course                                      |             |
| Aug. 30       | Read: Baker Ch.1&2  |             |
| Sept. 1       | Approaches & Methods  |             |
| <b>Week 2</b> | <b>Normative Debates on Development</b>                         |             |
| Sept. 4       | <b>Labor Day: No Class</b>                                      |             |
| Sept. 6       | Read: Baker Ch.3; Banerjee & Duflo Ch.2                         |             |
| Sept. 8       | Discussion  |             |
| <b>Week 3</b> | <b>Geography &amp; Climate</b>                                  |             |
| Sept. 11      | Read: Diamond Ch.5, 9, & 10; Acemoglu & Robinson p.45-56        |             |
| Sept. 13      | Debate: Are development disparities inevitable?                 | Memo #1 due |
| Sept. 15      | Discussion  |             |
| <b>Week 4</b> | <b>The Resource Curse</b>                                       |             |
| Sept. 18      | Read: Ross (1999); Dunning Ch.1                                 |             |
| Sept 20       | Simulation: Resource Curse                                      | Memo #2 due |
| Sept. 22      | Discussion  |             |
| <b>Week 5</b> | <b>State Capacity &amp; Violence</b>                            |             |
| Sept. 25      | Read: Baker Ch.11; Collier Ch.1; Tilly (1985)                   |             |
| Sept. 27      | Debate: What is the true impact of war on economic development? | Memo #3 due |
| Sept. 29      | Discussion  |             |

## Course Outline cont.

| Date           | Content  | Notes       |
|----------------|--|-------------|
| <b>Week 6</b>  | <b>Culture &amp; Identity</b>  |             |
| Oct. 2         | Read: Baker Ch.7; Putnam Ch.5; Banerjee & Duflo Ch.3                   |             |
| Oct. 4         | Debate: Is diversity a boon or a barrier to development?               | Memo #4 due |
| Oct. 6         | Discussion   |             |
| <b>Week 7</b>  | <b>Economic Institutions Pt.1: Normative Schools</b>                   |             |
| Oct. 9         | Read: Rawls (1971); Nozick (1974)                                      |             |
| Oct. 11        | Simulation: Game Theory - Coordination Games                           | Memo #5 due |
| Oct. 13        | Discussion   |             |
| <b>Week 8</b>  | <b>Economic Institutions Pt.2: Property Rights &amp; Informality</b>   |             |
| Oct. 16        | Read: De Soto (1989); Banerjee & Duflo Ch. 8                           |             |
| Oct. 18        | Debate: Does informality help or hurt the poor?                        | Memo #6 due |
| Oct. 20        | Discussion   |             |
| <b>Week 9</b>  | <b>Political Institutions Pt.1: The Question of Democracy</b>          |             |
| Oct. 23        | Read: Baker Ch.10; Przeworski & Limongi (1993); Przeworski et al. Ch.3 |             |
| Oct. 25        | Collaboration: Holding Dalton accountable                              | Memo #7 due |
| Oct. 27        | Discussion   |             |
| <b>Week 10</b> | <b>Political Institutions Pt.2: Corruption</b>                         |             |
| Oct. 30        | Midterm  |             |
| Nov. 1         | Read: Rose-Ackerman (1997); Denyer Ch.3                                |             |
| Nov. 3         | Discussion   |             |
| <b>Week 11</b> | <b>Inequality &amp; Redistribution</b>                                 |             |
| Nov. 6         | Read: Sen Ch.5 & 6; Ross (2006)  |             |
| Nov. 8         | Simulation: Pay to play  | Memo #8 due |
| Nov. 10        | Discussion   |             |

## Course Outline cont.

| Date           | Content   | Notes        |
|----------------|---|--------------|
| <b>Week 12</b> | <b>Western Imperialism</b>  |              |
| Nov. 13        | Read: Nunn (2008); Engerman & Sokoloff (1997)                               |              |
| Nov. 15        | Discussion  |              |
| Nov. 17        | <b>IPES Conference: No Class</b>  |              |
| <b>Week 13</b> | <b>Fall Break: No Class</b>   |              |
| <b>Week 14</b> | <b>Dependency Theory</b>  |              |
| Nov. 27        | Read: Baker Ch.6; Dos Santos (1970)   |              |
| Nov. 29        | Simulation: Trade   | Memo #9 due  |
| Dec. 1         | Discussion  |              |
| <b>Week 15</b> | <b>Globalization</b>  |              |
| Dec. 4         | Read: Mazur (2000); Banerjee & Duflo Ch.7                                   |              |
| Dec. 6         | Simulation: Generalization or Specialization?                               | Memo #10 due |
| Dec. 8         | Discussion  |              |
| <b>Week 16</b> | <b>The Future</b>   |              |
| Dec. 11        | Discussion: What is the future of development?<br>Where do we go from here? |              |
| Dec. 13        | Final Review  |              |
| <b>Dec. 19</b> | <b>Final Exam: 4:30-7:00pm</b>  |              |