

POL 201
Politics of Development: Issues and Controversies
Fall 2023

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Course overview

Welcome to POL201, The Politics of Development. This course critically analyzes the politics of development in the global south, including issues and country cases that span Asia, Africa and Latin America. The course maintains a balance between abstract notions and theories of development, and real-world issues and challenges in development politics. The course begins with a focus on the conceptual, historical, and theoretical study of development and underdevelopment, then moves to specific factors that explain patterns of prosperity and poverty as well as challenges that developing countries typically confront at the national and local levels.

Overview

This class will be conducted in-person. You must attend weekly lectures and weekly tutorials. **Students should plan to do the reading before their tutorial meets each week.**

Readings

All the readings for the course are available online or posted on Quercus. The reading load for this course is not heavy, but some of it will be written in a style that is not familiar.

Tutorials

Tutorials will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. They will involve a combination of group discussions, small group work, and opportunities to practice and get feedback on important writing-related skills.

Each tutorial group is assigned a TA who will lead the discussions and be available to you for office hours (in person or online) and by email. *Your TA should be your primary point of contact for any questions about this course.*

GRADING SCHEME

Assignments: 50% (10%,10%, 30%)

Tutorial and class participation: 20%

Final exam: 30%

Due Dates

Assignment 1. October 8, 2023

Assignment 2. October 29, 2023

Assignment 3. November 26, 2023

Final exam: during final exam period, not yet determined

Participation – 20%

Your participation in tutorial will be graded based on attendance, participation in discussions and group work, evidence that you have completed the reading and attended the lecture, and occasional in class assignments. Your participation in lecture will be graded based on your participation in in-class exercises.

Late policy

Late assignments will be penalized by 1% for each day they are late.

Extension policy

If you require an extension, you should reach out to your TA *before* the assignment is due. Extensions will be granted for valid medical or family-related reasons, up to seven days.

Grade Appeals

If you believe that an error has been made in one of your assignment grades, you should send an email or private Quercus message to your TA explaining the error, with clear reference to the answer key or rubric for the assignment. It is your responsibility to demonstrate that your work merits a higher grade.

Grade appeals must be raised within seven (7) days of the assignment being returned to you.

If you are unable to resolve the issue with the grading TA, you may appeal to the Head TA. Your appeal should clearly explain why the work you submitted warrants a higher grade than it received, with clear and explicit reference to the answer key and/or rubric.

If you believe an error has been made with your participation grade, you may appeal to your tutorial TA. Tutorial TAs have total discretion over participation grades; you may not appeal to the Head TA or Course instructor to overturn a TA's decision regarding tutorial participation grades.

Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offences. University policy requires that course instructors refer suspected plagiarism cases to the Office of Academic Integrity for resolution. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto's policy on plagiarism at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

Resources

Accessibility Services: The course is fully committed to providing students with fair access to their courses. Students with special needs or disabilities are strongly encouraged to register with Accessibility Services to arrange for needed accommodations.

Writing Support: Students can attend workshops and arrange one-on-one appointments for feedback on their written work. Students can visit www.writing.utoronto.ca for information and advice on all aspects of academic writing. Students are encouraged to make use of the college writing centers for individualized consultations on their written assignments. Interested students should book their appointments with the writing centers early, as they fill up fast. Information about the writing centers is available at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>. Students can also take advantage of the Library's free "Writing Plus" academic skills

workshop series, described at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-plus>. International students can find information about the English Language Learning program (ELL), which includes practice opportunities for improving oral communication and critical reading skills, at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>.

Registrar Support: Students are encouraged to contact their registrar promptly if they experience unexpected challenges during the course that may require accommodations.

Health and Wellness: Students can access a wide range of programs and services to support their health and wellbeing. Many of these programs are listed at:
<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/health-wellness/> 6

Crisis Support: Students in distress can access a range of free crisis lines available from the University of Toronto and the City of Toronto, as listed below:

- University of Toronto: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/task/support-when-you-feel-distressed/>
- City of Toronto: <https://www.toronto.ca/311/knowledgebase/kb/docs/articles/311-toronto/information-and-business-development/crisis-lines-suicide-depression-telephone-support-lines-non-crisis-mental-health-services.html>

Most of these **crisis lines** are available 24 hours a day and some address specific problems that students may be experiencing. Immediate assistance is available as follows:

- • My SSP for University of Toronto Students: 1-844-451-9700.
- • Good 2 Talk Student Helpline: 1-866-925-5454
- • Gerstein Crisis Centre: 416-929-5200
- • Distress Centres of Greater Toronto: 416-408-HELP (4357)
- • The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH): 250 College Street (walk-in)

You are not alone: please get help if you're experiencing difficulties or are in distress.

Course outline

Week 1 (September 13)
Introduction (no reading)

Week 2 (September 20)
What is development, how do we measure it?

Mark McGillivray, "What is development?"

"Giant Strides in World Health but it could be so much better"
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/04/upshot/giant-strides-in-world-health-but-it-could-be-so-much-better.html?searchResultPosition=11>

Week 3 (September 27)

The Industrial Revolution as a model of development

Watch: BBC documentary, "The Industrial Revolution"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYln_S2PVYA

Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, book 1, Chapter 2

<http://geolib.com/smith.adam/won1-02.html>

Week 4 (October 4)

Modernization, the hegemonic theory of development

Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi, "Modernization: Theories and Facts." *World Politics* 49, no. 2 (1997): pp. 155-183.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/25053996>

Week 5 (October 11)

Dependency theory, a critique of modernization

J. Samuel Valenzuela and Arturo Valenzuela, "Modernization and Dependency: Alternative Perspectives in the Study of Latin American Underdevelopment," *Comparative Politics* 10, 4 (July 1978), pp. 535-552.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/421571.pdf>

Week 6 (October 18)

Solving the core-periphery problem

Eliana Cardoso and Ann Helwege, "Import Substitution Industrialization," in *Modern Political Economy and Latin America*, eds. Jeffry Frieden, Manuel Pastor, Jr. and Michael Tomz (Boulder: Westview Press, 2000), pp. 155-164. (Quercus)

Anil Hira, "Did ISI fail and is neoliberalism the answer for Latin America? Reassessing common wisdom regarding economic policies in the region," *Brazilian Journal of Political Economy*, 27 (3) September 2007

<https://www.scielo.br/j/rep/a/pXGCjxCZcSLXPfN4p3fMhsJ/?lang=en>

Week 7 (October 25)

Neoliberal development

John Williamson, "What Washington Means by Policy Reform," in *Latin American Adjustment: How Much has Happened?* Ed. John Williamson (Washington, D.C., Institute for International Economics, 1990). (Quercus)

William Finnegan, "The Economics of Empire: What Washington Means by the Washington Consensus," *Harper's Magazine* Vol.306, No.1836, May 2003 (Quercus)

Week 8 (November 1)
Debt and debt servicing

"Life and Debt"

Fall reading week, no classes (November 8)

Week 9 (November 15)
Economic Growth with Worsening Poverty
Guest lecture with Judith Teichman

Week 10 (November 22)
Critical Development Studies
Arturo Escobar, "Development and the Anthropology of Modernity," in *Encountering Development: the Making and Unmaking of the Third World* (Princeton University Press, 1993)

Ashok Kumbamu (2020) The philanthropic-corporate-state complex: imperial strategies of dispossession from the 'Green Revolution' to the 'Gene Revolution', *Globalizations*, DOI: [10.1080/14747731.2020.1727132](https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2020.1727132)

Week 11 (November 29)
Climate Change and Development

Chapter 2: The climate-development nexus

Marcus Taylor, *Climate Smart Agriculture: What is it good for?*

Week 12 (December 6)
The impact of Covid on global south economies

World Bank reports on economic impact of Covid

https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-08-06/coronavirus-depression-global-economy?utm_medium=promo_email&utm_source=pre_release&utm_campaign=mktg_reguser_r_einhart_pandemic_depression&utm_content=20200806&utm_term=registrant-prerelease

Frederic Megret

<http://opiniojuris.org/2020/03/30/covid-19-symposium-returning-home-nationalist-international-law-in-the-time-of-the-coronavirus/>