

PO8029: International Development

Hilary Term 2016

PX 201, 7-9 Sth Leinster Street (Phoenix House), Tuesday 17:00–19:00

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1 Description & Objectives

More than two billion people live on an income of less than 2 dollars per day. For many of us in the developed world, it is difficult to grasp the implications of this reality. What factors are responsible for this massive amount of poverty? What explains the chasm which separates the incomes of the developed and developing worlds? What can be done?

This module aims to address these and other questions with the caveat that most answers are incomplete and that debates continue unabated in the field of development studies. First, we will review theoretical concepts and empirical evidence concerning global poverty, inequality, and economic growth. Next, the focus will shift to a selection of approaches to understanding the determinants of economic development. We will then review the effectiveness of external interventions on alleviating underdevelopment. Lastly, we will cover studies which focus on the intersection of the natural environment and economic development.

By the end of this module, I expect that you will have acquired a concrete understanding of the major issues, complexities, and challenges surrounding international development. It is my hope that, after you have left this classroom and the university, many of you will use this knowledge to change the world for the better.

2 Module Requirements and Policies

2.1 Participation (20%)

Student participation in class discussion and debate on the readings is a central element of the seminar. Students are expected to have read all required readings and to have acquired detailed knowledge and developed informed critiques of the readings prior to the class meeting. The objective of class discussion will be to critically assess the readings and offer insights on what direction new research could and should proceed in the field. Students will be evaluated on the quality of their input in class discussion and debate. Those who are deemed to be falling behind in class participation may be asked to submit additional response papers.

Some questions to keep in mind while reading: What are the central theories discussed in the study? Are the assumptions of the theory consistent or do they contradict each other? If the study seeks to test a theory with evidence, what are the findings? How would you rate the quality of the test, e.g. do the data adequately measure the theoretical concepts; is the design strong enough to adequately test the theory? Are there cases that the author has overlooked? How would you go about re-designing the test to overcome any limitations? Can the study be extended to cover other issue areas; if so, which ones?

2.2 Response Papers (30%)

Students will be required to submit two (2) response papers over the duration of the module. Response papers are not mere descriptions or summaries of the readings, but rather offer original insight and commentary on the weeks readings. An example of an effective response paper is one where the author offers a critical evaluation of the research design of a set of readings and provides suggestions for overcoming limitations and extending the research. Response papers must engage with the required readings from the week, but may also include the suggested readings as well. Submitted response papers may be circulated in class to add to the discussion.

The required length of the response papers is between 450-750 words, double-spaced pages. The deadline for submission on turnitin.com is **anytime before the beginning of class**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

2.3 Critical Literature Review (50%)

Students will be required to submit an extended literature review on research relevant to a theme covered in the module. The objective of the critical literature review is not to simply summarize existing research. Rather, the purpose of the paper is to evaluate the student's ability to effectively review, synthesize and critically evaluate published research dealing with a specific aspect of international development. Students should provide an original, thorough and coherent discussion on the goals of the studies being covered, as well as a critical evaluation of the effectiveness of their respective approaches, analyses, and evidence. Effective papers will offer an informed discussion on which direction research should move given existing knowledge and limitations in the field.

Excellent examples of effective literature review essays can be found within the *Annual Review of Political Science* <http://www.annualreviews.org/journal/polisci>.

The required length of the critical literature review is between 2800-4200 words, double spaced pages. The deadline for submission on turnitin.com is **10 PM on 12 April 2016**. Five (5) points will be deducted for every day that a paper is late.

2.4 Written Work Submission Guidelines

All written assignments are to be submitted through turnitin.com. The class ID is **12278001** and the password is **po8029** (case-sensitive). Also, you will be required to register for turnitin.com by **11 March 2016**.

2.5 Academic & Professional Ethics

Please do not plagiarize. Academic dishonesty is a serious matter, with serious consequences that can result in receiving no credit for an assignment, a failing grade for the module, and even expulsion from the programme. It is never permissible to turn in any work that contains others' ideas without proper acknowledgment. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the College Calendar (see <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/calendar>). Useful information is available at <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism>. If you are paraphrasing, cite the source. If you are quoting, use quotation marks and appropriate citation. Remember that academic integrity is a reflection of one's character. In addition, we strongly recommend that you visit <http://www.plagiarism.org/> for more information on what *is* and *is not* plagiarism. Lastly, students are required to only submit "new work" in each module, which means work that has not been submitted previously in any other university module. Students who wish to use previously submitted work as part of a new project will need the approval of the lecturer.

2.6 Syllabus Modification Rights

I reserve the right to reasonably alter the elements of the syllabus at any time. More often than not this will mean adjusting the reading list to keep pace with the course schedule, although I may add reading assignments as well.

3 Readings

This class does not have a textbook. Readings consist of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and articles from journals intended for wider audiences. All readings are available through Trinity College Library. Though not required, I recommend that you read these thought-provoking and accessible studies in their entirety:

- Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. (2012) *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. New York: Crown Publishers.
- Banerjee, Abhijit V. and Esther Duflo. (2011) *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. New York: PublicAffairs.
- Bates, R. H. (2015). *When things fell apart*. Cambridge University Press.
- Collier, Paul. (2007) *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Collins, Daryl, Jonathan Morduch, Stuart Rutherford, Orlanda Ruthven. (2009) *Portfolios of the Poor: How the World's Poor Live on Two Dollars a Day*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- De Soto, Hernando. (2000) *The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else*. New York: Basic Books.
- Easterly, William. (2002) *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Easterly, William. (2006) *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. New York: Penguin Press.
- Easterly, William. (2013). *The tyranny of experts: Economists, dictators, and the forgotten rights of the poor*. New York: Basic Books.
- Sachs, Jeffrey. (2005) *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*. New York: Penguin Press.
- Sachs, Jeffrey. (2015). *The age of sustainable development*. Columbia University Press.

4 Course Outline

Week 8	Introduction: Poverty, Inequality & Economic Growth	p. 4
11/3/16		<i>Turinitin.com registration</i>
Week 9	Historical Legacies, Institutions & Development	p. 5
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5 Course Schedule

Week 8. Introduction: Poverty, Inequality & Economic Growth

Required:

1. Sen, A. (1988). The concept of development. *Handbook of development economics*, 1, 9-26.
2. Bourguignon, François and Christian Morrisson (2002) "Inequality among World Citizens: 1820-1992" *American Economic Review* 92(4): 727-744.
3. Pritchett, L. (1997). Divergence, big time. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 3-17.
4. Banerjee, A. V., & Duflo, E. (2007). The Economic Lives of the Poor. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21(1), 141-167.
5. Easterly, W. R. (2001). *The elusive quest for growth: economists' adventures and misadventures in the tropics*. MIT press. pp. 5-19, 47-70.
6. Banerjee, A. V., & Duflo, E. (2011). Poor economics: A radical rethinking of the way to fight global poverty. PublicAffairs. pp. 1-16

Podcasts/Media:

- ["Banerjee on Poverty and Poor Economics"](#), 11 July 2011, *EconTalk*
- [Jonathan Morduch: "How the World's Poor Live on \\$2 a Day"](#), 21 February 2011

Recommended:

- Chen, S., & Ravallion, M. (2004). How have the world's poorest fared since the early 1980s?. *The World Bank Research Observer*, 19(2), 141-169.
- Sachs, J. D., & Warner, A. M. (1997). Fundamental sources of long-run growth. *The American Economic Review*, 184-188.
- Barro, R. J. (1996). Determinants of economic growth: a cross-country empirical study (No. w5698). *National Bureau of Economic Research*.
- Dollar, D., & Kraay, A. (2002). Growth is Good for the Poor. *Journal of economic growth*, 7(3), 195-225.

Week 9. Historical Legacies, Institutions & Development

Required:

1. Olson, Mancur. (1993) "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *American Political Science Review* 87(3): 567-576.
2. Acemoglu, D. & Robinson, J. A.. (2012). *Why nations fail: the origins of power, prosperity, and poverty*. New York: Crown Business. pp. 70-123.
3. Easterly, W., & Levine, R. (2003). Tropics, germs, and crops: how endowments influence economic development. *Journal of monetary economics*, 50(1), 3-39.
4. Englebert, P. (2000). Pre-colonial institutions, post-colonial states, and economic development in tropical Africa. *Political Research Quarterly*, 53(1), 7-36.
5. Nunn, N. (2007). The long-term effects of Africa's slave trades. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123(1): 139-176.

Podcasts/Media:

- ["Acemoglu on Why Nations Fail", 19 March 2014, EconTalk](#)
- ["Bruce Bueno de Mesquita on Democracies and Dictatorships", 12 February 2007, EconTalk](#)
- ["Easterly on Benevolent Autocrats and Growth", 30 May 2011, EconTalk](#)

Recommended:

- North, D. C., & Weingast, B. R. (1989). Constitutions and commitment: the evolution of institutions governing public choice in seventeenth-century England. *The journal of economic history*, 49(04), 803-832.
- Feng, Y. (2005). *Democracy, governance, and economic performance: theory and evidence*. MIT Press.
- Acemoglu, D., Johnson, S., & Robinson, J. A. (2001). The colonial origins of comparative development: an empirical investigation. *The American Economic Review*, 91(5), 1369-1401.
- Sokoloff, K. L., & Engerman, S. L. (2000). History lessons: Institutions, factors endowments, and paths of development in the new world. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 217-232.
- Rodrik, D., Subramanian, A., & Trebbi, F. (2004). Institutions rule: the primacy of institutions over geography and integration in economic development. *Journal of economic growth*, 9(2), 131-165.
- Przeworski, A. (2004). The last instance: Are institutions the primary cause of economic development?. *European journal of Sociology*, 45(02), 165-188.
- Herbst, J. (2000). *States and power in Africa: Comparative lessons in authority and control*. Princeton University Press.
- De Soto, *The Mystery of Capital*, cc. 4-5
- Peiffer, Caryn and Pierre Englebert (2012) "Extraversion, Vulnerability to Donors, and Political Liberalization in Africa" *African Affairs*, 111(444): 355-378
- D'Arcy, M., & Nistotskaya, M. (2013) Credible Commitment before Credible Enforcement: Exploring the Consequences of 'Reverse' Sequencing, the Case of Ireland. *Working paper*

Week 10. Governance, Corruption & Development

Required:

1. Easterly, W. R. (2001). *The elusive quest for growth: economists' adventures and misadventures in the tropics*. MIT press. pp. 217-252.
2. Treisman, D. (2007). What have we learned about the causes of corruption from ten years of cross-national empirical research?. *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.*, 10, 211-244.
3. Chang, Eric and Miriam Golden (2010) "Sources of Corruption in Authoritarian Regimes" *Social Science Quarterly* 91(1): 1-20.
4. Persson, A., Rothstein, B., & Teorell, J. (2010). The failure of Anti-Corruption Policies: A Theoretical Mischaracterization of the Problem. *QoG Working Paper Series*, 19, 2-21.
5. Aidt, T. S. (2009). Corruption, institutions, and economic development. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 25(2), 271-291.

Podcasts/Media:

- ["Collier on the Bottom Billion", 28 January 2008, EconTalk](#)
- [Michael Ross: "The Oil Curse", June 2012, UCTV](#)

Recommended:

- Olken, B. A., & Pande, R. (2011). Corruption in developing countries (No. w17398). *National Bureau of Economic Research*.
- Leite, C. A., & Weidmann, J. (1999). Does mother nature corrupt? Natural Resources, Corruption, and Economic Growth (June 1999). *IMF Working Paper*, (99/85), 1-31.
- Ross, M. (2012). *The oil curse: how petroleum wealth shapes the development of nations*. Princeton University Press. c. 6
- Mauro, Paolo. (1998) "Corruption and the Composition of Government Expenditure" *Journal of Public Economics* 69: 263-279.
- Olken, B. A. (2007). Monitoring Corruption: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Indonesia. *Journal of Political Economy*, 115(2), 200-249.
- Rose, R., & Peiffer, C. (2015). *Paying Bribes for Public Services: A Global Guide to Grass Roots Corruption*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Fazekas, M., & Kocsis, G. (2015). Uncovering High-Level Corruption: Cross-National Corruption Proxies Using Government Contracting Data. *Available at SSRN*.

Week 11. Tackling Underdevelopment

Required:

1. Sachs, Jeffrey. (2005) *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*. New York: Penguin Press. pp. 244-265, *skim*: 288-308
2. Easterly, W. R. (2001). *The elusive quest for growth: economists' adventures and misadventures in the tropics*. MIT press. pp. 25-44, 100-120.
3. Easterly, W., & Pfutze, T. (2008). Where does the money go? Best and worst practices in foreign aid. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 22(2), 29-52.
4. Alesina, A., & Dollar, D. (2000). Who gives foreign aid to whom and why? *Journal of economic growth*, 5(1), 33-63.
5. Carothers, T., & De Gramont, D. (2013). *Development aid confronts politics: The almost revolution*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. pp. 255-283.

Podcasts/Media:

- “Chris Blattman on Cash, Poverty, and Development”, 21 July 2014, *EconTalk*
- Thomas Carothers: “Development Aid Confronts Politics”, 13 February 2014, Stanford University.
- “William Easterly on the Tyranny of Experts”, 16 June 2014, *EconTalk*
- “Jeffrey Sachs on the Millennium Villages Project”, 17 March 2014, *EconTalk*
- Debate: Foreign Aid Does More Harm Than Good. Hernando de Soto / Dambisa Moyo (Pro) and Stephen Lewis / Paul Collier (Con), 1 June 2009, Toronto, Canada.

Recommended:

- Clemens, M. A., Radelet, S., Bhavnani, R. R., & Bazzi, S. (2012). Counting Chickens when they Hatch: Timing and the Effects of Aid on Growth. *The Economic Journal*, 122(561), 590-617.
- Burnside, C., & Dollar, D. (2000). Aid, policies, and growth. *American economic review*, 847-868.
- Moyo, D. (2009). *Dead aid: Why aid is not working and how there is a better way for Africa*. Macmillan.
- Djankov, S., Montalvo, J. G., & Reynal-Querol, M. (2008). The curse of aid. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 13(3), 169-194.
- Lancaster, C. (2008). *Foreign aid: Diplomacy, development, domestic politics*. University of Chicago Press.

Week 12. Environment & Development

Required:

1. Dietz, Thomas, Elinor Ostrom, and Paul C. Stern. (2003) "The Struggle to Govern the Commons" *Science* 302: 1907-1912
2. World Commission on Environment & Development (1987) Towards Sustainable Development. *Green Planet Blues: Environmental Politics from Stockholm to Kyoto*.
3. Lele, S. M. (1991). Sustainable development: a critical review. *Green Planet Blues: Environmental Politics from Stockholm to Kyoto*.
4. World Bank (2010) Understanding the Links between Climate Change and Development. *World Development Report 2010*. Washington, DC: The World Bank. pp. 37-61
5. Najam, A. (2004). The view from the South: developing countries in global environmental politics. *The global environment: Institutions, law and policy*, 224-243.
6. Hicks, R. L., Parks, B. C., Roberts, J. T., & Tierney, M. J. (2008). *Greening aid? Understanding the environmental impact of development assistance*. Oxford University Press. pp. 1-53.

Podcasts/Media:

- [Jeffrey Sachs: Book Discussion on *The Age of Sustainable Development*, 6 March 2015, C-SPAN-2](#)

Recommended:

- Sachs, J. D. (2012). From millennium development goals to sustainable development goals. *The Lancet*, 379(9832), 2206-2211.
- Matthews, H. D., Graham, T. L., Keeverian, S., Lamontagne, C., Seto, D., & Smith, T. J. (2014). National contributions to observed global warming. *Environmental Research Letters*, 9(1), 1-9.
- Matthew, R. A., & Hammill, A. (2009). Sustainable development and climate change. *International Affairs*, 85(6), 1117-1128.
- Smit, B., & Pilifosova, O. (2003). Adaptation to climate change in the context of sustainable development and equity. *Sustainable Development*, 8(9), 879-906.