

# GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Political Science 352/Sociology 317  
M/W 9:30-10:50  
Fall 2023

Instructor: James Mahoney  
Office: 402 Scott Hall  
Office Hours: M/W 11:00-12noon

## Course Description

This course explores the large-scale economic and social changes that have constituted “development,” and that have radically transformed human society. The course focuses on the historical experience of Europe and “the people without history” as well as the contemporary experience of countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. In the historical discussion, we explore the evolution of human society from antiquity to the modern nation-state; the transition from agrarian to industrial economic systems; and the expansion of European colonialism across the globe. In our discussion of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, we consider the legacies of colonialism for development; the ways in which countries have attempted to promote economic development and industrialization; and issues of inequality and human welfare in a globally connected world.

## Course Teaching Assistants

The TAs for this course are Teke Wiggin and Bambang Trihadmojo. Teke’s office hours are Wed. 2-4pm over zoom. Please email Teke [theodorewiggin2026@u.northwestern](mailto:theodorewiggin2026@u.northwestern) for a link to attend these virtual office hours. He can also meet in person if you prefer. You will be working closely with one of the TAs on your paper for this course.

## Assignments and Grades

The class meets in Locy Hall 214 from 9:30 to 10:50 on Mondays and Wednesdays. Students are expected to attend all classes, to complete all readings in advance, and to actively participate by occasionally asking a question or making a comment.

The final grade will be calculated as follows: (1) midterm exam, 30 percent; (2) final exam, 30 percent; (3) research paper, 30 percent; (4) attendance and participation, 10 percent. The two exams will be composed of short essay questions.

The midterm exam will be held during class time on **October 25**. The final exam will be held on **Dec. 6 at 3pm** in our regular classroom. Students who miss an exam or fail to turn in an exam (without excuse) will receive a failing grade for the course.

The paper assignment will be handed out on **Wed, September 27** in class. It will be due on **Monday, Dec. 4 at 12noon** (you are welcome to turn it in earlier). The paper will involve independent research in which you write an essay of around 3,500 words about development in a country of your choice selected from a list provided with the assignment. Students who fail to turn in a paper will receive a failing grade for the course. You must work alone on your paper; failure to comply will lead to failure in the course and a report of an academic integrity violation. Late papers will be penalized with a reduction of 1/3 of a grade per day late. No exceptions.

The **attendance and participation grade** will be calculated as follows: **Grade of A:** Student misses no more than three classes and asks a question in at least 8 classes. **Grade of B:** Student misses no more than five classes and asks a question in at least 4 classes. **Grade of C:** Student

misses no more than eight classes. **Grade of F:** Student misses more than eight classes. Any student who misses 10 or more classes will receive a failing grade for the whole course.

### **Learning Objectives**

At the end of this course, students should have developed the following skills:

- An understanding of the core concepts used in the field of development;
- An understanding of several theories of development;
- An ability to discuss the causes of major development outcomes across time and space; and
- An ability to carry out case study analyses of development in particular countries.

### **Readings**

This course uses one assigned book: Yuval Noah Harari, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* (New York: Harper, 2015). Please feel free to buy the book online; a used copy is fine. The other readings are available in a course packet, which can be purchased at Norris Bookstore starting on Wed, Sept. 20. You must buy the course packet.

### **Course Policies**

Students are expected to attend class meetings and to complete all assignments. The only exception will be if a student has written documentation of a legitimate circumstance preventing completion of an assignment. This documentation must be provided in a timely fashion (i.e., one week). Legitimate circumstances are religious holidays, illnesses verified with a medical authority's note, serious family emergencies verified in writing, jury duty, military service, and participation in formal group activities sponsored by the University.

This course fully supports the Accessible NU program ([accessiblenu@northwestern.edu](mailto:accessiblenu@northwestern.edu); 847-467-5530) for students with disabilities of various kinds. Please give the professor advance notice in order to schedule proctoring for the exams. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the professor. Students can find useful resources for safety and security, academic support, and mental and physical health and well-being at the NUhelp website and app.

This course is committed to diversity and equity; our differences as individuals make us stronger as a group. All of us belong here, and all of us have something special to contribute. We shall respect individual backgrounds, personal identities, intellectual approaches, and differences in our political convictions. We shall learn from each other precisely because we have distinctive traits and views that make us unique individuals.

## **PART I: INTRODUCTION**

### **Introduction and In-Class Exercise (September 20)**

#### **1. What is Development? (September 25)**

Amartya Sen, "Introduction: Development as Freedom," in Sen, *Development as Freedom* (New York: Random House, 1999), pp. 3-11.

Martha Nussbaum, "Women and Equality: The Capabilities Approach," *International Labour Review* 138 (1999), pp. 227-245.

Gustavo Esteva, "Development," in Wolfgang Sachs, ed., *The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power* (London: ZED books), pp. 6-25.

## **2. Theoretical Perspectives on Development (September 27)**

Jeffery D. Sachs, Andrew D. Mellinger, and John L. Gallup, "The Geography of Poverty and Wealth," *Scientific American* 284 (2001), pp. 70-75.

J. Samuel Valenzuela and Arturo Valenzuela, "Modernization and Dependency: Alternative Perspectives in the Study of Latin American Underdevelopment," *Comparative Politics* (July 1978), pp. 535-557.

Samir Amin, "Underdevelopment and Dependence in Black Africa: Origins and Contemporary Forms," *Journal of Modern Africa Studies* 10 (1972), pp. 503-24.

## **PART II: DEVELOPMENT IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

### **3. From Antiquity to the Early Modern Era (Oct. 2)**

Yuval Noah Harari, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* (New York: Harper, 2015), pp. 3-159 (parts one and two).

### **4. From the Early Modern Era to the Future (Oct. 4)**

Yuval Noah Harari, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* (New York: Harper, 2015), pp. 163-416 (parts three and four plus afterword).

### **5. Feudalism, Agrarian Capitalism, and Industrial Capitalism (Oct. 9)**

Jared Diamond, "Why Did Human History Unfold Differently on Different Continents Over the Last 13,000 Years?" The Haskins Lectureship on Science Policy, 2001.

Giovanni Arrighi, Po-keung Hui, Ho-fung Hung, and Mark Seldon, "Historical Capitalism, East and West" in Arrighi, Hamashita, and Seldon, *The Resurgence of East Asia: 500, 150, and 50 Year Perspectives* (London: Routledge, 2003): 259-332.

Robert Brenner, "Agrarian Class Structure and Economic Development in Pre-Industrial Europe," *Past and Present* no. 70 (February 1976), pp. 30-75.

## **PART III: COLONIALISM**

### **6. Settler Colonialism (Oct. 11)**

David S. Landes, "Why Europe and the West? Why Not China?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20 (2006), pp. 3-22.

Jonathan Kriekhaus, "Comparative Colonialism," in *Dictating Development: How Europe Shaped the Global Periphery* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006), pp. 31-59.

### **7. Enclave Colonialism (Oct. 16)**

Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, "Reversing Development" and "Understanding Prosperity and Poverty" in Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (New York: Crown, 2012), pp. 245-273, 428-437.

**8. A Theory of Colonialism and Development (Oct. 18)**

Kenneth L. Sokoloff and Stanley L. Engerman, "History Lessons: Institutions, Factor Endowments, and Paths of Development in the New World," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14 (2000), pp. 217-232.

**9. Colonialism and Development Continued (Oct. 23)**

Matthew Lange, James Mahoney, and Matthias vom Hau, "Colonialism and Development: A Comparative Analysis of Spanish and British Colonies," *American Journal of Sociology* 111:5 (March 2006): 1412-1462.

**10. MID-TERM EXAM (Oct. 25)**

**PART IV. REGIONAL COMPARISONS**

**11. Dilemmas of Economic Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa I (Oct. 30) [Recorded Lecture]**

Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* (Washington, D.C.: Howard University Press, 1982), pp. 75-91, 95-115, 135-145.

Terence Ranger, "The Invention of Tradition in Colonial Africa." Pp. 211-262 in *The Invention of Tradition*, edited by T. O. Ranger and E. J. Hobsbawm. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983.

**12. Dilemmas of Economic Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa II (Nov. 1)**

John Williamson, "A Short History of the Washington Consensus," *Law and Business Review of the Americas* 15 pp. 7-23.

Ewout Frankema and Marlous Van Waijenburg, "Africa Rising? A Historical Perspective." *African Affairs* 117: 543-568.

Brautigam, Deborah. "Rogue Donor? Myths and Realities" and "Engaging China." Pp. 273-312 in *The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011).

**13. Latin America and East Asia Compared I (Nov. 6)**

Atul Kohli, "Where Do High Growth Political Economies Come From? The Japanese Lineage of Korea's Developmental State," *World Development* 22:9 (1994), pp. 1269-1293.

Hagen Koo, "The Interplay of State, Social Class, and World System in East Asian Development: The Cases of South Korea and Taiwan," in Frederic Deyo, ed., *The Political Economy of the New Asian Industrialism* (Cornell: Cornell University Press, 1987), pp. 165-185.

**14. Latin America and East Asia Compared II (Nov. 8)**

Anne O. Krueger, "Import Substitution Versus Export Promotion," *Finance and Development* (1985), pp. 20-23.

Atul Kohli, "Coping with Globalization: Asian versus Latin American Strategies of Development, 1980-2010." *Brazilian Journal of Political Economy* 32: 531-556.

Ilan Bizberg, "Varieties of Capitalism, Growth, and Redistribution in Asia and Latin America."  
*Brazilian Journal of Political Economy* 38: 261-279.

**15. China and India Compared I (Nov. 13)**

Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, "China and India," in Dreze and Sen, *Hunger and Public Action* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989), pp. 204-225.

Barry Bosworth and Susan M. Collins, "Accounting for Growth: Comparing China and India."  
*Journal of Economic Perspectives* 22 (2008): 45-66.

**16. China and India Compared II (Nov. 15)**

Felin Zhang, "The Chinese Developmental State: Standard Accounts and New Characteristics,"  
*Journal of International Relations and Development* 21 (2018), pp. 739-768.

Jayati Ghosh, "Growth, Industrialization, and Inequality in India." *Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy* 20 (2015): 42-56.

**PART V. INEQUALITY, DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL**

**17. Inequality, Local and Global (Nov. 20)**

Ho-fung Hung, "Rise the Rest" in Hung, *The China Boom* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2016), pp. 87-114.

**RESEARCH PAPER (Dec. 4 by 12noon)**

**FINAL EXAM (Dec. 6 at 3pm)**