

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INTA 2050

Fall 2014

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10:05-10:55

D. M. Smith 208

There are no prerequisites for this course

This course fulfills the Social Science and Global Perspective GEN ED requirements at Georgia Tech

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11-1 or by appointment in office 316, Ivan Allen College (781 Marietta St)

Overview

This course introduces students to the history, theory and practice of international development. Students will examine the different meanings and objectives of international development, paying particular attention to poverty alleviation, inequality reduction, capability enhancement, the defense of human rights and sustainability. We will compare mainstream and critical approaches to development, and study the roles of different actors involved in the field. Through real-world cases, the course will also address the implications of development initiatives and projects for marginalized groups in the Global South – including small farmers, indigenous groups, and women – and the environment. This introductory course will prepare students to better participate in global development projects. Students will also be ready for more advanced courses on development.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior
2. Demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system
3. Describe and assess the different goals pursued in international development
4. Understand and critically evaluate some of the prevalent theories in the field
5. Deploy those theories to analyze the many problems faced by the different actors involved in the project of development
6. Describe how key international financial institutions, states, firms, and civil society organizations are organized and how they frame development issues
7. Use different sources of data to develop cross-country comparisons along various indicators of development
8. Express their arguments clearly and effectively both in written reports and class discussions
9. Work in small groups in a way that demonstrates respect for their colleagues and efficiency in working collaboratively towards projects and goals

Required Text

Haslam, P., Jessica Shafer and Pierre Baudet (eds). *Introduction to International Development: Approaches, actors, and issues*. Canada: Oxford University Press, 2012.

To order: <http://global.oup.com/academic/product/introduction-to-international-development-9780195440201?q=9780195440201&lang=en&cc=gb> or you may also want to check on Amazon.com

Requirements:

- Attendance and participation (25%): The course will require students to participate in different in-class activities, including discussions, small group projects and case analysis. In those activities, students will draw on the readings for the class. Therefore, attendance is required, and you must complete the assigned readings before class. Absences will count against your participation score.
- Quizzes (25%): Students will complete six pop quizzes throughout the course. These short quizzes will have two short answer questions related to the readings for the class. The lowest score will be dropped.
- Written assignments (40%): Students will turn in four four-page responses, one for each of the course modules. The questions to motivate the assignments will be provided one week before the due date. Due dates are marked in the calendar below.
- Final exam (10%)

ADAPTS

The instructor will work with ADAPTS so that all students have an equal opportunity for success. For information on ADAPTS, see <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>

Academic integrity and Honor Code

While students are encouraged to work together and collaborate with each other, you should clearly differentiate your work from that of others, including your peers and bibliographical sources. Complete and accurate representation of all direct quotations and paraphrased material is required. Plagiarizing will be addressed in accordance with the Georgia Tech Honor Code (<http://honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9>)

Calendar and Reading Assignments

Week	Topic	Readings
Concepts and Measurements		
Week 1 August 18 - 22: The meaning and history of development	M	Introduction: What is development (overview of course)?
	W	Imperialism, colonialism and development
	F	Capitalism and development
Week 2 August 25-29: Economic measurements of development	M	National production, GDP and growth
	W	Poverty
	F	Within-country inequality
Week 3 September 1-5: Capabilities and Human Rights	M	HOLIDAY
	W	Capabilities and human development
	F	Human rights

*ASSIGNMENT 1 QUESTION PROVIDED

Week 4 September 8-12: Happiness and Sustainability	M	Happiness	<i>The Economist</i> . "The pursuit of happiness; Bhutan," December 18, 2004 Larmer, Brook. "Bhutan's Enlightened Experiment," <i>National Geographic</i> 213(3), March 2008
	W	Sustainability	<i>The Economist</i> . "The price of green," May 9, 1992
	F	Review session and catch-up	*ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE
Theories of Development			
Week 5 September 15-19: Geography and natural endowments	M	Introduction to theories of development	
	W	Geography and natural endowments	Sachs, J. <i>Tropical Underdevelopment</i> . NBER Working Paper 8119, February 2001.
	F	Geography and natural endowments critique	Acemoglu, D., Simon Johnson and James Robinson. "Reversal of fortune", <i>The Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> , 117(4), 2002. (read pp. 1231-1234 and 1259-1261)
Week 6 September 22-26: Modernization	M	Modernization	Haslam et al pp. 52-56
	W	Pharaonic projects	<i>The Economist</i> . "Power and the Xingu; Energy in Brazil," April 24, 2010 Brown, C. "Kayapo Courage," <i>National Geographic</i> , January 2014
	F	Modernization critique	Easterly, W. "Introduction" in <i>Tyranny of Experts</i> , New York, NY: Basic Books, 2013
Week 7 September 29-October 3: Dependency	M	Dependency	Haslam et al pp. 56-58
	W	Dependency critique	Amsden, A. "Taiwan's economic history: A case of etatisme and a challenge to dependency theory," <i>Modern China</i> , 5(3), 1990. (read pp. 341-343 and 367-372, rest of article suggested)
	F	Neoliberalism	Haslam et al pp. 59-62 World Health Organization. "Washington Consensus" (http://www.who.int/trade/glossary/story094/en/) World Health Organization. "Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs)" (http://www.who.int/trade/glossary/story084/en/) <i>The Economist</i> . "Reforming Latin America," November 26, 1994. *ASSIGNMENT 2 QUESTION PROVIDED

Week 8 October 6-10: Post- Washington Consensus	M	Post-Washington Consensus landscape: institutionalism	Rodrik, D. "After Neoliberalism, What?" <i>Alternatives to Neoliberalism Conference</i> , May 23-24, 2002
	W	Post-Washington Consensus: Re- inventing industrial policy	Haslam et al pp. 62-63 Chang, H. "Africa needs an active industrial policy to sustain its growth," <i>The Guardian</i> , July 15, 2012
	F	Review session and catch-up	*ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE
The Institutional Context			
Week 9 October 13-17: The state	M	HOLIDAY	
	W	The State	Haslam et al pp. 127-140
	F	Failed states	<i>The Economist</i> . "From chaos, order; Rebuilding failed states," March 5, 2005.
Week 10 October 20-24: International aid	M	International donors	Haslam et al pp. 143-156
	W	Multilateral financial institutions	Haslam et al pp. 159-163
	F	The UN and the Millennium Development Goals	Allen & Thomas (eds), <i>Poverty and development: Into the 21st Century</i> . United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2000. Pp. 199-204 Sachs, J. and J.W. McArthur, "The Millennium Project: A plan for meeting the Millennium Development Goals," <i>The Lancet</i> , 365, January 22, 2005
Week 11 October 27-31: Civil society and engineers	M	Civil society	Haslam et al pp. 217-222 and 227-231
	W	The perils of development from below	Sanyal, B. "The Myth of Development from Below" (pp. 1-10 required, pp. 11-20 suggested)
	F	Engineers and the development project	Cullather, N. "We Shall Release the Waters" in <i>The Hungry World: America's Cold War Battle Against Poverty in Asia</i> , United States of America: Harvard University Press, 2010. *ASSIGNMENT 3 QUESTION PROVIDED
Week 12 November 3-7: Business	M	Business (MNCs)	Haslam et al, pp. 197-204 Niemi, Wayne. "The Next Chapter: How to Incorporate Labor Rights Needs" in <i>Footwear News</i> , 60 (38), September 27, 2004

	W	National winners	Amsden, A. "National companies or foreign affiliates: Whose contribution to growth is greater?" <i>Perspectives on topical foreign direct investment issues</i> , 60, February 13, 2012 <i>The Economist</i> . "A world to conquer," June 6, 2014.
	F	Review session and catch-up	* ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE
Selected Topics in Development			
Week 13 November 10-14	M	Hunger definitions and numbers	World Food Programme. "What is hunger?," "Who are the hungry?," "Hunger Statistics," "Hunger Glossary," and "Hunger Map"
	W	Hunger: diagnoses and solutions	Cohen, M. and Don Reeves, "Causes of hunger", <i>Policy Brief International Food Policy Research Institute</i> , May 1995
	F	Hunger: the projects	A number of different readings on projects will be provided. Students will be responsible for picking one and coming to class prepared to share a description of the project
Week 14 November 17-21	M	Environment and development: definitions and numbers	Haslam et al pp. 313-329
	W	Environment and development: diagnoses and solutions	Jeremic, V and Jeffrey Sachs, "Global Cooperation," <i>The World Post</i> , March 7, 2014 *ASSIGNMENT 4 QUESTION PROVIDED
	F	Environment and development: projects	A number of different readings on projects will be provided. Students will be responsible for picking one and coming to class prepare to share a description of the project
Week 15 November 24-28	M	Technology and development	Haslam et al 473-476
	W	Review session and catch-up	*ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE
	F	HOLIDAY	
Week 16 December 1-5	M	Is international development a worthwhile objective?	Biddle, P. "The problem with little white girls, boys, and voluntourism," <i>Huffington Post</i> , August 5, 2014. Kahn, C. "As volunteerism explodes in popularity, who's it helping most," <i>NPR</i> , July 31, 2014.
	W	Moving forward with international development	
	F	Review for final exam	