



Course program and reading list

Semester 3 Year 2024

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy M.A

Key Issues in International Development

Lecturer:

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Teaching Assistant:

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Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
24262	Lecture	4	2

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	243242621	English



Course Description

The course provides an overview of the most burning economic, political, social, and technological aspects related to international development. The first part of the course will discuss why and how international development matters, provide an overview of the core principles of sustainable development and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and look into the basic theoretical approaches in this field. The second part will explore the global and national institutions that shape the political and socioeconomic development of countries. The third part will focus on some of the most pressing topics related to emerging markets: the impact of climate change on development, formal and informal labor markets, private sector development policies, gender opportunities and inequalities, the new economics of the internet, and conflict and emergency in the developing world. Each class will be accompanied by 2-3 case studies that will be discussed in-depth.



Course Goals

The course provides an overview of the most burning economic, political, social, and technological aspects related to international development.



Grading

The course grade will be comprised of the following components:

1. Final assignment (85%).
 2. Active participation in class (15%).
 3. Bonus of up to 5 points for excellent contribution to class discussions (subject to the professor's full discretion).
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Lecturer Office Hours

By appointment.



Reading List

I. Setting the Scene

1. **Poverty, Economic Growth & Inequality**
 - The Economist, "[The world has made great progress in eradicating extreme poverty. But the going on will be much harder,](#)" *March 30, 2017*
 - Ian Goldin & Robert Muggah, "[COVID-19 is increasing multiple kinds of inequality. Here's what we can do about it,](#)" *World Economic Forum*, October 9, 2020
 - Daryl Collins, Jonathan Morduch, Stuart Rutherford & Orlanda Ruthven, *Portfolios of the Poor: How the World's Poor Live on \$2 a Day* (2009), Chapter 1

2. **Why should we care about international development?**
 - Abhijit V. Banerjee & Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty* (2011), chapter 1
 - Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom* (1999), Introduction & chapter 1
 - United Nations, [Sustainable Development Goals](#)
 - Binyavanga Wainaina, *How to Write About Africa* (2005)

II. What, Who, and How?

3. **Approaches & Trends**

- Homi Kharas and Andrew Rogerson, "[Global Development Trends and Challenges: Horizon 2025 Revisited](#)," *Overseas Development Institute* (2017). Focus on Executive Summary and Chapters 3 and 4.
- Development Initiatives, "[Private Development Assistance: Key Facts and Global Estimates](#)," (2016).

4. **The Role of Institutions**

- Daron Acemoglu & James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (2013) (chapters 2 & 3)
- Yuen Yuen Ang, *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap* (2016), Introduction

III. The Challenge of Public Service Delivery

5. **Corruption**

- Ben Olken and Rohini Pande, "Corruption in Developing Countries," *Annual Review of Economics* 4:479–509 (2012)
- Abhijit V. Banerjee & Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty* (2011), chapter 10

6. **Transparency and Accountability**

- Anuradha Joshi, "Do They Work? Assessing the Impact of Transparency and Accountability Initiatives in Service Delivery," *Development Policy Review* 31(S1):S29–S45 (2013)
- Jonathan A. Fox, "Social Accountability: What Does the Evidence Really Say?" *World Development*, 72:346–361 (2015)

7. **Health and Education**

- United Nations, "[Comprehensive Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Least Developed Country Category](#)," pp. 2–16, April 2021
- Pascaline Dupas, "Health Behavior in Developing Countries," *Annu. Rev. Econ.* 3:425–49 (2011).
- Abhijit V. Banerjee & Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty* (2011), chapter 4

IV. Markets and Market Failures

8. **Labor Market**

- International Labor Organization, "[The Role of Digital Labour Platforms in Transforming the World of Work](#)" (2021)
 - World Development Report, [Jobs](#) (2013), p. 2-36
9. **The Private Sector & Micro-Finance**
- Abhijit V. Banerjee & Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty* (2011), chapter 6
 - Case study: World Bank, [Creating Markets in Ethiopia](#) (2019) *Executive summary only*

V. The Impacts of Development

10. **Whom does development benefit?**
- Dwyer Gunn, "[The Challenge of Closing the Gender Gap in Developing Countries,](#)" *The Atlantic*, December 24, 2012
 - World Development Report, [Data for Development](#) (2021), pp. 53-71
11. **Can development change behavior?**
- World Development Report, [Mind, Society, and Behavior](#) (2015), pp. 1-20
12. **The effectiveness and prospects of development cooperation**
- Nancy Birdsall and Homi Kharas, "[Quality of Official Development Assistance \(QUODA\)](#)", *Brookings Institution and the Center for Global Development* (2014). Scan the CGD QUODA database as you wish to see how various donors and countries score on measures of aid effectiveness.
 - Charlotte McDonald, "[Is There a Sexist Data Crisis?](#)" *BBC News*, May 18, 2016
 - Robin Davies and Jonathan Pickering, "How Should Development Cooperation Evolve? Views from Developing Countries." *Development Policy Review*, Vol. 35 (2017)