**Politics of Development**

Instructor: Erik Mobrand

Module description: This module examines development around the world. We will think about what development is, why societies have different development trajectories, and what national and global leaders do to tackle development problems. We begin by considering the various meanings of development. Then we move on to study economic and social dimensions of development, as well as overseas development assistance. Throughout the module we will give attention to a) theories of development, b) practical problems of furthering development, and c) the experiences of particular parts of the world.

Assignments and marking: This module involves four marked components.

Attendance and participation: 30%

Source submission and memo: 10%

Book review: 20%

Final project: 40%

Group report and presentation: 30%

Individual reflection: 10%

Attendance and participation: Students are expected to contribute to classroom discussions and activities. This component includes performance on occasional in-class assignments. Attendance is crucial. After all, if you don’t attend class, you can’t participate!

Source submission: Each week, 1-2 students will be tasked with finding a source – a news article or video – which illuminates something from the week’s theme. This source should be shared with the class before seminar, along with 1-2 paragraphs explaining the connection between the source and the week’s theme.

Book review: Students should write a critique of either Chang’s Bad Samaritans or Sachs’ Age of Sustainable Development. These are the two books that we discuss in the first two discussion groups. Your critique should be organized around an argument relating to a key theme in the book. This expectation means that the essay should be more than a summary of the book, but should instead engage its ideas. You need not conduct extra research for this assignment, though you might find it useful to draw on other readings from this module. The essay should be no more than 1,000 words, including references. The essay is due Friday, April 15 at noon.

Overseas development assistance project: Think like an aid professional! In September 2015, United Nations announced a new set of development goals – the Sustainable Development Goals – for the next 15 years. In this assignment, students will design programs in order to pursue one of the 17 SDGs. In small groups, students will select one of the SDGs. You will also choose a development agency – an international organization like the United Nations Development Programme, a national development assistance agency, or a private charity. Your group will make a proposal for how the agency will pursue the goal you have chosen. Toward the end of the semester each group will present its proposal. A written proposal is due two weeks later. More details on this assignment will be provided in class.

You will also submit a brief (<500 words) individual reflection. This piece can state the difficulties that were encountered and how you think this assignment relates to real development work.

Plagiarism: Don’t do it. Plagiarism is cheating and it’s taken seriously. Ignorance isn’t an excuse. If you’re unsure what constitutes plagiarism, consult the instructor.

Outline of sessions:

Week 1 (March 1): Public holiday

Week 2 (March 8): Introduction

Week 3 (March 15): What is development?

How are economic, political, and cultural dimensions of development related?

Sen; Colbridge; Rosling video

Week 4 (March 22): Development as societal change

Should we think of development as the same everywhere?

Should similarity or difference be theorized?

Rostow; Valenzuela and Valenzuela

Week 5 (March 29): Development as global

What difference does it make if we think of development in global, or planetary, terms?

Sachs

Week 6 (April 5): Industrial restructuring

What makes industrial restructuring possible?

Shafer; Evans

Week 7 (April 12): External links

Is the catch-up game rigged?

Chang

Week 8 (April 19): Campaigns for development

How are campaigns and policies different?

Can campaigns achieve developmental objectives?

Reading to be announced

Week 9 (April 26): Project work

Week 10 (May 3): Unlicensed housing

Is squatting a solution?

Berner

Week 11 (May 10): Persistent problems

How are development “traps” different from development challenges?

Collier

Week 12 (May 17): “Let’s save the world” conference

Week 13 (May 24): Rising powers and aid: Chinese aid in Africa

Sun; Li; Abdenur; poke around at <http://china.aiddata.org/> ; explore the Institute for Development Studies programme: <https://www.ids.ac.uk/idsresearch/brics-and-rising-powers>

Week 14 (May 31): Traditional and non-traditional aid

Yoon and Moon; Singapore Cooperation Programme website

Week 15 (June 7): Wrap up

List of readings (to be expanded):

Abdenur, China in Africa, Viewed from Brazil, Journal of Asian Studies 74, 2 (May 2015).

Berner, Erhard (2001). Learning from Informal Markets: Innovative approaches to land and housing provision, Development in Practice 11, no. 2-3 (May): 292-307.

Chang, Ha-Joon. Bad Samaritans

Collier, Paul. The Bottom Billion

Corbridge, Stuart, Development as Freedom: The spaces of Amartya Sen, Progress in Development Studies 2, 3 (2002): 183-217.

Evans, Peter, The State as Problem and Solution: Predation, embedded autonomy, and structural change, in Stephan Haggard and Robert R. Kaufman, eds., The Politics of Economic Adjustment (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992): 139-81.

Li, et al. Difference or indifference: China’s development assistance unpacked. IDS Bulletin 45, 4 (July 2014).

Rostow, WW, The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto, in J. Timmons Roberts and Amy Hite, eds., From Modernization to Globalization: Perspectives on Development and Social Change (Malden: Blackwell, 2000): 100-109.

Sachs, Jeffrey. The Age of Sustainable Development

Sen, Amartya, Development as Freedom (New York: Knopf, 1999). Introduction.

Shafer, D. Michael, Sectors, States, and Social Forces: Korea and Zambia Confront Economic Restructuring. Comparative Politics 22, no. 2 (Jan. 1990): 127-150.

Sun, China’s aid to Africa. <http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2014/02/07-china-aid-to-africa-sun>

Valenzuela, J. Samuel Valenzuela and Arturo Valenzuela, Modernization and Dependency: Alternative Perspectives in the Study of Latin American Underdevelopment. Comparative Politics 10, no. 4 (July 1978): 535-57.

Yoon and Moon, [Korean bilateral official development assistance to Africa under Korea's initiative for Africa's development](http://nus.summon.serialssolutions.com/2.0.0/link/0/eLvHCXMwnV3NS8MwFA9uA_GiTmf9hJzcqXVp0yaFofg1Jpt4UEG8jKxphjA6dfPgX-G_7Htpq2PqxV5KkpKEvpeXl-Tl9yMk8L2Wu2ATtNG-NnEaGh0JkLRSErGeWBqEGmZAadnf_NvH4LIXlJf6cacgl3ZpJK3l1pMEN82PmIV2j-MwPHl-cZFGCo9bC06NCqmBSRbI5XDt979WYFFs-d5gCpd4rCB_tcO8mFw6a_NBIDaqhHnZWw5vOB39hG38d2_XyWrhftLTXF_qZCnNNkgjxwp5p4cUgWiVJft93yQfvQm4lBk9exorvKg8pjcF4ARtD4_nwo3aR8NjzAJZozsKemRzZhObaZmIbIYlWaK21uaUXmHcksUdp-A5f3_anJb1LTTRIPedy7vzrlsQOLgjWGniXTcm0YkzXCueMD2ExaRk3ERGcK5EmCj0BqWvU2aMCYxpRVrIMEQMNgvVt0Wq2SRLHVIzMBjhDROkA9JxyPJD3L-Q3d55nqyXSW9qL6t5LzMHhG7_rht5YptQaEsoXxjoieKRNqC8ftKSMVOpChNtdoiDujDAgT17VckATC_4MnHAoaSU6UCPx4MAHkS8EGz3z5I9sgKuFc9DI_dJdfb6lh6QCqjPJzFU6FE). Journal of East Asian Studies 14, 2 (May 2014).