

11. S950 Development Theory I Fall 2018

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Course Description and Objectives

This advanced course in international development theory is aimed primarily at doctoral and advanced masters students. It covers historical and theoretical perspectives at the core of International Development, beginning with debates around the very concept of development and continuing with the evolution of theories on economic growth and development, from modernization and neo-classical theories to post-colonial, heterodox and more recent approaches. It is organized around the topics and materials that constitute the first field of the IDG doctoral exam. The course is the first half of a year-long seminar on advanced development theory. The Spring semester course will focus on a few specific and specialized topics that lie at the frontier of international development theory which will be selected for deeper interrogation.

Audience

This course is primarily intended to be a field seminar designed to assist DUSP PhD students with their preparations for the International Development first field of the general exam. The course will also provide deeper background for more advanced masters students who are considering a doctoral degree and who require more rigorous exposure to the ideas and debates that animate development theory and underpin development practice. This will be of utility for thesis research for students who require a deeper grounding in theory. The course is also expected to be of interest to advanced graduate students in other parts of the Institute, particularly Political Science, Sloan and the Humanities who are interested in development theory.

Assessment and Grading

Student assessment will be based on class participation and short weekly reading response papers. The course will be graded P/D/F.

Course Outline

- I. Course introduction: the idea of development
- II. Colonial and Imperial Legacies of Development
- III. Historical and theoretical perspectives on development
- IV. Evolution of theories of development I: Neoclassical, Dependency, New Growth and Heterodox Theories
- V. Evolution of theories of development II: New Institutional Theories
- VI. Evolution of theories of development III: Social and Political Development

Course Organization, Structure and Materials

The organizational structure and selected readings below are taken primarily from the Revised Outline of the International Development First Field Exam (2014).

Session 1: Course introduction: the idea of development

September 17

- Sachs, W. 1992. 'Introduction,' in W. Sachs (ed) *The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power*. London: Zed Books. Available [here](#).
- Esteva, G. 1992. 'Development' in W. Sachs (ed) *The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power*. London: Zed Books, pp. 1-21. Available [here](#).
- Ferguson, J. 1996. "Development." In Spencer, J. and A. Barnard (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Social and Cultural Anthropology*. London: Routledge, pp. 154-160.
- Amartya Sen. 1988. "The Concept of Development" in H.Chenery and T.N. Srinivasan (eds) *Handbook of Development Economics*.
- Mitchell, T. 2002. *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity*. University of California Press, Chapter 7.

Additional recommended readings

- Mazlish, B. 1963. "The Idea of Progress," *Daedalus*, 93, Summer, pp. 447-461.
- Berlin, I. 1991. "The Pursuit of the Ideal" Chapter 1 in *The Crooked Timber of Humanity: Chapters on the History of Ideas*, I. Berlin & H. Hardy, Knopf, pp. 1-21. Available [here](#).
- Ocampo, J.A. 2002. "Rethinking the Development Agenda." *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 26(3): pp. 393-407.

Session 2: Colonial and Imperial Legacies of Development

September 24

- Rajagopal, B. 2003. *International Law from Below: Development, Social Movements and Third World Resistance*. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 3.
- Mamdani, M. 1996. *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*. Princeton University Press, Chapter 2.
- Acemoglu, D. and J. Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail*. Chapter 9.
- Frantz Fanon. 1963. 'Concerning Violence' and 'The Pitfalls of National Consciousness' in *The Wretched of the Earth*. Grove Press.

Additional recommended readings

- Antony Anghie. 2007. *Imperialism, Sovereignty and the Making of International Law*, Cambridge University Press.
- Partha Chatterjee. 1993. *The Nation and its Fragments*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 2 and 10.
- Walter Rodney. 1972. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. Black Classic Press.
- Timothy Mitchell. 1991. *Colonizing Egypt*. University of California Press. Chapters 3 and 6.

Session 3: Historical and theoretical perspectives on development

October 1

- Gershenkron, Alexander. 1962. *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Ch 1-3.
- Hirschman, A. O. 1981. "The Rise and Decline of Development Economics," in *Essays in Trespassing: Economics to Politics and Beyond*, Cambridge.
- Skocpol, T. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative analysis of France, Russia and China*. CUP. Chapter 1, pp. 3-46.
- Boaventura de Sousa Santos. 2014. 'Introduction', *Epistemologies of the South: Justice against Epistemicide*. Routledge.

Additional recommended readings

- Polanyi, K. 1944. *The Great Transformation*, Beacon Press. Chapters 5 and 6.
- Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, Part III (theoretical implications).
- Rostow, Walt. 1975. *How It All Began: Origins of The Modern Economy*.
- Rosenstein-Rodan, P. 1963. Problems of Industrialization of Eastern and Southeastern Europe. In *The Economics of Underdevelopment*, edited by A. N. Agarwala and S. P. Singh. New York: Oxford University Press. Selected pages TBD.
- Gunnar Myrdal. 1968. "Prologue" *Asian Drama: An Inquiry Into The Poverty Of Nations*. Pantheon.

Session 4: Evolution of theories of development I: Neoclassical, Dependency, New Growth and Heterodox Theories

October 15

- Hirschman, A. 1977. *The Passions And The Interests*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Selections TBC.
- Lewis, A. W. 1963. Economic Development with Unlimited Supplies of Labor. Edited by A. N. Agarwala and S.P. Singh, *The Economics of Underdevelopment*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Frank, A. G. 1966. "The Development of Underdevelopment," *Monthly Review* 18:17-31.
- Romer, M. P. 1986. "Increasing Returns and Long-Run Growth." *Journal of Political Economy* 94(5): 1002-1037.
- Amsden, H. A. 2001. *The Rise of the Rest: Challenges to the West from Late-Industrializing Economies*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Additional recommended readings

- Schumpeter, J. 1934. The Theory of Economic Development. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Ch. 1-2.
- Hirschman, A. O. 1971. "Ideologies of Economic development in Latin America." In: *A Bias for Hope: Essays on Development and Latin America*, edited by Albert O. Hirschman (New Haven: Yale University Press), p. 270-311.

- Lall, S. 1975. "Is Dependence a Useful Concept in Analyzing Underdevelopment?" *World Development*, 3: 799-810.
- Cardoso, F. H. and E. Faletto. 1979. *Dependency and development in Latin America*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Nurkse, R. 1952. "Some international aspects of the problem of economic development." *American Economic Review* 42(2), 571-583.
- Kenny, C. and D. Williams. 2000. What Do We Know About Economic Growth? Or, Why Don't We Know Very Much? *World Development* 29 (1): 1-22.
- Tendler, J. 1997. *Good Government in the Tropics*, (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997).
- Chang, H. 2002. *Kicking away the ladder: development strategy in historical perspective*. London: Anthem.
- Rostow, W. W. 1958. *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto*. London: Cambridge University Press. Selected pages TBD.
- Murphy, K., A. Schliefer, and R. Vishny 1989. Industrialization and the Big Push. *Journal of Political Economy* 97 (5): 1003-26.

Session 5: Evolution of theories of development II: New Institutional Theories

October 22

- North, D. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1-4, 11-12.
- Trebilcock, M. & M. Prado. 2011. *What Makes Poor Countries Poor? Institutional Determinants of Development*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar. Chapter 1, pp. 1-40
- Evans, P. 2005. "The Challenges of the 'Institutional Turn': Interdisciplinary Opportunities in Development Theory." In Victor Nee and Richard Swedberg (eds.) *The Economic Sociology of Capitalist Institutions*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Chang, H-J. 2011. "Institutions and Economic Development: Theory, Policy and History." *Journal of Institutional Economics* 7(4): 473-498.
- Amartya Sen. 2006. 'What is the Role of Legal and Judicial Reform in the Development Process?' in Ana Palacio ed. *The World Bank Legal Review: Law, Equity and Development*, Volume 2.
- Kennedy, David. 2011. "Some Caution About Property Rights as a Recipe for Economic Development", 1 *Accounting Economics & Law*.

Additional recommended readings

- Ostrom, E. 1990. "Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action," Cambridge University Press.
- Mahoney, J. 2010. Colonialism and Postcolonial Development: Spanish America in Comparative Perspective. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1, "Explaining Levels of Colonialism and Postcolonial Development," pp. 1-34.
- Acemoglu, D., Johnson, S., & Robinson, J. A. 2005. Institutions as a fundamental cause of long-run growth. *Handbook of Economic Growth*, 1, 385-472.

Session 6: Evolution of theories of development III: Social and Political Development

October 29

Streeten, Paul. 1979. "Basic Needs: Premises and Promises". World Bank Reprint Series #62. Available [here](#).

Seers, D. 1979. 'The Meaning of Development, with a Postscript', in D. Seers, E.W. Nafziger, D.C. O'Brien and H. Bernstein (eds), *Development Theory: Four Critical Studies*, London: Frank Cass.

Sen, A. 1999. *Development as Freedom*, Chapters 1 and 2.

Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*, Chapters 3 and 13.

Polly Vizard, Sakiko Fukuda-Parr & Diane Elson. 2011. Introduction: The Capability Approach and Human Rights, *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities: A Multi-Disciplinary Journal for People-Centered Development*, 12:1, 1-22.

World Bank. 2017. *World Development Report 2017 (Governance and the Law)*, Overview, pp.2-37.

Additional Recommended Readings:

Hicks, N. & Streeten, P. 1979. "Indicators of Development: The Search for a Basic Needs Yardstick," *World Development*, 7. pp. 567-580.

Singh, A. 1979. The 'Basic Needs' approach to development vs the new international economic order: The significance of Third World industrialization. *World Development*, 7(6), 585-606.

Barry R. Weingast. 1995. "The Economic Role of Political Institutions: Market-Preserving Federalism and Economic Development" 11 *Journal of Law, Economics & Organization* 1-31.

Rajagopal. B. 2013. "Right to Development and Global Governance: Old and New Challenges Twenty-Five Years On", *Human Rights Quarterly*, Volume 35, Number 4, November 2013, pp. 893-909.

Michael Trebilcock and Mariana Prado. 2011. *What Makes Poor Countries Poor? Institutional Determinants of Development*. Chapters 4 and 5.