COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is intended for graduate students in political science and will be most beneficial for students who have completed the introductory sequence of graduate statistical methods courses. The course begins with historical accounts of economic and political development, and then surveys the current literature on development. The course covers the following topics related to development: experimental approaches, historical and geographic theories, inequality, poverty, political institutions and instability, corruption, trade, migration, and foreign aid. This course is reading intensive. Please register for this course only if you can commit to completing ALL of the required readings each week. There is no research paper requirement for this class. Students are expected to lead seminar discussion as well as write and present discussion papers based on the readings.

REQUIREMENTS: Students are expected to: (1) attend all seminars; (2) read assigned material and be prepared to discuss the material before each seminar meeting; (3) submit questions to the class before each seminar meeting; (4) lead seminar discussion; (5) complete 4 written assignments.

GRADING: Seminar Participation (20%); Discussion leader (20%); Written assignments (60% = 4* 15%).

GRADE SCALE: A: 95-100; A-: 90-94.9; B+: 87.9-89.9; B: 83.33-87.8; B-: 80-83.32; FAIL: 0-79.9

SEMINAR PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to attend each seminar, read the assigned material before each class, and be prepared to discuss assigned material. Before 6PM every Monday preceding the seminar, each student is expected to post three discussion questions on ANGEL.

Each week two students will present the main points from their critical essays. Starting in Week 5, each class period will be divided into two 80 minutes periods. During the first period, we will do three things: (1) each student will provide a brief (3 minutes or less) oral response to the readings, highlighting one issue for discussion.; (2) the discussants will give their presentations in front of the class (30 minutes, power points/illustrative graphs strongly encouraged). Following a 10-15 minute break, the second period of the class will be open discussion of the readings.

Week 1 will be an introductory class, lasting not more than 1 hour. Week 3 will be a discussion of Diamond, North et al. and Polyani. Every student will write a critical essay for this week, due Monday 6PM before class. The instructor will lead discussion and students are not required to submit questions on ANGEL for this week. Week 4, the instructor will lecture on basic models of economic development. Students are required to submit questions on the readings on ANGEL for week 4.

DISCUSSANT: The discussant’s presentation should not be a summary of the readings. Everyone has read the material; simply summarizing the material is typically boring and wastes our time. Instead, the presentation should accomplish the following.

- Identify the causal mechanisms in theory. Are these mechanisms tested? Do they offer further testable implications?
- Discuss the theoretical assumptions. Are they accurate? Are they necessary? How do the results change if we relax the key assumptions?
- Assess the quality of main empirical finding.
- Why do the readings agree or disagree? What are the reasons for different empirical findings?
- What is the next step in this research agenda? Propose something: it doesn’t have to be right, just plausible. If you could have any type of data, how would you extend this research? Is there a case you know of that doesn’t fit the theoretical assumptions? How would you amend the theory to accommodate this data? (think about the readings as a whole)
WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: There will be four written assignments for this course.

1. Discussion paper on Diamond, North et al., and Polyani.
2. Three (3) discussion papers spaced throughout Weeks 5-16 (excluding Week 14 - Thanksgiving).

Each discussion paper is due in electronic format to the instructor by 6PM the day before class meets. Discussion papers should follow the outline for Discussants above. Length: 6-8 pages.

READING MATERIALS: The following books are available at the book store or Amazon. Required readings in published journals are available on Google scholar. Some readings will be posted to ANGEL; others can be found by following the embedded links.


BOILER PLATE: Academic Dishonesty: The Department of Political Science, along with the College of the Liberal Arts and the University, takes violations of academic dishonesty seriously. Observing basic honesty in one’s work, words, ideas, and actions is a principle to which all members of the community are required to subscribe. All course work by students is to be done on an individual basis unless an instructor clearly states that an alternative is acceptable. Any reference materials used in the preparation of any assignment must be explicitly cited. Students uncertain about proper citation are responsible for checking with their instructor. In an examination setting, unless the instructor gives explicit prior instructions to the contrary, whether the examination is in-class or take-home, violations of academic integrity shall consist but are not limited to any attempt to receive assistance from written or printed aids, or from any person or papers or electronic devices, or of any attempt to give assistance, whether the one so doing has completed his or her own work or not. Lying to the instructor or purposely misleading any Penn State administrator shall also constitute a violation of academic integrity. In cases of any violation of academic integrity it is the policy of the Department of Political Science to follow procedures established by the College of the Liberal Arts. More information on academic integrity and procedures followed for violation can be found at: http://tinyurl.com/n3q8ym

Disabilities: The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell the instructor as soon as possible. Reasonable accommodations will be made for all students with disabilities, but it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor early in the term. Do not wait until just before an exam to decide you want to inform the instructor of a learning disability; any accommodations for disabilities must be arranged well in advance. Flu: Please do not come to class if you have the flu. Email me and we can discuss how to make up lost time. For the official advice, see: http://tinyurl.com/mc7hbf and http://tinyurl.com/mzyqqw
Politics of Development

POLSCI 554

READINGS: All readings are REQUIRED, except those noted with an *.

Week 1 (August 24): Deep Roots of Development

Week 2 (August 31): Industrialization in the West
APSA Week: NO CLASS

Week 3 (September 7): Violence, Institutions, and State Formation


Week 4 (September 14): Theory and Background


Week 5 (September 21): Experimental and Micro Approaches


Week 6 (September 28): Geography and Initial Conditions
Politics of Development


Week 7 (October 5): Historical Legacies


Week 8 (October 12): Inequality


Houle, Christian. 2010 “Inequality, Economic Development and Democratization.” working paper


Week 9 (October 19): Clientalism, Corruption & Rent-Seeking


Politics of Development


*Treisman, Daniel. 2007. “What Have We Learned About the Causes of Corruption from Ten Years of Cross-National Empirical Research?” Annual Review of Political Science 10: 211-244

Week 10 (October 26): Regimes, Institutions, and Political stability
Goemans, Hein and Muhmmet Bas. 2010. “Growth and Tenure.” working paper


Week 11 (November 2): Trade

Week 12 (November 9): Migration and Economic outcomes
Leblang, David. forthcoming. “Familiarity Breeds Investment: Diaspora Networks and International Investment.” American Political Science Review
Week 13 (November 16): Migration and Politics


Week 14 (November 23): Thanksgiving NO CLASS

Week 15 (November 30): Foreign aid and Growth


Week 16 (December 2): Politics of Foreign aid


Wright, Joseph. 2010. “Curses and Conditionality: Do Oil and Aid Affect Democracy Differently?” APSA 2010


**Book excerpts and working papers on ANGEL**

- Goemans, Hein. 2010. “Growth and Tenure.” working paper
- Houle, Christian. 2010 “Inequality, Economic Development and Democratization.” working paper