

UCLA
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLITICAL SCIENCE 259: POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT

Prof. Daniel Posner
3381 Bunche Hall
825-5536
dposner@polisci.ucla.edu

Spring 2010
Tues, 1-3:50pm
4276 Bunche Hall
Office hours: Weds 1-3pm

This course provides a political economy approach to the puzzle of why some countries are rich and others are poor, and why, among the latter, some have been able to achieve rapid rates of economic growth and others have not. This is perhaps the central question in the study of development, and we approach it by reviewing and explaining the logic behind some of the leading arguments that have been advanced to account for differences across countries in rates and levels of economic development.

A course of this type might emphasize either theory or empirics (or both). Our emphasis will be on theory: that is, on the leading arguments in the literature rather than on the process of generating evidence to support one or another of these approaches (although empirical analyses will creep into our readings and discussions from time to time). We will also, necessarily, only treat a subset of the major topics, and literature, in the broader political economy of development field.

The course is designed principally for Political Science Ph.D. students specializing in Comparative Politics. However, graduate students from other sub-fields, and from other departments (including the Masters Program in African Studies) are welcome if space allows.

REQUIREMENTS

There are three requirements for the course. First, students are required to attend all class meetings, come to seminar having read the assigned material for the week, and participate actively in class discussions. Students will be expected to have read—not just skimmed, but really read, and read carefully—all of the readings before each class meeting (except where the syllabus indicates that you should just skim).

Second, each seminar participant will choose a developing country on which to become an “expert.” Insofar as possible, students should choose countries that they are not already familiar with and that exhibits features unlike the countries that they are already know something about. For each of the topics that we will treat in the course students should read up especially on the situation in their country for that topic. For example, during the week when we discuss the impact of geography on development, students should come to seminar prepared to discuss how their country’s geography has affected its development trajectory. Learning about the specifics of a particular country will help you get more out of the readings and, in combination with the country expertise acquired by others in the seminar, aid us in evaluating the plausibility (and limitations) of the various theories and approaches we discuss.

In the seventh week of the course, we will address the question of the role played by leaders in generating development. We will read a smaller than usual amount of material for that week so

that students can devote their energy to writing a six page paper for that seminar meeting in which they weigh the relative importance of leadership and structural factors in generating the development levels that we observe in their chosen countries. Students will then present the main findings of their analyses in the seminar.

Third, each seminar participant will write a ten page paper, due during finals week, reflecting on the Bates-Posner draft chapters we will read in weeks eight and nine. Details of the assignment will be circulated later in the quarter. Additional supplementary readings will also likely be added to the syllabus for those weeks.

The weight attached to these three requirements is as follows:

- Attendance and participation 40%
- Leadership paper/presentation 30%
- Critique of Bates-Posner chapters 30%

READINGS

I will post copies of all the non-book-length readings on the course web page, which you may download and print *for your own use*. We read two books in their entirety:

North, Wallis and Weingast, *Violence and Social Orders* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009)

Cohen and Easterly, eds., *What Works in Development?* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2009)

Both of these books should be purchased. We also read large parts of two others (Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel* and Collins et al, *Portfolios of the Poor*), which you may also wish to purchase for your own collections. All of these books are readily available from Amazon.com and other online and local booksellers.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

March 30: *Introduction*

April 6: *What Does it Mean to be Developed?*

Debraj Ray, "Poverty and Undernutrition," in Debraj Ray, *Development Economics* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998), pp. 249-294.

Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo, "The Economic Lives of the Poor," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 21, 1 (Winter 2007), pp. 141-167.

Jeffrey D. Sachs, *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time* (New York: Penguin Press, 2005), chs. 1-2.

Daryl Collins, Jonathan Morduch, Stuart Rutherford and Orlanda Ruthven, *Portfolios of the Poor: How the World's Poor Live on \$2 a Day* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009), chs 1-3.

April 13: *Deep Sources of Development*

Jared Diamond, "The Rise and Spread of Food Production," "Hemispheres Colliding," and "How Africa Became Black," in *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* (New York: WW Norton, 1999), pp. 83-191 and 354-401.

Diego Comin, William Easterly and Erick Gong, "Was the Wealth of Nations Determined in 1000 B.C.?" unpublished paper, August 2009.

April 20: *Violence, Institutions and Development*

Douglass C. North, John Joseph Wallis and Barry R. Weingast, *Violence and Social Orders: A Conceptual Framework for Interpreting Recorded Human History* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009), entire book.

April 27: *Ethnicity and Development*

Alberto Alesina and Eliana La Ferrara, "Ethnic Diversity and Economic Performance," *Journal of Economic Literature* 43 (September 2005), pp. 721-761.

Edward Miguel, "Ethnic Diversity and Poverty Reduction," in Abhijit V. Banerjee, Roland Benabou, and Dilip Mookherjee, *Understanding Poverty* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), pp. 169-184.

William Easterly and Ross Levine, "Africa's Growth Tragedy: Policies and Ethnic Divisions," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 112, 4 (1997), pp. 1203-1250.

Daniel N. Posner, "Measuring Ethnic Fractionalization in Africa," *American Journal of Political Science* 48, 4 (October 2004), pp. 849-863.

James Habyarimana, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner and Jeremy M. Weinstein, "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" *American Political Science Review* 101, 4 (November 2007), pp. 709-725.

May 4: *Trade and Development*

Kevin O'Rourke, "Politics and Trade: Lessons from Past Globalizations," Bruegel Essay and Lecture Series, 2009.

Abhijit Banerjee, "Globalization and All That," in Abhijit V. Banerjee, Roland Benabou, and Dilip Mookherjee, *Understanding Poverty* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), pp. 85-98.

Pranab Bardhan, "The Global Economy and the Poor," in Abhijit V. Banerjee, Roland Benabou, and Dilip Mookherjee, *Understanding Poverty* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), pp.99-109.

Arvind Subramanian and Devesh Roy, "Who Can Explain the Mauritian Miracle? Meade, Romer, Sachs or Rodrik?" in Dani Rodrik, ed., *In Search of Prosperity: Analytic Narratives on Economic Growth* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2003), pp. 205-243.

ALSO SKIM:

Feyrer, James, "Distance, Trade, and Income: The 1967 to 1975 Closing of the Suez Canal as a Natural Experiment," unpublished paper, November 2009.

Feyrer, James, "Trade and Income: Exploiting Time Series in Geography," unpublished paper, October 2009.

May 11: *Do Leaders Matter?*

Benjamin F. Jones and Benjamin A. Olken, "Do Leaders Matter? National Leadership and Growth Since World War II," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 120, 3 (August 2005), pp. 835-864.

Raghabendra Chattopadhyay and Esther Duflo, "Women as Policy Makers: Evidence from a Random Policy Experiment in India," *Econometrica* 72, 5 (September 2004), pp. 1409-1443.

May 18 and May 25: *Discussion of Draft Chapters of Bates and Posner Volume*

June 1: *What Works in Development?*

Jessica Cohen and William Easterly, eds., *What Works in Development? Thinking Big and Thinking Small* (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 2009), entire book.