This course provides a political economy approach to the puzzle of why some countries are rich and other are poor, and why, among the latter, some have been able to achieve rapid rates of economic growth and improvements in their citizens’ wellbeing while 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 most important arguments that have been advanced to account for differences across countries in rates and levels of economic development.

The first half of the course looks at theories of the role of the state in economic development— theories that can be applied to both Europe, historically, and the developing world today. We begin at the simplest level with the problem of achieving order and prosperity in stateless societies. Then we discuss the deep sources of development such as geography and factor endowments. Then we bring in the state and explore its role as a protector against violence and predation, a guarantor of property rights, a coordinator of economic policies, and an investor in productive enterprise, and we show how each of these roles contributes to economic development. But because a state that is strong enough to do such things is also strong enough to implement policies that run against the public interest, we then take up a discussion of the ways in which the state can stand as an impediment to development, and also how it might be reigned in.

The second part of the course focuses on issues confronting the developing world today. We consider the critical issues of ethnicity, conflict, and gender. We discuss the role of leadership. We then look at how exchanges with other countries—via trade, migration, and international capital flows (including investment and foreign aid)—affect the logic of development. We conclude by examining three leading approaches to promoting development: decentralization, informational campaigns, and the Millennium Villages (the embodiment of Jeffrey Sachs’ “Big Push” logic). For each, we discuss the motivations that lie behind the intervention and their (mixed) record of success.

REQUIREMENTS

The course is taught in two lectures each week, on Monday and Wednesday from 3:30 to 3:45 in Fowler A103B. Attendance at lectures is mandatory.

Students are required to take a take-home midterm, an in-class midterm, and a cumulative final exam. They are also required to attend and participate in weekly discussion sections. Each part of the midterm is worth 25 percent of the final grade, the final exam is worth 35 percent, and section participation is worth the remaining 15 percent.
• The in-class portion of the midterm will be taken in sections on May 4-5.
• The take-home portion of the midterm will be distributed at the end of lecture on May 10 and due (via Turn-it-in) at 3pm on Friday, May 12.
• The final exam will be on Friday, June 16 from 11:30am-2:30pm. **Students who are unable to take the final exam at that time and date should not enroll in the course.**

The course involves a fairly heavy reading load, the completion of which is essential to understanding the issues and controversies addressed in the lectures. There are no required books for purchase. All of the readings are posted on the course web page (UCLA log in required) and are available for your own use.

UCLA Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides mental health care and resources for all registered students, including short-term individual and/or group treatment, urgent services and referrals when needed. Counselors are available 24/7 by phone at (310) 825-0768.
LECTURE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1
April 3: Introduction: The Puzzle of Development

April 5: What Does It Mean to be “Developed?”

WEEK 2
April 10: No Class

April 12: The Peasantry, Risk, and Kinship

WEEK 3
April 17: Deep Sources of Development: Geography and Factor Endowments
“The Road to Hell is Unpaved,” The Economist, 21 December 2002.
Paul Collier, “The Natural Resource Trap” and “Landlocked with Bad Neighbors,” in The Bottom Billion (Oxford University Press, 2007), chs. 3-4.

April 19: The State as a Solution to Growth

WEEK 4
April 24: The State as a Helping Hand: ISI and Planning

April 26: The State as a Grabbing Hand: Corruption
WEEK 5
May 1: Democratic Institutions as a Solution?

May 3: Ethnicity and Development

May 4-5: In-Class Midterm (taken in section)

WEEK 6
May 8: Conflict and Development

May 10: Gender and Development

May 12: Take-Home Midterm due

WEEK 7
May 15: Do Leaders Matter?

May 17: Trade and Migration

WEEK 8
May 22: Sweatshops and the Domestic Politics of Trade

May 24: IFIs and Aid

WEEK 9
May 29: Memorial Day; No Class
May 31: Interventions to Promote Development: Decentralization
Junaid Ahmad, Shantayanan Devarajan, Stuti Khemani, and Shekhar Shah,

WEEK 10
June 5: Interventions to Promote Development: Informational Campaigns

June 7: Interventions to Promote Development: Big Push/Millennium Villages