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Diplomacy Syllabi

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Spring 2019

## **Undergraduate Topics in Economic Development**

Robert Shaver Ph.D.

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## Undergraduate Topics in Economic Development Seton Hall University

Spring 2019

Professor Robert Shaver  
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Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 – 10:15 AM

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11-12 AM, McQuaid 112

### Course Description

This course is an introduction to economic development for undergraduate students. After introducing basic approaches to economic development, we consider dilemmas such as the alleviation of poverty, the provision of healthcare, education, and other services, the promotion of entrepreneurship, the importance of human rights and democracy, the role of knowledge in advancing economic and social well-being, and the effectiveness of the state in the changing world. We analyze experiences of different countries in Latin America, Africa, East Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East.

Classes will be discussion based, and students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings in detail and prepared to provide their thoughts to the rest of the class. In addition to the assigned readings, students should regularly read the international section of a major daily newspaper such as *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, or *Wall Street Journal* to keep abreast of and discuss current affairs. Particular articles may be assigned in class and are to be considered required reading.

Each class will begin with a short, ungraded quiz, in which students will be asked to define one or more of the key concepts from the assigned reading. In the last section of the course students will instead be given map quizzes.

As a final project, students will write an 8-10 page paper and prepare a presentation to be made to the rest of the class. Further guidelines for the project and paper will be distributed in class.

### Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to provide students with the necessary tools and concepts to understand the basic problems of and approaches to economic development. By understanding how international leaders and institutions think about economic development, students will learn to think critically about the events they read about in the news or deal with in their future professional careers.

### Course Materials

There are two required texts for this course:

- Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, Anchor Books 1999.
- Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*, PublicAffairs, 2011

Additional Readings will be posted on Blackboard in PDF format.

### Assignments

#### Participation

Students are expected to contribute to class discussion on a regular basis. Students will not be judged by what they say, but simply by their participation. Failure to participate will result in loss of points.

#### Short Papers

Students are required to write two 500-600 word responses to readings from either of the first two sections. Students are free to choose which readings they choose to respond to, and may turn in their papers at any time during the first two sections. **These papers must discuss ideas for the final paper.** Papers must be written in complete sentences and paragraphs (no bullet points). Failure to write two papers by the end of section two will result in the loss of credit for the assignments.

#### Midterm Exam

A midterm exam will be given on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The exam will include definitions, short answers, and two or three longer responses.

#### Final Papers

Students will hand in a final paper of 8-10 pages in both hard copy and by email by the last day of class. The final papers may address any topic of the student's choosing, as long as it relates to economic development. Comparative studies are highly encouraged. It is requested that students clear their topics with the professor ahead of time. Late papers will lose a third of a grade per day.

### Grading

The Course will be graded as follows:

Participation:	10%
Short Papers:	20%
Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Paper:	40%

### Grading Scale

A>=94	A->=90	B+>=87	B>=84	B->=80	C+>=77
C>=74	C->=70	D+>=67	D>=64	D->=60	F<=59

### Computer Use Policy

The use of computers for discrete note-taking is permissible in class. The use of computers for other purposes such as checking e-mail or surfing the internet is not permissible. Inappropriate computer use is not only disruptive to fellow students who are attempting to concentrate on class discussion, but it also tends to lead to lower grades for students engaged in non-class activity. Students who choose not to abide by this policy will be asked to leave class.

## **Citations**

Papers should utilize one of the *Chicago Manual of Style* citation formats: Author-Date or Notes and Bibliography. The guidelines for these formats are on the course Blackboard page

## **Disability Services Statement**

It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at (973) 313-6003 or by e-mail at [DSS@shu.edu](mailto:DSS@shu.edu).

## **Academic Integrity & Dishonesty**

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See University and School standards for academic conduct here: <https://www.shu.edu/student-life/upload/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf> and <http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>

## **Policy on Incompletes**

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an "FI" (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

# **Section I: Approaches to Economic Development**

## **January 14 - Introduction**

- Introductions
- Go through syllabus
- What is Economic Development?

## **January 16 – The Problem of Economic Development**

- UNDP, Human Development Report 2019, pp. 1-20

- Economist, “The World Has Made Great Progress in Eradicating Extreme Poverty”
- Economist, “Economic History – What Was the Great Divergence?”
- World Bank Blogs, “Should We Continue to Use the Term ‘Developing World?’”  
<http://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/should-we-continue-use-term-developing-world>
- Our World in Data, “Human Development Index”, <https://ourworldindata.org/human-development-index>

### **January 21 – The History of Development Thinking**

- Harry Truman, 1949 Inaugural Address
- Albert O. Hirschman, “The Rise and Decline of Development Economics,” in *Essays in Trespassing: Economics to Politics and Beyond* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1981), pp. 1-24

### **January 23 – Stages Theory and Growth Models**

- W.W. Rostow, “The Stages of Economic Growth”, *The Economic History Review*, Vol. 12 No. 1, 1959
- Read Wikipedia pages for: Solow-Swan Model, Harrod-Domar Model, Endogenous Growth Theory

### **January 28 – Developmental State Theory**

- T. J. Pempel, “The Developmental Regime in a Changing World Economy” in *The Developmental State*, Ed. Meredith Woo-Cummings, Cornell University Press, 1999
- Economist, “Special Report: Asian Tigers, New Stripes”, Selections

### **January 30 – Dependency Theory**

- Frank, “The Development of Underdevelopment,” *Monthly Review*, 1989
- Steven Schmidt, “Latin American Dependency Theory”, University of Virginia: Global South Studies

### **February 4 – Banerjee and Duflo’s Experimentalist Approach**

- Banerjee and Duflo, *Poor Economics*, pp.1-18
- PBS, “How the Economics Nobel Laureates’ Methods Could Help Fight Poverty in the US”

### **February 6 - Sen’s Capabilities Approach**

- Sen, *Development as Freedom*, pp.3-34
- UNDP, Human Development Report 2019, pp. 23-25

## **Section II: Topics in Economic Development**

**February 11 – Economic Justice**

- Sen, Development as Freedom, pp. 35-53

**February 13 – Poverty I**

- Banerjee and Duflo, Poor Economics, pp. 19-40

**February 18 – Poverty II**

- Sen, Development as Freedom, pp. 87-110

**February 20 - Healthcare**

- Banerjee and Duflo, Poor Economics, pp. 41-70

**February 25 – Education**

- Banerjee and Duflo, Poor Economics, pp. 71-102

**February 27 – Midterm Exam**

**March 3 – Spring Break – No Class**

**March 5 – Spring Break – No Class**

**March 10 – Population**

- Banerjee and Duflo, Poor Economics, pp. 103-129

**March 12 – Markets**

- Sen, Development as Freedom, pp. 111-145

**March 17 – Insurance**

- Banerjee and Duflo, Poor Economics, pp. 133-156

**March 19 – Microfinance**

- Banerjee and Duflo, Poor Economics, pp. 157-182

**March 24 – Entrepreneurship**

- Banerjee and Duflo, Poor Economics, pp. 205-234

### **March 26 - Gender**

- Sen, Development as Freedom, pp. 189-203
- UNDP, Human Development Report 2019, pp. 147-170

### **March 31 – Democracy**

- Sen, Development as Freedom, pp. 146-159
- Banerjee and Duflo, Poor Economics, pp. 235-273

### **April 2 – Human Rights**

- Sen, Development as Freedom, pp. 227-249

## **Section III: Comparative Studies**

### **April 7 – Sub-Saharan Africa**

- IMF Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa, Selections
- Economist, “Special Report: The 1.2 Billion Opportunity”

### **April 9 – Holy Thursday – No Class**

### **April 14 – The Middle East**

- IMF Regional Economic Outlook: Middle East and Central Asia, Selections
- The Nation, “The Syrian Civil War is Still Raging, But the Battle Over Reconstruction Has Already Begun”

### **April 16 – Eastern Europe**

- IMF Regional Economic Outlook: Europe, Selections
- Politico, “Europe’s Eastern Tigers Roar Ahead”

### **April 21 - India**

- IMF Regional Economic Outlook: Asia and Pacific, Selections
- Economist, “India is Scrambling to Revive the Economy”

### **April 23 - China and the Belt and Road Initiative**

- IMF Regional Economic Outlook: Asia and Pacific, Selections
- Economist, “China Tries to Calm Jitters about the “Belt and Road” Initiative”

### **April 28 - Latin America**

- IMF Regional Economic Outlook: Western Hemisphere, Selections
- Reuters, "Number of Latin Americans Living In Extreme Poverty Highest Since 2008: UN Agency"

**April 30 – Final Papers Due**