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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International  
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Fall 2022

## **DIPL 4170 NA/NB Topics in Economic Development**

Omer Gokcekus Ph.D.

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SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

# Topics in Economic Development

## *DIPL 4170 NA/NB*

FALL 2022

### Meeting Time/Place

Section NA	Monday	17:00 – 19:30	Room: SH 208
Section NB	Tuesday	17:00 – 19:30	Room: SH 208

### Instructor Information

Instructor: Prof. Omer Gokcekus

Office: Mc Quaid Hall Room 128

Phone: 973-313-6272

E-mail: [omer.gokcekus@shu.edu](mailto:omer.gokcekus@shu.edu)

Microsoft teams: [omer.gokcekus@shu.edu](mailto:omer.gokcekus@shu.edu)

Preferred Method of Contact: e-mail

### Student Hours

Monday/Tuesday 14:00 – 16:00, or by Appointment (via Microsoft Teams)

### Course Description

This course will provide students with an in-depth analysis of five aspects of economic development that are central in today's world. To make sure that students gain the most relevant experiences, we will focus on the issues that international financial institutions—the World Bank & IMF—and the UNDP have been working on during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, we will analyze the following 5 aspects of economic development: 1) poverty; 2) gender equality; 3) education; 4) corruption and 5) food security.

Students will conduct background reading on assigned scholarly articles in order to gain background knowledge on these topics. We will subsequently explore how one of the three premier development institutions, namely the World Bank, addresses these issues. Students will gain critical thinking and presentation skills relevant to understanding economic development through weekly presentations and peer-to-peer discussion.

## Course Goals/Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will:

1. Be able to explain essential theorems, approaches, and concepts required for understanding key issues associated with economic development.
2. Have experience with conceptualizing and assessing recent challenges in economic development.
3. Be familiar with different policy reforms, activities, and projects designed to tackle these problems; and have the ability to evaluate the reform attempts of the World Bank, IMF, and the UNDP.

## Prerequisite Information

No prerequisite course, but introductory level microeconomics is required.

## Expectations/Assignments and Grading

For each topic there will be two sessions: In the first session, we will discuss scholarly articles, technical papers, and/or policy recommendations written by experts or practitioners. In the second session, we will be learning about a recently implemented World Bank project.

For the first session, students are expected to complete the assigned reading prior to class. To do so, they will be submitting two-page journal entries on that week's readings.

For the second session, they are expected to get familiarized with the specific World Bank project that will be discussed in class.

Two take-home exams will be assigned. These assignments will be a "reflection note" (approximately 800 words) on one of the five key issues. Further instructions will be provided closer to the date of the assignment.

For the final exam (take-home), students will prepare a "Country Report" (maximum 3000 words). This will be focused on how the World Bank has worked with a country's officials to ease the economic difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Further instructions will be provided closer to the date of the assignment.

The final grade will be determined as follows:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| • Attendance & participation:                            | 10% |
| • Two-page journal entry on each first session readings: | 15% |
| • 2 take-home midterm exams:                             | 40% |
| • Country report:  | 35% |

**Grade scale:**

A	95% - 100%	C+	77% - 79%
A-	90% - 94%	C	73% - 76%
B+	87% - 89%	C-	70% - 72%
B	83% - 86%	D+	65% - 69%
B-	80% - 83%	D	60% - 64%
		F	< 60%

**Extra credit policy:** There is no extra credit option in this course.

## Important Notes

### **Coronavirus Safety – Masking**

The following is from the University Health and Safety Measures regarding masking:

- *Anyone wishing to wear a mask is welcome to do so.*
- ***Faculty may require masks be worn in their classes, clinicals, and labs, and students must comply.***
- *University community members are welcome to request others to wear a mask when meeting. We ask everyone to be considerate of such requests.*
- *KN95 and surgical masks are available at various locations across all three campuses.*
- *Building signage notes "Masking Welcome."*
- *Everyone should always carry a mask with them for those situations where one is desired or needed.*

**In this class, students are required to mask.**

### **CAPS**

As part of our commitment to the health and well-being of all students, Seton Hall University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers initial assessments, counseling, crisis intervention, consultation, and referral services to the SHU community. The CAPS office is located on the second floor of Mooney Hall, room 27. Appointments can be made in-person or by calling 973-761-9500 during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. In case of a psychological emergency, call CAPS (973-761-9500) at any time to speak to a crisis counselor. For more information, please visit: <https://www.shu.edu/counseling-psychologicalservices/index.cfm>

### **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

<https://www.shu.edu/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.

### **Late submission**

Students who anticipate not being able to complete an assignment on time should inform me as soon as possible. Without prior communication, failure to complete an assignment on its due date will result in a grade penalty: **For each assignment, the penalty for late work is 20% points per day!**

### **Citation Formats**

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.

### **Main Web Pages**

- [UNDP – COVID-19: Socio-Economic Impact](#)
- [The IMF and COVID-19](#)
- [The World Bank Group's Response to the COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) Pandemic](#)
- [The World Bank: Projects & Operations](#)

## Course Schedule/Readings (all publicly available online)

### 1. **August 29 & 30: Introductory Session**

### 2. **September 5 & 6: Labor Day**

### 3. **September 12 & 13: Poverty I**

- [Francois Bourguignon \(2004\) Poverty-Growth-Inequality Triangle](#)
- [Paul, Boban Varghese; Finn, Arden; Chaudhary, Sarang; Mayer Gukovas, Renata; Sundaram, Ramya. 2021. COVID-19, Poverty, and Social Safety Net Response in Zambia. Policy Research Working Paper; No. 9571. World Bank, Washington, DC.](#)
- [World Bank. 2021. Risks to Poverty, Vulnerability, and Inequality from COVID-19 : Nepal Light Poverty Assessment. World Bank, Washington, DC.](#)

### 4. **September 19 & 20: Poverty II**

TBA: World Bank project on poverty

### 5. **September 26 & 27: Gender equality I**

- [Alon, T., M., Doepke, M., Olmstead-Rumsey, J. and Tertilt, M. 2020. The impact of COVID-19 on gender equality. NBER Working Paper 26947.](#)
- [Wilman, Alys; Atamanov, Aziz; Myers, Cara Ann. 2022. Gendered Impacts of the COVID-19 Crisis in Uganda and Opportunities for an Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery. World Bank, Washington, DC.](#)
- [Vincent Tang, et. al. 2021. Gender Equality and COVID-19: Policies and Institutions for Mitigating the Crisis. IMF – Special Series on COVID-19. Washington DC: IMF.](#)

### 6. **October 3 & 4: Gender equality II**

TBA: World Bank project on gender equality

### 7. **October 10 & 11: Fall Break**

### 8. **October 17 & 18: Take-home Exam I**

### 9. **October 24 & 25: Education I**

- George Psacharopoulos (1998) Education and Development: A Review
- World Bank. 2020. The COVID-19 Pandemic: Shocks to Education and Policy Responses. World Bank, Washington, DC.
- Neuman, Michelle J.; Powers, Shawn. 2021. Political Prioritization of Early Childhood Education during the COVID-19 Pandemic : A Comparative Policy Analysis of Low- and Middle-Income Countries. Policy Research Working Paper No. 9872. World Bank, Washington, DC.

#### **10. October 31 & November 1: Education II**

TBA: World Bank project on education

#### **11. November 7 & 8: Corruption**

- Søreide, Tina. 2014. Drivers of Corruption: A Brief Review. World Bank Study. Washington, DC: World Bank
- Kubai Khasiani, Yugo Koshima, Abdoulahi Mfombouot, and Ashni Singh (2020). Budget Execution Controls to Mitigate Corruption Risk in Pandemic Spending. IMF - Special Series on COVID-19. Washington DC: IMF.
- World Bank. 2020. Role of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in Governments' Response to COVID-19: Emergency and Post Emergency Phases. Washington DC: World Bank.

#### **12. November 14 & 15: Corruption II**

TBA: World Bank project on corruption

#### **13. November 21 & 22: Take-home Exam II**

#### **14. November 28 & 29: Food security I**

- Abay, Kibrom A.; Berhane, Guush; Hoddinott, John; Tafere, Kibrom. 2020. COVID-19 and Food Security in Ethiopia : Do Social Protection Programs Protect?. Policy Research Working Paper No. 9475. World Bank, Washington, DC.
- Tewodaj Mogues. 2021. Food Markets During COVID-19. IMF Special Series on COVID-19. Washington DC: IMF.

#### **15. December 5 & 6: one-on-one meetings re: final report**

#### **16. December 12: one-on-one meetings re: final report**

#### **17. December 19: Final report due date**

## Academic Calendar – Fall 2022

29-Aug	Classes Begin, Add/Drop and Late Registration begins.
5-Sep	Labor Day – University Closed
7-Sep	Add/drop and late registration end
14-Sep	Mass of the Holy Spirit – 12 Noon, classes canceled 12:00pm – 1:00pm.
30-Sep	Last day to request course withdrawal without professor/dean approval; Deadline for pass-fail and audit requests
3-Oct	Deadline for undergraduate and graduate degree candidates to file online Application for Degree for Fall 2022 in Banner Self Service; Last day for Fall 2022 degree candidates to add a major or minor
October 10 – October 11	Fall Break
21-Oct	Last day to request course withdrawal with professor/dean approval
1-Nov	All Saints' Day
23-Nov	No Classes
November 24-25	Thanksgiving Recess – University Closed, No Classes
26-Nov	No Classes
8-Dec	Immaculate Conception Mass – TBA
12-Dec	Last Day of Classes
13-Dec	Reading Day
December 14-20	Final Exams

Source: <https://www.shu.edu/academics/academic-calendar.cfm> (Accessed on August 26, 2022)