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School of Diplomacy and International
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Fall 2023

DIPL 4170 NA/NB Topics in Economic Development

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Gokcekus, Omer Ph.D., "DIPL 4170 NA/NB Topics in Economic Development" (2023). *Diplomacy Syllabi*.
744.

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Topics in Economic Development

DIPL 4170 NA/NB

FALL 2023

Meeting Time/Place

Section NA	Monday	17:00 – 19:30	Room: SH 208 (Muscarelle Hall)
Section NB	Tuesday	17:00 – 19:30	Room: SH 208 (Muscarelle Hall)

Instructor Information

Instructor: Prof. Omer Gokcekus
Office: Mc Quaid Hall Room 128
Phone: 973-313-6272
E-mail: omer.gokcekus@shu.edu
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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

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.

Artificial Intelligence Tools, such as Chat GPT

Students may use AI tools as a learning support, or as a resource (e.g., to generate ideas from the literature, brainstorm, prepare a draft outline), but may not use AI tools to generate a final product. Students could be required to submit a report on what/how they used AI. Students should cite to all AI generated content.

Academic Integrity & Dishonesty

All assignments submitted must be your own. Contributions from anyone or anything else- **including AI tools**, must be properly quoted and cited every time they are used. Failure to do so constitutes an academic integrity violation.

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 28 & 29: Introductory Session**
- 2. September 4 & 5: Labor Day**

3. **September 11 & 12: 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 18 & 19: Poverty II**

A World Bank project on poverty: [Cambodia - Relief, Recovery and Resilience Development Policy Financing](#)

5. **September 25 & 26: 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 2 & 3: Gender equality II**

A World Bank project on gender equality: [Uganda - Enhancing Social Risk Management and Gender Equality](#)

7. **October 9 & 10: Fall Break**

8. **October 16 & 17: Take-home Exam I**

9. **October 23 & 24: 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 30 & 31: Education II

A World Bank project on education: [Brazil: Recovering Learning Losses from Covid-10 Pandemic in Brazil](#)

11. November 6 & 7: Corruption I

- [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 13 & 14: Corruption II

A World Bank project on corruption: [Bangladesh: Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project](#)

13. November 20 & 21: Take-home Exam II

14. November 27 & 28: 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 4 & 5: one-on-one meetings re: final report

16. December 11: one-on-one meetings re: final report

17. December 18: Final report due date

Academic Calendar – Fall 2023

Date	Day of Week	Event
August 28	Monday	Classes Begin, Add/Drop and Late Registration begins.
September 4	Monday	Labor Day – University Closed
September 5	Tuesday	Add/Drop and Late Registration end
September 29	Friday	Last day to request course withdrawal without professor/dean approval; Deadline for pass-fail and audit requests
October 9 – October 10	Monday– Tuesday	Fall Break
October 20	Friday	Last day to request course withdrawal with professor/dean approval
November 22	Wednesday	No Classes
November 23-24	Thursday- Friday	Thanksgiving Recess – University Closed, No Classes
November 25	Saturday	No Classes
December 11	Monday	Last Day of Classes; Last day to submit assignments to resolve Fall 2022 Incomplete grade; Online grading opens for Faculty
December 12	Tuesday	Reading Day
December 13-19	Wednesday- Tuesday	Final Exams
December 27	Wednesday	Deadline for faculty to enter Fall 2023 grades on-line via Banner Self-Service; Unresolved Fall 2022 incomplete grades will convert to failing grades (FI)

Source: <https://www.shu.edu/academics/academic-calendar.html> (Accessed on August 24, 2023)