Critical Thinking in Development
(PSCI 4732)

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Description: In an important article, Nobel Laureate Robert Lucas compared the amount of time it would take Haitians to double their standard of living with that of someone living in South Korea. Lucas calculated that in Haiti, living standards would double in 300 years. In South Korea, living standards will double every 15 years. Noting the difference, Lucas claimed that once one encounters those differences, “How could anyone think about anything else?” Over the years, politics has become an important component of any attempt to explain economic development. This course is designed to critically evaluate theories designed to explain those differences, along with the solutions currently being offered to address them.

Course Requirements: There will be three take home assignments, each worth 25% of the final grade. Attendance is mandatory and will graded (5% of the final grade will be based solely on attendance). Finally, participation in class (quizzes, asking questions, coming to class prepared, etc.) will comprise the remaining 20% of the final grade.

Required Books and Subscriptions


Academic Digital Subscription (Student) to the Economist: http://www.ft.com/Education/Portal/FT_Edu_eEdition/index.html

Course Schedule

Introduction to Class and Materials (January 11 - 15)
The Gap between Rich and Poor (January 18 - 22)

Readings: Part I in Development and Under-development

Historical Origins of the Gap (January 25 - February 29)

Readings: Part II in Development and Underdevelopment

Economic Growth Theory (February 1 - 5)

Readings: Part IV in Development and Under-development

Culture and Development (February 8 - 12)

(First assignment handed out; February 8th)

Readings: Part V in Development and Under-development

Dependency and World Systems Theory (February 15 - 19)

Readings: Part VI in Development and Under-development

Institutions and Development (February 22 - 26)

(First assignment due; February 26th)

Readings: Part VII in Development and Under-development

Globalization (March 1 - 5)

Readings: Part VIII in Development and Under-development

Democracy and the Environment (March 8 - 12)

(Second assignment handed out; March 8th)
Readings:


The Role of Aid (March 15 - 19)

Readings:


W. R. Easterly. White Man’s Burden. (Selected Chapters).

Spring Break (March 22 - 26)

The Resource Curse (March 29 - April 2)

(Second assignment due: April 2nd)

Readings:


Politics and the Third Sector (April 5 - 9)

Readings:


The Multinational Corporation  (April 12 - 16)

(Last assignment handed out: April 12)

Readings:


Civil Society and Social Capital  (April 19 - 23)

Readings:


International Monetary Fund and the World Bank  (April 26 - 30)

(Last assignment due: April 30th)

Readings:


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Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices

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