

Syllabus PS-4791: Political Economy of Development

Professor Sarah Brierley

Fall 2017

1 Introduction

- Welcome to PS-4791! I look forward to meeting you. If you have questions now or throughout the course please email me at sabrierley@wustl.edu.
- This class will be demanding and fast-paced. If you feel overwhelmed, please drop in my office hours, and I will be happy to discuss the material with you.
- I reserve the right to update any aspect of this syllabus. Last updated: [August 27, 2017](#).

2 Course description

How do countries develop? How can we measure poverty and economic growth? What barriers to development do low-income countries face? Despite potential barriers, is there evidence that the global poor have seen a dramatic increase in living standards over the last twenty years? In this class we will explore answers to these questions. We will study the history of development in the West and theories of economic growth. We will explore different approaches to economics and discuss ways to measure human and economic development. Next, we discuss factors that impede progress in low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America. We'll investigate institutional and political factors, as well as geographic features, such as climate, resource wealth and landlockedness. In thinking about potential ways to relieve poverty and improve living standards, we will investigate the use of randomized-control trials (RCTs). We will discuss the pros- and cons- of RCTs in helping governments, policy-makers and development practitioners reduce poverty. Finally, we will analyze new evidence of the recent ascent of the developing world and consider how countries have overcome challenges to growth over the last twenty five years.

3 Logistics

- The class will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 1.00pm to 2.30pm in Seigle - 106. You need to come to each lecture, and attendance and lecture participation will count towards your final grade.
- Office Hours: I will hold office hours after class on Mondays between 3.00 - 5.00pm in Seigle Hall office 284.
- The class will run as a a cross between a lecture, where I will present slides, and a seminar where we will spend time discussing the readings together. I will frequently ask for your inputs. I will endeavor to make the seminars as interactive and as enjoyable as possible. **Expect to talk during our sessions.**
- Each week you will be assigned roughly two chapters to read per lecture.
- You **are required** to read each carefully and to contribute your ideas and questions during the lecture. Read the material under each date *before* we meet.
- There will be two in-class pop quizzes, a midterm and a final exam.

- The two pop quizzes will be held on two of the Wednesday's during the semester and will cover the readings for that entire week.
- The midterm will be taken in class.
- The final will be an electronic exam that you can write at home or in a library. I will release the questions at 1pm on December 20 and you will have two hours to type your responses and submit them online.
- You will submit your final through Blackboard. Your exam papers will be **automatically checked for plagiarism, including copying and pasting from online sources, books and academic journals, and copying from peers.**

4 Course books and articles

- You will need to purchase the following books:
 - *Economics: The User's Guide* (2014), Ha-Joon Chang. (NB: Either the Penguin or the Bloomsbury edition is fine.) [Purchase here.](#)
 - Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty* (2012) [Purchase here.](#)
 - Steven Radelet *The Great Surge: The Ascent of the Developing World* (2015) [Purchase here.](#)
- I will refer to the first book as (HJC), the second as (ABED), and the third as (SR).
- All three books have been ordered to the Wash U. campus bookstore. [Purchase here.](#)
- All other readings will be posted on Blackboard.

5 Grading

Your grades will be calculated according to the following breakdown:

- Attendance and participation in lecture (15%)
- Quiz 1 (10 %)
- Midterm (25 %)
- Quiz 2 (10 %)
- Final Exam (40 %)
- There will be **no make up exams** unless you have a written note from a Doctor. If you do not turn up to an exam, you will receive **zero points** for that component.
- If you are authorized to receive extra time during exams please let me know during the first week of class.

6 Grade dispute policy

- If you are going to dispute a grade you will need to submit a written explanation for doing so **within one week of the quiz or final exam** being handed back to the class. I will not consider grade disputes after this one-week period.
- You will receive a response within one week of receiving it. Please be warned, however, that a reassessment does not automatically result in a higher grade: your grade could stay the same, go up or be lowered.

7 Reading and Topics

- Week 1: Smith, Keynes and a (brief) History of Capitalism

Lecture 1: Monday 28 August

- HJC Chapter 2: *From Pin to PIN: Capitalism 1776 and 2014*
- Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, pp. 1- 21
- Robert Heilbroner (1999), *The Wordly Philosophers*, Chapter III, *The Wonderful World of Adam Smith*.

Lecture 2: Wednesday 30 August

- HJC Chapter 3 *How have we got here? A brief history of capitalism*.

- Week 2: Approaches to Economics

Lecture 3: Monday 4 September LABOR DAY

Lecture 4: Wednesday 6 September

- HJC Chapter 4: *Let a Hundred Flowers Boom: How to do economics*. NB: Read about the following traditions: Classical, Neo-Classical, Marxist, Developmentalist, Keynesian.
- Robert Heilbroner (1999), *The Wordly Philosophers*, Chapter IX, *The Sick World of John Maynard Keynes*.

- Week 3: Measuring Poverty and Pathways to Economic Growth

Lecture 5: Monday 11 September

- HJC Chapter 6: *How many do you want it to be? Output, income and happiness*
- [United Nations Human Development Index](#) and [Technical Notes](#)¹
- Angus Deaton (2006), *Measuring poverty* in *Understanding Poverty*, OUP.

Lecture 6: Wednesday 13 September

- HJC Chapter 7 *How does your garden grow? The World of Production*

- Week 4: Institutional barriers and leadership

Lecture 7: Monday 18 September

- Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson (2013), Chapter 13, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*
- Hernando de Soto (2000), Chapter 3 *The Mystery of Capital*

Lecture 8: Wednesday 20 September

- Kwesi Prempeh (2008), *President's Untamed* [Access here](#)
- Benjamin Jones and Benjamin Olken, *Do Leaders Matter? National Leadership and Growth Since World War II*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 120(3), pp. 835-864.

- Week 5: Geographic Barriers and Natural Resources

Lecture 9: Monday 25 September

- Paul Collier, *The Natural Resource Trap and Landlocked with Bad Neighbors*, in *The Bottom Billion* (Oxford University Press, 2007), chs. 3-4.
- Jeffery Sachs (2003) – *Institutions Matter, but Not for Everything: The role of geography and resource endowments in development shouldn't be underestimated*. [Access here](#)

Lecture 10: Wednesday 27 September

- Michael Ross (2012), *The Oil Curse*, Chapters 1-2

¹Spend 30 minutes exploring the components of each index, the Technical Notes are very clear in showing these components and providing details on how the indices are calculated.

- Week 6: Corruption

Lecture 11: Monday 2 October

- ABED, Chapter 10
- Olken, Benjamin and Rohini Pande. (2012). Corruption in Developing Countries, Annual Review of Economics, Vol. 4 pp. 479 - 509. [Access here](#)
- Svensson, Jakob. 2005. Eight Questions about Corruption, Journal of Economic Perspectives 19(3): 1942.

Lecture 12: Wednesday 4 October

- Olken, Benjamin (2007). “Monitoring Corruption: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Indonesia” [Access here](#)
- Reinikka, Ritva, and Jakob Svensson. ”Local Capture: Evidence from a Central Government Transfer Program in Uganda.” The Quarterly Journal of Economics 119, no. 2 (2004): 679 705.

- Week 7: Midterm week

Lecture 13: Monday 9 October REVIEW SESSION

Lecture 14: Wednesday 11 October MIDTERM EXAM

- Week 8: FALL BREAK

- Week 9: The democratic third wave

Lecture 15: Monday 23 October

- Jan Teorell (2010), Introduction and Chapter 1 in “Determinants of democratization: Explaining regime change in the world, 1972-2006.” (available to read online [Read here.](#))

Lecture 16: Wednesday 25 October

- SR Chapter 5 *Dictators Out, Democracy In*
- Michael Ross (2006), ”Is Democracy Good for the Poor?”, American Journal of Political Science 50(4): 860874.
- Steven Levitsky and Lucian Way (2010), Why Democracy Needs a Level Playing Field, Journal of Democracy, 21:1.

- Week 10: Clientelism

Lecture 17: Monday 30 October

- Michael Bratton and Nicolas van de Walle (1997), “Neopatrimonial rule in Africa”, Chapter 3 in *Democratic Experiments in Africa: Regime Transitions in Comparative Perspective*.
- Nicolas van de Walle (2007), “Meet the new boss, same as the old boss? The evolution of political clientelism in Africa”, chapter 2 in *Patrons, Clients and Policies*.

Lecture 18: Wednesday 1 November

- Alberto Diaz-Cayeros, Federico Estevez, and Beatriz Magaloni (2016), Introductory chapter and Chapter 3 in *The Political Logic of Poverty Relief: Electoral Strategies and Social Policy in Mexico*.

- Week 11: Rise of randomized control trails (RCTs)

Lecture 19: Monday 6 November

- ABED Chapter 1 *Think Again, Again*
- Donald Green and Alan Gerber , Chapter 1 in “Field Experiments”

Lecture 20: Wednesday 8 November

- Two chapters from “Experimental Conversations”
- Week 12: Education
 - Lecture 21: Monday 13 November
 - ABED Chapter 4 *Top of the Class*
 - Bleakley, Hoyt. 2010. Health, Human Capital, and Development, Annual Reviews of Economics, 2: 283-310
 - Lecture 22: Wednesday 15 November
 - ABED Chapter 3
 - Fujiwara, Thomas. 2013. Voting Technology, Political Responsiveness, and Infant Health: Evidence from Brazil
- Week 13: Direct cash transfers
 - Lecture 23: Monday 20 November
 - Christopher Blattman and Paul Niehaus (2014) *Show Them the Money: Why Giving Cash Helps Alleviate Poverty* [Access here](#)
 - David K. Evans and Anna Popova (2014) *Cash Transfers and Temptation Goods: A Review of Global Evidence* [Access here](#)
 - Lecture 24: Wednesday 22 November THANKSGIVING
- Week 14: Evidence of recent progress
 - Lecture 25: Monday 27 November
 - SR Chapter 1 *A Great Transformation*,
 - SR Chapter 2 *Breakthrough from the Bottom*
 - Lecture 26: Wednesday 29 November
 - SR Chapter 3 *The Wealth of a New Generation*
- Week 15: Globalization and technology
 - Lecture 27: Monday 4 December
 - SR Chapter 7 *Hello Globalization, Welcome New Technologies*
 - SR Chapter 8: *Leadership, Civil Society Action, and a Bit of Luck*
 - Lecture 28: Wednesday 6 December FINAL REVIEW

8 Academic Integrity

WUSTL is a community of scholars. In this community, all members including faculty, staff and students alike are responsible for maintaining standards of academic honesty. As a student and member of the University community, you are here to get an education and are, therefore, expected to demonstrate integrity in your academic endeavors. You are evaluated on your own merits. Cheating, plagiarism, collaborative work, multiple submissions without the permission of the instructor, or other kinds of academic dishonesty are considered unacceptable behavior and will result in formal disciplinary proceedings usually resulting in suspension or dismissal.

As specified in the Academic Integrity Policy, violations or attempted violations of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, multiple submissions or facilitating academic dishonesty.

9 Additional resources

9.1 Online

There are many excellent online blogs and news sources on development that you might enjoy reading:

- <http://chrisblattman.com/>
- <https://oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/>
- <http://www.cgdev.org/>
- <http://america.aljazeera.com/>
- <http://blogs.worldbank.org/impactevaluations/>
- <https://uccegablog.wordpress.com/>
- <http://democracyinafrica.org/>

9.2 Books

- *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It* (2008)– Paul Collier
- *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (2013) – Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson
- *The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations Paperback* (2013) – Michael Ross
- *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* (2014) – Thomas Piketty
- *The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else* (2003) – Hernando De Soto
- *The Economics of Poverty: History, Measurement, and Policy* (2016)– Martin Ravallion
- *The Great Surge: The Ascent of the Developing World* (2015) – Steven Radelet
- *GDP: A Brief but Affectionate History* (2014) – Diane Coyle
- *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999* (2001) – Nicolas Van de Walle
- *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics* (2002) – William Easterly
- *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor* (2015)– William Easterly
- *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good* (2007)– William Easterly
- *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time* (2006)– Jeffery Sachs
- *Aid and Power: The World Bank and Policy-Based Lending* (1991) – Paul Mosley, Jane Harrington, John Toye
- *Give a Man a Fish: Reflections on the New Politics of Distribution* (2015)– James Ferguson
- *Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa* (2010)– Dambisa Moyo.

10 Wash U's Annual Climate Change Negotiations

Wash U's Annual Climate Change Negotiations will take place on October 7, 2017. Based on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP), our Negotiations let students represent a country and work on the actual text that will be debated at this years COP 23. We will also have speakers and additional opportunities for students to learn more about how the UNFCCC and COP 23 operate and make agreements. Prior knowledge of international environmental policy or international affairs is not required. For more information and to sign up, please visit <http://wusice.wustl.edu> or email wusice@su.wustl.edu.

11 Campus Resources

If you have any concerns about:

- **Academic Writing:** The Writing Center is a free service for all students, both graduate and undergraduate, currently enrolled at Washington University in St. Louis. They provide free one-on-one writing tutorials to all WashU students. They also offer a variety of writing workshops designed to help you become a better writer. You can schedule an appointment here: <https://writingcenter.wustl.edu/writing/schedule-an-appointment/>
- **Disability resources** If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, please speak with instructor and consult the Disability Resource Center at Cornerstone (<http://cornerstone.wustl.edu/>). Cornerstone staff will determine appropriate accommodations and will work with your instructor to make sure these are available to you.
- **Mental health:** Life at university can be stressful. Remember that you are never alone. You can speak to a therapist or counselor through the Mental Health Services (MHS) at Washington University. MHS is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and affirming community of care for all students. You can find out about making a confidential appointment here: <https://shs.wustl.edu/MentalHealth/Pages/Making-an-Appointment.aspx>.
- **Bias reporting:** A bias incident is any discriminatory or hurtful act that appears to be or is perceived by the victim to be motivated by race, ethnicity, age, religion, national origin, sex, disability, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, veteran status or socioeconomic status. To be considered an incident, the act is not required to be a crime under any federal, state or local statutes, nor does it have to violate university policy. The University has a process through which students, faculty, staff and community members who have experienced or witnessed incidents of bias, prejudice or discrimination against a student can report their experiences to the University's Bias Report and Support System (BRSS) team. See: <https://brss.wustl.edu>
- **Sexual Assault** The University is committed to offering reasonable academic accommodations to students who are victims of sexual assault. Students are eligible for accommodation regardless of whether they seek criminal or disciplinary action. Depending on the specific nature of the allegation, such measures may include but are not limited to: implementation of a no-contact order, course/classroom assignment changes, and other academic support services and accommodations. If you need to request such accommodations, please direct your request to Kim Webb (kimwebb@wustl.edu), Director of the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center. Ms. Webb is a confidential resource; however, requests for accommodations will be shared with the appropriate University administration and faculty. The University will maintain as confidential any accommodations or protective measures provided to an individual student so long as it does not impair the ability to provide such measures.
- **Sexual Assault Reporting** If a student comes to me to discuss or disclose an instance of sexual assault, sex discrimination, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking, or if I otherwise observe or become aware of such an allegation, I will keep the information as private as I can, but as a faculty member of Washington University, I am required to immediately report it to my Department Chair or Dean or directly to Ms. Jessica Kennedy, the University's Title IX Coordinator.

If you would like to speak with the Title IX Coordinator directly, Ms. Kennedy can be reached at (314) 935-3118, jwkennedy@wustl.edu, or by visiting her office in the Women's Building. Additionally, you can report incidents or complaints to Tamara King, Associate Dean for Students and Director of Student Conduct, or by contacting WUPD at (314) 935-5555 or your local law enforcement agency. You can also speak confidentially and learn more about available resources at the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center by calling (314) 935-8761 or visiting the 4th floor of Seigle Hall.