Voyage: Spring 2015  
Discipline: Comparative Politics  
PLCP 2120: The Politics of Developing Areas  
Division: Lower  
Faculty Name: Krista E. Wiegand  
Credit Hours: 3; Contact Hours: 38

Pre-requisites: None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, we will explore economic and political development, focusing on the realities of poverty and inequality around the world, both within and between countries, and the process of democratization. We will address the following questions: Why are some countries rich and others poor? Are the reasons primarily historical, geographic, cultural, or political? Do some types of foreign aid promote development more successfully than others? What, if anything, should the world community do to assist the “bottom billion”? Is there hope for the developing world both economically and politically? Is democratization feasible or even desirable in the developing world? In considering these issues, we will give special attention to the many developing countries we visit on our voyage.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To provide students with an appreciation for the various conceptualizations and measurements of global development, particularly in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.
2. To provide students with an understanding of development models, their strengths and weaknesses.
3. To enhance student knowledge about the importance of political actors and historical moments in the process of economic and political development.
4. To provide students with an appreciation for how cultural values influence the development process.
5. To assist students in developing a sound comprehension of the potentialities and limitations of the globalization process underway in the 21st century.
6. To assist students in developing critical thinking, reading, and communication skills.
7. To provide students with opportunities for speaking and writing clearly and analytically.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

AUTHOR: Jeffrey Sachs  
TITLE: *The End of Poverty*  
PUBLISHER: Penguin  
ISBN #: 1594200459  
DATE/EDITION: 2005
TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada- January 7

A1- January 9: Introduction to Course
Overview of course, syllabus, course objectives, grading, field lab and assignments
Introduction to poverty and international development

A2- January 11: What is Development?
What can be done to alleviate poverty? What is development?

- The End of Poverty, Sachs, Forward, Introduction, and Chapter 1

A3- January 13: The Bottom Billion
Why are so many countries and so many people so poor? What is abject poverty?

- The Least Developed Countries Report, Overview, United Nations, 2013 (EF)
- The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It, Paul Collier, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008, Chapter 1 (EF)

Hilo: January 14

A4- January 16: Modernization & Dependency Theories
What is modernization theory and how has it fared over the last half century? Why are some countries in the core, others in the semi-periphery, and most countries in the periphery where they are dependent on the core countries?

A5-January 19: Debt Crises

How have developing countries experienced debt from foreign loans? How did the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, private banks, and bilateral loans from governments of wealthy countries created a debt crisis in many developing countries in the 1970s and 1980s?

• Sachs, End of Poverty, Chapters 4 & 5
• Odious Debt, Michael Kremer and Seema Jayachandran, Finance and Development (June 2002) (EF)

Study Day: January 21

A6-January 22: Foreign Aid & Economic Prosperity

How does foreign aid work? Is foreign aid effective in alleviating poverty?

• Sachs, End of Poverty, Chapters 2 & 3
• Taking the Measure of Global Aid, Jean-Michel Severino and Olivier Ray, Current History, January 2010 (EF)

A7-January 24: The East Asian Economic Miracle: Japan

How did Japan go from a developing country in the 1960s to one of the wealthiest countries in the world? What is the East Asian economic model and how is Japan’s economic development helping to develop many other countries in Asia today?

• Noah Smith, Japan’s Last Chance: Abe Embraces Neoliberalism, Foreign Affairs, November 12, 2013 (EF)
• Institutions and Growth in East Asia, Stephan Haggard, Studies in Comparative International Development (Winter 2004) 38 (4): 53-81 (EF)
Yokohama: January 26-27
In-Transit: January 28
Kobe: January 29-31

A8- February 1: Outsourcing: China’s Development

How has China become the second wealthiest country in the world? What does China’s economic future look like?

- Sachs, *End of Poverty*, Chapter 9
- The New Mercantilism: China's Emerging Role in the Americas, Eric Farnsworth, *Current History*, February 2011 (AE)
- Harry C. Broadman, China and India Go to Africa, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2008 (EF)

Shanghai: February 3-4
In-Transit: February 5-6
Hong Kong: 7-8

A9- February 9: Foreign Direct Investment: Vietnam

How does foreign direct investment work as a development strategy? How has Vietnam developed in the past 20 years and what is Vietnam’s future?


Ho Chi Minh: February 11-16

A10- February 17: NICs and BRICS

What has made the newly industrialized countries (NICs) - Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and South Korea so successful? How do the five major emerging countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) fit into the global economy?

- Broken BRICs: Why the Rest Stopped Rising, Ruchir Sharma, *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2012 (EF)
Study Day: February 21

**A11-February 22: Democratization: The Case of Burma**

What is the process of democratization as a form of political development? Is democratization possible in Burma and other countries in South Asia?

- Democracy in Asia: That Other Miracle, *The Economist*, April 24, 2004 (EF)

Rangoon: February 24-March 1

**A12-March 2: Emerging Markets: India**

How did India become a major emerging power, what is the state of India today, and how will India continue its development as an information systems powerhouse?

- Role Reversal, Eswar S. Prasad, *Finance and Development*, December 2011 (AE)
- A Tiger Despite the Chains: The State of Reform in India, Rahul Mukherji, *Current History*, April 2010 (AE)
- Sachs, *End of Poverty*, Chapter 9

**A13- March 4: Microfinancing: South Asia**

What is microfinancing and how has the Grameen Bank and other microfinancing projects helped with poverty alleviation, development of business in South Asia, and particularly women’s role in developing economies?

- Microfinance: A Poverty Lens on Political Inclusion; Based on A Representative Statewide Study of Microfinance in Karnataka, India, Grameen Foundation, July 2013 (EF)

Cochin: March 6-11

Study Day: March 12
A14-March 13: Economic Reform

What is the Washington Consensus and how has it fared? What are the different development strategies that countries have attempted, including import substitution, commercial agriculture, export promotion, mercantilism, and structural adjustment? Which strategies of economic reform work best?

- The Post-Washington Consensus: Development after the Crisis, Nancy Birdsall and Francis Fukuyama, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2011 (EF)

A15-March 15: International Institutions, NGOs, and Development

How do non-governmental organizations (NGOs) help to alleviate poverty? How have international institutions and NGOs fared in their development programs? Is institutional reform necessary?

- Marc C. Bellemore, Development Bloat, How Mission Creep Harms the Poor, *Foreign Affairs*, January 5, 2014 (EF)

Study Day: March 17

Port Louis: March 18

A16- March 19: Resource Challenges

How are natural resources both an economic blessing and a curse? What are the best approaches to managing limited natural resources like oil, water, and arable land?

- The End of Easy Everything, Michael T. Klare, *Current History*, January 2012 (AE)
A17-March 21: The Effects of Globalization

As globalization has improved the overall world economy, how has it affected the developing world? Are globalization and development compatible? Who wins and who loses out?

- The Democratic Malaise: Globalization and the Threat to the West, Charles A. Kupchan, Foreign Affairs, January/February 2012 (AE)

A18- March 23: Corruption, Reform, & Development: South Africa

What is the status of corruption in the developing world? What are the causes and potential solutions to corruption? Why is South Africa struggling with political corruption?

- How the ANC Lost Its Way, Alex Perry, Time January 16, 2012 (AE)

Cape Town: March 25-30

Study Day: March 31

A19-April 1: The Ethics of Poverty Alleviation

Who responsibility is it to alleviate poverty in developing countries? Are wealthy countries obligated to help or should they help out? Is poverty alleviation an agenda only for governments, or should private citizens invest in development?

- A Few Dollars at a Time: How to Tap Consumers for Development, Philippe Douste-Blazy and Daniel Altman, Foreign Affairs, January/February 2010 (AE)
- Sachs, End of Poverty, Chapters 15-17
- Haiti Doesn't Need Your Old T-Shirt, Charles Kenny, Foreign Policy, November 2011 (AE)
A20-April 3:   Sub-Saharan Africa

Why is sub-Saharan Africa the poorest region of the world today? What has been the experience of these states and what can be done to help sub-Saharan Africa develop both politically and economically?

- Poor Households Are Benefiting from Sub-Saharan Africa's High Growth and Wider Global Reach, Antoinette Sayeh, Finance and Development, December 2011 (AE)
- Africa's New Engine, Calestous Juma, Finance and Development, December 2011 (AE)
- Sachs, End of Poverty, Chapter 10

A21- April 5:   Is there Hope?

Is there hope for developing countries to grow their economies sufficiently, provide their people with adequate standards of living, and efficient, non-corrupt political institutions and governance?

- Global Aging and the Crisis of the 2020s, Neil Howe and Richard Jackson, Current History, January 2011 (AE)
- Sachs, End of Poverty, Chapter 18

Tema (Accra): April 7-9
Takoradi: April 10-11

A22-April 12:   Development & Democratization

How is democratization a form of development? How are economic and political development compatible? What are the waves of democratization?

- How Development Leads to Democracy: What We Know about Modernization, Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, Foreign Affairs, March/April 2009 (AE)
- Reassessing the Three Waves of Democratization, Renske Doorenspleet, World Politics, 2000, p. 384-406 (EF)

A23: April 14:   Arab Spring: Democratization in the Arab World

What is the Arab Spring and how did the political movements effect countries in North Africa and the Middle East? Is democratization feasible in this region?
• Understanding the Revolutions of 2011: Weakness and Resilience in Middle Eastern Autocracies, Jack A. Goldstone, *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2011 (AE)
• The Arab Spring at One, Fouad Ajami, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2012 (AE)
• Good Soldier, Bad Cop, *The Africa Report*, April 2011 (AE)
• After the Revolution, Egypt Splinters, Omneya El Naggar, *The Nation*, December 5, 2011 (AE)

**A24: April 16: Political Islam & Democratization**

Are Islam and democracy compatible? How have Islamic political groups fared in North Africa and the Middle East? What is the track record of the Islamic based Party of Justice and Development in Morocco?

• “Moderates” Redefined: How to Deal with Political Islam, Emile Nakhleh, *Current History*, December 2009 (AE)
• Letter from Damascus: Will Syria Descend into Civil War?, Sami Moubayed, *Current History*, December 2011 (AE)
• Islamism after the Arab Spring, Ashraf El Sherif, *Current History*, December 2011 (AE)

**Study Day: April 18**

April 19: Global Lens Exams and Study Day

Casablanca: April 20-24

**A25: A Day Finals**

April 29: Arrive in Southampton
FIELD WORK
Field lab attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Please do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field lab.

FIELD LAB
Field Lab #1: Foreign Direct Investment in Vietnam
Vietnam is considered to be a model of how foreign direct investment (FDI) has been successful in developing the country’s economy. Between 1994 and 2014, Vietnam’s per capita income has grown more than 10 times from $189/year to $2,064. FDI has played a major role in this economic growth and there are signs of FDI and economic growth all over Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam’s economic mecca. The course field lab will involve visiting many sights that contrast the traditional culture of Vietnam with the modern influx of FDI.

Field Lab #2: Outsourcing in India
Still a developing country, India is also considered one of the major emerging powers due to its strong economic growth. Outsourced labor from the US and Europe to India, ranging from customer service for computer companies to processing German travel visas, is abundant today in India. Cochin, the commercial capital and gateway to the beautiful state of Kerala, provides outsourcing to hundreds of Western companies. The course field lab will involve a visit to Infopark Kochi, an IT infrastructure site promoted by the government of Kerala to observe and learn about the people and companies on the other side of the phone across the world.

FIELD ASSIGNMENTS
The field assignment for this course is a journal about a thematic topic related to the politics of development. At the start of the voyage, students will choose a topic to investigate during port visits, not just the field lab. Themes can include topics covered in the course or other topics about development, approved by the professor. For example, students could focus on abject poverty, foreign direct investment, the role of NGOs in development, democratization, outsourcing, etc. At each port visit, students should contemplate about their thematic topics and make observations and comments, related to the material learned in the course. The journal will be submitted with the midterm exam and final exam for evaluation. The journal assignment comprises 20% of a student’s final grade for the course.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC
Field lab: 20%
Journal: 20%
Midterm exam: 20%
Final exam: 30%
Attendance and participation: 10%

Both course attendance and participation in class discussions are required. This part of the grade will be determined by a combination of both attendance and amount of participation.
RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR: Paul Collier
TITLE: The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It
PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press
ISBN #: 978-0195373387
DATE/EDITION: 2008

AUTHOR: William Easterly
TITLE: The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good
PUBLISHER: Penguin Books
ISBN #: 978-0143038825
DATE/EDITION: 2007

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS
- The Least Developed Countries Report, Overview, United Nations, 2013
- The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It, Paul Collier, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008, Chapter 1
- Odious Debt, Michael Kremer and Seema Jayachandran, Finance and Development (June 2002)
- Taking the Measure of Global Aid, Jean-Michel Severino and Olivier Ray, Current History, January 2010
- Noah Smith, Japan’s Last Chance: Abe Embraces Neoliberalism, Foreign Affairs, November 12, 2013
• Harry C. Broadman, China and India Go to Africa, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2008
• Institutions and growth in East Asia, Stephan Haggard, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 2004, Vol. 38, No. 4, pp. 53-81
• The Myth of Asia’s Miracle, Paul Krugman, *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 1994
• Broken BRICs: Why the Rest Stopped Rising, Ruchir Sharma, *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2012
• Democracy in Asia: That Other Miracle, *The Economist*, April 24, 2004
• Microfinance: A Poverty Lens on Political Inclusion; Based on A Representative State-wide Study of Microfinance in Karnataka, India, Grameen Foundation, July 2013
• Institutions, Economic Reform, and Democratic Consolidation in Mauritius, Deborah Brautigam, *Comparative Politics* 1997, 30 (1), p. 45-62
• The Post-Washington Consensus: Development after the Crisis, Nancy Birdsall and Francis Fukuyama, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2011
• Marc C. Bellemore, Development Bloat, How Mission Creep Harms the Poor, *Foreign Affairs*, January 5, 2014
• Development and Democracy. Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and George Downs, *Foreign
HONOR CODE
Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University’s honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager’s Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: “On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment.” The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed “[signed].”