

**POLS 579 Topics in Comparative Politics
Comparative Political Economy of Development**

Fall 2021

Thursday 4:00 – 6:30 PM
Professor Yue Zhang (yuezhang@uic.edu)
Assistant: Kaiyu Li (kli20@uic.edu)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a graduate level introduction to the comparative study of development. A central question that guides the course is: Why have some parts of the developing world succeeded at “development,” whereas others have not? While East Asia has often been considered as economically successful, sub-Saharan Africa has been treated as a failure. Latin America and South Asia are commonly perceived as mixed cases. Our focus in this course is to understand the variations in the types and levels of development as well as their causes and consequences. Our conceptual framework centers around the interactions between the state, market, and society, as well as the influence of institutions, globalization, and historical legacies. We will particularly look into three major debates in comparative political economy of development: (1) democracy versus development; (2) domestic institutions versus international influence; and (3) local versus national. To engage with the theoretical debates, we will think comparatively across major world regions, and work on issues that have proven to be major questions of our times. The course endeavors to prepare students for understanding the global affairs by taking an interdisciplinary approach and applying knowledge from the various social sciences and humanities disciplines.

REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance is required. If you must miss a class for any reason, please let me know in advance. An excessive number of missed classes (more than three, even if excused) is cause for a failing grade in the class.

This course will be run in a seminar style. Participation and reading will be expected of every participant. Normally each student should try to speak several times in each session. The discussion format means that casually reading the materials for this class would not be sufficient.

Each student will choose three weeks throughout the semester to write syntheses of the readings and give presentations. The synthesis should demonstrate a broad understanding and critical review of the readings, at a length of around 800 words. The synthesis should also include several questions for class discussion. Please post your synthesis on Blackboard by midnight of each Tuesday before class. During your selected week, you will give a presentation of your synthesis for 10-15 minutes.

You are required to submit a 25-30 pages, double-spaced research paper at the end of the semester. The abstract and bibliography of the paper is due on October 28. All students will present their research in the last two sessions of the class.

Assignments must be handed in on time. Assignments handed in late will be graded down one full grade per day after the due date.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Place quotation marks around quoted material, and provide citations for any idea, major concept, or data/information from a source. Intentional plagiarism on any assignment can cause failure without a rewrite option. A second plagiarized assignment will result in failing the course.

If you are a student with a disability requiring some accommodation for participation in this class, please let me know. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services.

GRADING

Your grade will be based on three components:

Class Attendance and Participation: 20%
Synthesis and Presentation: 30%
Final Paper: 50%

READINGS

Please purchase the following books. The rest of the readings are available on Blackboard or the UIC Library's website as E-books.

- Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*.
- Rodrik, Dani. 2012. *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy*.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1 (August 26): Introduction

No readings

Week 2 (September 2): What is Development?

Sen, Amartya. 1988. "The Concept of Development." *Handbook of Development Economics*, Vol. 1, H. Chenery and T. N. Srinivasan eds. Elsevier Science Publishers, pp. 10-26.

Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2006. "Economic Backwardness in Political Perspective." *American Political Science Review*, 100(1): 115-31.

Gourevitch, Peter. 2008. "The Role of Politics in Economic Development." *Annual Review of Political Science*, 11: 137-59.

Keefer, Philip. 2004. "What Does Political Economy Tell Us About Economic Development – and Vice Versa?" *Annual Review of Political Science*, 7: 247-72.

Kohli, Atul, Peter Evans, Peter J. Katzenstein, Adam Przeworski, Susanne Hoerber Rudolph, James C. Scott, and Theda Skocpol. 1995. "The Role of Theory in Comparative Politics: Symposium." *World Politics*, 48(1): 1-49.

Supplementary Readings

Banerjee, Abhijit and Ester Duflo. 2007. "The Economic Lives of the Poor." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21(1): 141-68.

Glaeser, Edward et al. 2004. "Do Institutions Cause Growth?" *Journal of Economic Growth*, 9: 271-303.

World Bank. *World Development Report 2006: Equity and Development*.

World Bank. *World Development Report 2009: Reshaping Economic Geography*.

Week 3 (September 9): State and Market

Mann, Michael. 1984. "The Autonomous Power of the State: Its Origins, Mechanisms and Results." *European Journal of Sociology*, 25(2): 185-213.

Soifer, Hillel. 2008. "State Infrastructural Power: Approaches to Conceptualization and Measurement." *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 43(3-4): 231-251.

Centeno, Miguel, Atul Kohli, and Deborah J. Yashar. 2017. *States in the Developing World*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Read Chapter 1 and one empirical chapter of your choice. (E-book available on UIC library website)

Bates, Robert. 1981. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa: The Political Basis of Agricultural Policies*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Read pages 11-44. (E-book available on UIC library website)

Boone, Catherine. 2012. "Territorial Politics and the Reach of the State: Unevenness by Design." *Revista de Ciencia Política* 32(3): 623-641.

Supplementary Readings

Huntington, Samuel. 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Read Chapter 1.

Kohli, Atul. 2004. *State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Read Introduction. (E-book available on UIC library website)

Brinks, Daniel M., Steven Levitsky, and Maria Victoria Murillo. 2020. *The Politics of Institutional Weakness in Latin America*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Read Chapter 1. (E-book available on UIC library website)

Slater, Dan, and Diana Kim. 2015. "Standoffish States: Nonliterate Leviathans in Southeast Asia." *Trans-Regional and National Studies of Southeast Asia* 3(1): 25-44.

Wright, Mike, Geoffrey Wood, Aldo Musacchio, Ilya Okhmatovskiy, Anna Grosman. 2021. "State Capitalism in International Context: Varieties and Variations." *Journal of World Business*, 56: 1-16.

Week 4 (September 16) The Developmental State

Studwell, Joe. 2013. *How Asia Works: Success and Failure in the World's Most Dynamic Region*. Grove Press. (E-book available on UIC library website)

Evans, Peter. 1989. "Predatory, Developmental, and Other Apparatuses: A Comparative Political Economy Perspective on the Third World State." *Sociological Forum*, 4(4): 561-587.

Kohli, Atul. 2004. *State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Read Chapters 2-3. (E-book available on UIC library website)

Supplementary Readings

Wade, Robert. 2018. "The Developmental State: Dead or Alive?" *Development and Change*, 49 (2): 518-46.

Weyland, Kurt. 1998. "From Leviathan to Gulliver? The Decline of the Developmental State in Brazil." *Governance*, 11(1): 51-75.

Doner, Richard F., Bryan K. Ritchie, and Dan Slater. 2005. "Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of Developmental States: Northwest and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective." *International Organization*, 59(2): 327-361.

World Bank. 1993. *The East Asian Miracle: Economic Growth and Public Policy*. Washington D.C.

Week 5 (September 23): Regime Type and Redistributive Politics

Harding, Robin, and David Stasavage. 2014. "What Democracy Does (and doesn't do) for Basic Services: School Fees, School Inputs, and African Elections." *The Journal of Politics*, 76(1): 229-45.

Levitsky, Steven. 2011. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Read Chapter 1.

Thachil, Tariq. 2014. "Elite Parties and Poor Voters: Theory and Evidence from India." *American Political Science Review*, 108(2): 454-477.

Holland, Alicia and Schneider, Ben. 2017. "Easy and Hard Redistribution: The Political Economy of Welfare States in Latin America." *Perspectives in Politics* 15(4): 988-1006.

Tsai, Lilly. 2007. "Solidarity Groups, Informal Accountability, and Local Public Goods Provision in Rural China." *American Political Science Review*, 101(2): 355-72.

Supplementary Readings

Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *American Political Science Review*, 87(3): 567-76.

Ross, Michael. 2006. "Is Democracy Good for the Poor?" *American Journal of Political Science*, 50(4): 860-874.

Marques, Eduardo. 2021. "Why Do Local Governments Produce Redistributive Urban Policies?" *Journal of Urban Affairs*.

Week 6 (September 30): Society and Participation

Varshney, Ashutosh. 2001. "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond," *World Politics*, 53(3): 362-98.

Avritzer, Leonardo. 2006. "New Public Spheres in Brazil: Local Democracy and Deliberative Politics." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 30(3): 623-637.

Holston, James. 2009. "Insurgent Citizenship in an Era of Global Urban Peripheries." *City & Society*, 21(2): 245-267.

Beissinger, Mark. 2017. "'Conventional' and 'Virtual' Civil Societies in Autocratic Regimes." *Comparative Politics*, 49(3): 351-371.

Mansuri, Ghazala and Vijayendra Rao. 2013. "Localizing Development: Does Participation Work?" *World Bank Policy Report*.

Supplementary Readings

Putnam, Robert. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Read Chapters 5 and 6. (E-book available on UIC library website)

Huang, Philip CC. 1993. “‘Public Sphere’/‘Civil Society’ in China? The Third Realm between State and Society.” *Modern China*, 19 (2): 216-240.

Appadurai, Arjun. 2002. “Deep Democracy: Urban Governmentality and the Horizon of Politics.” *Public Culture*, 14(1): 21-47.

Week 7 (October 7): Poverty and Inequality

Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*. New York: Crown Publishing Group. Read Chapters 1, 2, and 3.

Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2016. *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Read Chapter 1. (E-book available on UIC library website)

Ravallion, Martin. 2001. “Growth, Inequality and Poverty.” *World Development*, 29(11): 1803-15.

Supplementary Readings

Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo, 2011. *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. New York: Public Affairs. Read pages 1-132, 235-274.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. 2010. *Combating Poverty and Inequality*. Read Overview and Chapter 10.

Week 8 (October 14): The Subnational Perspective of Development

Giraudy, Agustina, Eduardo Moncada, and Richard Snyder. 2019. *Inside Countries: Subnational Research in Comparative Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Read Chapters 1-3 and one empirical chapter of your choice. (E-book available on UIC library website)

Zhang, Yue. 2020. “The Urban Turn in Comparative Politics: Cities as the Anchor of Cross-Nation, Cross-Regime Comparison.” In Finkel, Eugene, Adria Lawrence, and Andrew Mertha (eds.). “Cities and Urban Politics.” Newsletter of the Organized Section in Comparative Politics of the American Political Science Association, 30(1): 13-22.

Sinha, Aseema. 2005. *The Regional Roots of Developmental Politics in India: A Divided Leviathan*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Read Chapter 1.

Bennouna, Cyril, Agustian Giraudy, Eduardo Moncada, Eva Rios, Richard Snyder, and Paul Testa. 2021. “Pandemic Policymaking in Presidential Federations: Explaining Subnational Responses to Covid-19 in Brazil, Mexico, and the United States.” *The Journal of Federalism*.

Supplementary Readings

Harbers, Imke. 2015. "Taxation and the Unequal Reach of the State: Mapping State Capacity in Ecuador." *Governance: An International Journal of Policy*, 28(3): 373-391.

Choithani, Chetan, Robbin Jan van Duijne, and Jan Nijman. 2021. "Changing Livelihoods at India's Rural-Urban Transition." *World Development*, 146.

Auerbach, Adam Michael, and Tariq Thachil. 2021. "How Does Covid-19 Affect Urban Slums? Evidence from Settlement Leaders in India." *World Development*, volume 140.

Sellers, Jefferey. 2019. "From Within to Between Nations: Subnational Comparison across Borders." *Perspectives on Politics* 17(1): 85-105.

Sellers, Jefferey M. 2005. "Re-placing the Nation: An Agenda for Comparative Urban Politics." *Urban Affairs Review* 40(4): 419-445.

Snyder, Richard. 2001. "Scaling Down: The Subnational Comparative Method." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36(1): 93-110.

Week 9 (October 21)

Guest lecture by Professor Richard Stren, University of Toronto "The Challenge of Decentralization and the Rise of Cities"

Stren, Richard. 2012. "Cities and Politics in the Developing World: Why Decentralization Matters." In *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Politics*, Peter John, Karen Mossberger, and Susan E. Clarke eds.

UN-Habitat. 2016. *World Cities Report 2016: Urbanization and Development*. Read Chapter 1.

Hirschl, Ran. 2020. "Constitutions and the Metropolis." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, 16: 59-77.

Eaton, Kent. 2014. "Recentralization and the Left Turn in Latin America: Diverging Outcomes in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Venezuela." *Comparative Political Studies*, 47(8): 1130-1157.

Resnick, Danielle. 2014. "Urban Governance and Service Delivery in African Cities: The Role of Politics and Policies." *Development Policy Review*, 32(S1): s3-s17.

Cheeseman, Nic, Gabrielle Lynch, and Justin Wills. 2016. "Decentralisation in Kenya: The Governance of Governors." *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 54(1): 1-35.

Week 10 (October 28): Globalization

Rodrik, Dani. 2012. *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Stren, Richard. 2020. "International Agencies and Urban Policy Diffusion." *Handbook of Policy Transfer, Diffusion and Circulation*. Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 155-172.

Jenkins, Rhys. 2018. *How China is Reshaping the Global Economy: Development Impacts in Africa and Latin America*. New York: Oxford University Press. Read Introduction and Chapter 12. (E-book available on UIC library website)

Supplementary Readings

Milanovic, Branko. 2003. "Two Faces of Globalization." *World Development*, 31(4): 667-83.

Stiglitz, Joseph. 2008. "Is There a Post-Washington Consensus?" In Narcis Serra and Joseph Stiglitz eds., *The Washington Consensus Reconsidered*, pp. 41-56.

****Paper abstract and bibliography due on October 28**

Week 11 (November 4): History and Development

Kohli, Atul. 2020. *Imperialism and the Developing World: How Britain and the United States Shaped the Global Periphery*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Read Introduction and one empirical chapter of your choice. (E-book available on UIC library website)

Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2012. *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*. New York: Crown Publishing Group. Read Chapters 11 and 12.

Rao, Vijayendra, Michael Woolcock, and Simon Szreter. 2011. "Why and How Does History Matter for Development." *Journal of Development Studies*, 47(1): 70-96.

Mahoney, James, and Kathleen Thelen. 2015. *Advances in Comparative-Historical Analysis*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Read Chapter 1.

Mahoney, James. 2015. "Comparative-Historical Analysis and Development Studies." *Sociology of Development*, 1(1): 77-90.

Week 12 (November 11): Preparation for Presentation, No Class

Week 13 (November 18): Student Presentation I

Week 14 (November 25): Thanksgiving, No Class

Week 15 (December 2): Student Presentation II

****Final paper due on December 8**