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Government 383
Wesleyan University
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Office Hours:
Tuesday, 2:00-4:00 P.M.
and by appointment

Class Meetings:
W 1:10 -4:00 PM
PAC 411

East Asian and Latin American Development

This seminar examines the meaning, measurement, and causes of social and economic progress in East Asia and Latin America. It focuses on four countries in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Costa Rica) and four in East Asia (South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, and Thailand). It has four sections: framework, outcomes, policies, and context.

In the framework section (Sep 3, Sep 10, Sep 17) we explore Amartya Sen's capabilities approach, which holds that development involves expanding the range of people's choices. We also evaluate some of the indicators devised by the United Nations Development Programme to measure the expansion of human capabilities.

In the outcomes section (Sep 24, Oct 1, Oct 8) we assess the progress of the eight countries, as well as of other nations, at registering improvement over the twentieth century (especially after 1960) at expanding the range of people's choices. We focus particularly on income-related outcomes (e.g., economic output per person, income distribution, and the proportion of the population in poverty), survival-related outcomes (e.g., life expectancy and the infant mortality rate), and gender-related outcomes (e.g., the ratio of women to men in the population, gender inequities in the fruits of development).

In the policies section (Oct 15, Oct 22, Oct 29, Nov 5) we examine land tenure, agrarian reform, and agricultural policies; macroeconomic and industrial policies; and health, education, nutrition, and population policies. We examine the effects of these policies on income-related, survival-related, and gender-related outcomes. We assess the degree to which differences in these policy areas can explain variation in development outcomes across the eight countries, and the degree to which variation in the policy areas over time within countries affects affluence, inequality, and mortality.

In the contexts section (Nov 12, Nov 19, Dec 3), we explore how natural resource endowment, class structure and organization, and type of political regime have shaped the design and implementation of government policies, as well as how these factors have influenced development outcomes in ways not mediated by policies.

Course Requirements

The seminar is designed for students who are highly motivated to learn about cross-national development differences; who wish to acquire first-hand experience of the joys and challenges of social science research; and who are comfortable with quantitative analysis.

The seminar will provide a framework in which each student will carry out a semester-long independent research project on a single country (preferably one of the eight East Asian or Latin American countries noted above, on which the instructor is best prepared to provide bibliographical and other assistance). The research project will culminate in a term paper. Short papers, annotated bibliographies, class handouts, and/or reports on assigned topics, all of which will build toward the term paper, will be due each week.

We shall read one or two articles in common each week, but for the most part each student will decide on his or her own what and how much to read for each class session (except for the first two weeks, when we read the Sen book and the Human Development Report). A written assignment is due each week, involving the application of the insights or methods of the assigned article(s) to each student's independent research on his or her chosen country. These assignments are handed out in the previous week's session. The sessions will involve short lectures (usually on the material to be covered in the subsequent week), discussion of articles read in common, comparative analysis of the countries on which students are working, and student presentations of work done over the past week.

The seminar will require (1) use of a computerized database to record, manipulate, and create visual displays of quantitative data; (2) identification of sources in library databases (especially those indexing journal articles); (3) proper footnote and bibliography form; and (4) the use of Interlibrary Loan to obtain sources not available at Wesleyan. Feel free to call on the staff of the library and of the PAC data lab for assistance in these areas. The ability to read the language used in one's country is helpful but not required.

The final grade will be based on (1) the weekly assignments, which may be short papers, annotated bibliographies, sets of class handouts, and/or reports on assigned topics; and (2) the term paper, which should be largely a synthesis and, where necessary, extension and refinement of the weekly assignments; and (3) class participation. There are no length requirements either for the weekly assignments or for the term paper. The twelve weekly assignments will each be worth 5% of the final seminar grade, for a total of 60%; the term paper will be worth 25% of the final seminar grade; and class attendance, participation, and presentations will be worth 15% of the final seminar grade.

Obtaining Course Readings

All readings are available on reserve in Olin library or in Wesleyan's online journal collection. Available for purchase at Broad Street Books are two required texts:

Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1999.

United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2007-2008. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Summary of Course Schedule

Wed Sep 3	Introduction to the Course
Wed Sep 10	Incomes, Capabilities, and Development I
Wed Sep 17	Incomes, Capabilities, and Development II
Wed Sep 24	Income-Related Outcomes
Wed Oct 1	Survival-Related Outcomes
Wed Oct 8	Gender-Related Outcomes
Wed Oct 15	Land Tenure, Agrarian Reform, and Agricultural Policies
Wed Oct 22	Macroeconomic and Industrial Policies
Wed Oct 29	Health, Education, Nutrition, and Population Policies I
Wed Nov 5	Health, Education, Nutrition, and Population Policies II
Wed Nov 12	Resources, Geography, and Development Policies and Outcomes
Wed Nov 19	Class Structure, Class Organization, and Development Policies and Outcomes
Wed Dec 3	Democracy, Authoritarianism, and Development Policies and Outcomes

TOPICS AND READINGS

Wed Sep 3 Introduction to the Course

1. Framework

Wed Sep 10 Incomes, Capabilities, and Development I

Sen, Amartya. Development as Freedom. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1999. Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 (pp. 3-110).

Wed Sep 17 Incomes, Capabilities, and Development II

Sen, Amartya. Development as Freedom. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1999. Chapters 5, 6, 8, and 9 (pp. 111-159, 189-226).

UNDP [United Nations Development Programme], Human Development Report 2007/2008: Fighting Climate Change (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007). Read Technical Note 1 (pp. 355-360; skip the addendum p. 361). Also, get to know the layout and contents of the main tables (229-354), the definitions of statistical terms (364-371), the index to indicators (378-382); and material on where the statistics come from (221-227). The entire Report is also available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/>

2. Outcomes

Wed Sep 24

Income-Related Outcomes

McGuire, James W. "Development Policy and Its Determinants in East Asia and Latin America." Journal of Public Policy 14 No. 2 (April 1995), 205-242.

Wed Oct 1

Survival-Related Outcomes

Mosley, W. Henry, and Lincoln C. Chen (1984). "An Analytical Framework for the Study of Child Survival in Developing Countries." Population and Development Review 10 (Supplement), 24-45. **In Wesleyan's online journal collection.**

UNICEF, WHO, The World Bank, and UNPD (2007). Child Mortality in 2006: Estimates Developed By the Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. Department of Redundancy Department. December. Scroll to the bottom of http://www.childinfo.org/mortality_methodology.html

Wed Oct 8

Gender-Related Outcomes

Croll, Elizabeth. "Amartya Sen's 100 Million Missing Women." Oxford Development Studies 29 No. 3 (October 2001), 225-244.

Das Gupta, Monica. "Explaining Asia's 'Missing Women': A New Look at the Data." Population and Development Review 31 No. 3 (September 2005), 529-535. **In Wesleyan's online journal collection.**

3. Policies

Wed Oct 15

Land Tenure, Agrarian Reform, and Agricultural Policies

Dorner, Peter, and William C. Thiesenhusen. "Selected Land Reforms in East and Southeast Asia." Asian-Pacific Economic Literature 4 No. 1 (May 1990), 65-95.

Thiesenhusen, William C. Broken Promises: Agrarian Reform and the Latin American Campesino. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1995, 159-181.

Wed Oct 22

Macroeconomic and Industrial Policies

Adams, F. Gerard, and IngerMarie Davis. "The Role of Policy in Economic Development: Comparisons of the East and Southeast Asian and Latin American Experience." Asian-Pacific Economic Literature 8 No. 1 (May 1994), 8-26.

- Wed Oct 29 Health, Education, Nutrition, and Population Policies I
- Mehrotra, Santosh. "Health and Education Policies in High-Achieving Countries: Some Lessons." In Santosh Mehrotra and Richard Jolly, eds., Development with a Human Face: Experiences in Social Achievement and Economic Growth. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997. Chapter 3, 64-110.
- Lloyd-Sherlock, Peter. "Failing the Needy: Public Social Spending in Latin America." Journal of International Development 12 No. 1 (January 2000), 101-119. **In Wesleyan's online journal collection**
- Wed Nov 5 Health, Education, Nutrition, Population, and Basic Infrastructure Policies II
- Drèze, Jean, and Amartya Sen. Hunger and Public Action. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989. Chapter 12, 226-253.
- Caldwell, John. "Routes to Low Mortality in Poor Countries." Population and Development Review 12 No. 2 (June 1986), 171-220. **In JSTOR**
- 4. Contexts**
- Wed Nov 12 Resources, Geography, and Development Policies and Outcomes
- Ross, Michael L. "Extractive Sectors and the Poor." An Oxfam America Report. October 2001. New York, NY: Oxfam America. Available online at http://www.oxfamamerica.org/newsandpublications/publications/research_reports/art2635.html
- Landes, David. The Wealth and Poverty of Nations. New York: W. W. Norton, 1998. Chapter 1, "Nature's Inequalities," pp. 5-16.
- Wed Nov 19 Class Structure, Class Organization, and Development Policies and Outcomes
- Jenkins, Rhys. "The Political Economy of Industrialization: A Comparison of East Asian and Latin American Newly Industrializing Countries." Development and Change 22 No. 2 (April 1991), 197-231.
- Wed Dec 3 Democracy, Authoritarianism, and Development Policies and Outcomes
- Nelson, Joan M. (2007). "Elections, Democracy, and Social Services." Studies in Comparative International Development 41 No. 4 (January), 79-97. **In Wesleyan's online journal collection**