Despite a long and vigorous debate over the causes of development and under-development, the income gap between the world’s wealthiest and poorest nations continues to grow. This course examines the interrelationship of the political, social, and economic factors that produce development outcomes, with emphasis on the political. Broad themes of the course include the following: the relationship between political and economic change; the role of the state in fostering or hindering economic development; the role of cultural, religious, and ethnic factors in the process of development; and sources of political conflict.

Readings
The following book will be available for purchase at the Syracuse University Bookstore:


All other readings will be placed on electronic reserve using the Blackboard system.

Assignments and Grading
Students are expected to read all assignments, with the exception of those marked optional. Readings should be completed prior to lecture, or at least before the second lecture on a given topic. To promote regular engagement with course readings, a set of 4-5 response papers will be assigned during the term. These papers will be 1-2 pages in length, and their purpose will be to summarize the main arguments from a reading or set of readings.

Each student will choose a country from the developing world for which he or she is the designated “class expert.” Over the course of the term, students will perform research to learn about that country’s history, economy, politics, and social
characteristics. The goal is for students to examine how the theoretical material from lectures and readings is manifested in specific cases. I hope that students will use their country knowledge to contribute concrete examples for class discussions. A mid-term exam will be administered in class on October 20. There will be one 5-6 page paper assignment due on November 10. The topic(s) for this paper will be provided a few weeks in advance of this date. The final exam is scheduled for December 8.

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:
- Response papers: 20%
- Class Participation: 15%
- Mid-term Exam: 20%
- Paper: 20%
- Final Exam: 25%

**Attendance Policy**

Class participation, which I define as active engagement with the course, is 15% of the course grade. If you are absent, you are not participating. If you will be absent for a medical reason or an official university activity, please provide me with appropriate information.

**Religious Observances**

SU’s religious observances policy, found at [http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp-ben/religious_observance.htm](http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp-ben/religious_observance.htm), recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. For fall and spring semesters, an online notification process is available through MySlice → Student Services → Enrollment → My Religious Observances from the first day of class until the end of the second week of class.

**Technology in the Classroom**

Use of laptops for note-taking purposes is permitted. Students are expected to show common courtesy to avoid distracting fellow students. Any distracting use of electronic devices may lead to your dismissal from the classroom.

**Academic Integrity**

The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work.
The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort.

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), [http://disabilityservices.syr.edu](http://disabilityservices.syr.edu), located at 804 University Avenue, room 309, or call 315-443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented disabilities “Accommodation Authorization Letters,” as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible. You are also welcome to contact me privately to discuss your academic needs, although I cannot arrange for disability-related accommodations.

**Setting the Stage**

**August 25: Introduction and Course Mechanics**

**August 27: No Class**

**September 3: Wealth and Poverty in the World Today**

- Baker, chapter 1.


**September 8: What is Development?**

- Baker, chapters 2 and 3.


**Perspectives on the Deep Determinants of Development**

**September 10: The Culture Hypothesis**

• Baker, chapter 7.


**September 15: The Geography Hypothesis**

• Baker, chapter 13, pp. 309–320.

• Jared Diamond. “Why Did Human History Unfold Differently on Different Continents for the Last 13,000 Years?”


**September 17 & 22: Legacies of Colonialism**

• Baker, Chapter 4.


**September 24: Dependency Theories**

• Baker, chapter 5.


**September 29: Institutions as the Key**


**States and Markets**

**October 1: The “Big Push” and Import-Substituting Industrialization**

• Baker, chapter 8, pp. 183–194.


**October 6: Neo-Liberalism and the “Washington Consensus”**

• Baker, chapter 8, pp. 195–208.


**October 8: The New Institutionalism**


• Baker, Chapter 9.
October 13: Developmental vs. Predatory States


October 15: Review of the Course to Date

October 20: Mid-Term Exam

Political Regimes, Governance, and Development

October 22 & 27: Development → Democracy?


October 29 & November 3: Democracy → Development?

- Baker, chapter 10.


November 5: Incentives for Good Governance


**Topics in the Political Economy of Development**

**November 10: Development Assistance**

- **Paper Due.**
- Baker, Chapter 6.

**November 12: Inequality**

- Baker, Chapter 12.

**November 17: Ethnic Identity and Development**

- Baker, Chapter 11.

**November 19: Conflict**

- Baker, chapter 11.
December 1: The “Resource Curse”


December 3: Forging a New Development Agenda


December 8, 12:45-2:45 pm: Final Exam