SOCI 550: DEVELOPING SOCIETIES
Thursday 9:35 – 11:25 AM
Winter 2017

Instructor: Poulami Roychowdhury
Email: poulami.roychowdhury@mcgill.ca
Office: Leacock 839
Office Hours: Thursday 12:30-2:00 pm (appointment sign-up sheet on office door)

Course Description and Goals

Why have certain countries developed while others have not? What is development and how does it happen? This course provides an in-depth look at the political economy of development. We will compare the divergent trajectories of both “developed” and “developing” countries. Throughout the course, we will analyze how political and social relations (global power relations between nation-states; domestic class, race, and gender inequality) shape developmental outcomes (industrial growth, social inequality, and resource distribution).

By the end of the semester, students in the course should have a firm grasp on the following debates: 1) competing definitions of development; 2) key factors that enable and impede development; 3) consequences of different developmental models for human wellbeing.

Course Requirements and Grading

Class Attendance (12 points)
Attendance is worth one point per class. You are allowed one absence without penalty.

Class Participation (9 points)
You are expected to actively participate in class discussion.

Leading Class Discussion (12 points)
You will lead class discussion twice during the semester (each presentation is worth 5 points). You will present one of the assigned readings for that week to the class. Presentations should last 5-10 minutes and include: 1) a brief summary of the author’s main argument, 2) linkages between the reading and prior class readings; 3) questions you have about the reading.

Weekly Memos (27 points)
You will write 9 memos throughout the course of the semester (each memo is worth 3 points). You will write a memo for each class EXCEPT when you lead discussion. Memos should include: 1) a brief summary of the main arguments of the readings from the week, 2) questions you have about the readings. Memos should be no more than 1 single spaced page in length.
* DUE 12:00pm the Wednesday before each class. Post to the appropriate Memos folder in MyCourses.

Research Paper (40 points)
Pick a development-related issue that interests you (trade, development institutions, colonialism, state capacity, etc.). Pick a country and describe how your issue has impacted developmental trajectories and outcomes in this country. You are encouraged to do outside readings for the paper (at least 2 outside readings). And you must engage with concepts from class texts (minimum of 3 readings). The paper should be between 15-20 double spaced pages. You must include in-line citations for class readings and any outside references. In addition, the paper should include a bibliography.

* DUE April 13 at 5:30 pm. Upload to MyCourses.

Course Policies

Ethics

- You are responsible for behaving respectfully towards your Instructor and your fellow students. Aggressive and condescending behavior towards others will not be tolerated.
- McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism, and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. See http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest and http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/academicrights/integrity/cheating for more information.

Written Materials

- In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit written work in either English or French.
- All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, stapled, 12 point Times New Roman, with one-inch margins on all sides. Make sure your name is on your paper and that you have retained a copy.
- Your final paper must include in-line citations and a bibliography. Please use a standard bibliographic format (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.).
- Spelling and grammatical mistakes will adversely impact your grade. The McGill Writing Centre provides help with written assignments. If you believe you may need help with the final paper, make an appointment in advance and review a rough draft with the Centre.

Requests for Re-grade

- If you feel that your assignment was not accurately graded, you must file a formal request with Professor Roychowdhury within 1 week of receiving your grade. The request must be one page long and include the following information: 1) The grade you believe you should have received, 2) A detailed explanation of why you deserved a different grade.

Late Assignments and Absences

- If you turn in an assignment after the due date, you will lose 1 point for every day that it is late.
- If you would like to request an extension for any assignment or receive a waiver for any absences, you must provide an original (signed) copy of either a doctor’s note, a letter from the Dean’s Office, or the Office of Students with Disabilities.

Extra credit

- There will be no extra credit opportunities for late or missed work.
MyCourses

- There is an online site for this course on MyCourses. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the site and knowing how to use it. This includes: reading class announcements, posting assignments, checking your grades, and engaging in online discussions.

Changes to Syllabus

- The syllabus is purview to changes throughout the semester. All changes will be announced in class as well as posted on MyCourses. You are responsible for keeping on top of all changes.

Required Texts

- There is a coursepack for this class. Copies are available for purchase in paper or electronically. Used copies should also be available. One copy of the coursepack is on reserve at the library.
Week 1 Introduction

Week 2 Income, Ideas, Exploitation
  o “Chap 26: The Secret of Primitive Accumulation,” pgs. 873-876
  o “Chap 27: The Expropriation of the Agricultural Population from the Land,” pgs. 877-895
  o “Chap 33: The Modern Theory of Colonization,” pgs. 931-940

Section I. State Capacity

Week 3 State Capacity Defined

Week 4 Historical Antecedents: Colonialism
  o “Part IV: Dashed Expectations – Nigeria”
  o “Chap 1: Introduction”
  o “Chap 4: Mauritius: Direct Rule and Development.”

Week 5 Contemporary Constraints: Capitalists
  o “Chap 1”: Introduction
  o “Chap 2: Late Development and State-Building in India,”
  o “Chap 3: The Origins of the Developmental State in Korea”

Week 6 Contemporary Constraints: Middle Classes
  o “Chap 1”: Introduction to Middleclasses, Discipline, and Development
  o “Chap 3”: Discipline and Reward South Korea
  o “Chap 5”: From Victors to Victims Mexico

Section II. Global Inequalities

Week 7 Trade Policy
Week 8     Multilateral Institutions
• Richard Peet. 2009. *Unholy Trinity: The IMF, World Bank, and WTO,* pgs. To be assigned

Week 9     Power and Knowledge
  o “Why the debate never happened,” pgs 43-46
  o “Chap 4: Race, War, and the Fate of Africa,” pgs, 81-104
  o “The Blank Slate versus Learning from History,” pgs. 123-127
  o “Chap 1: Introduction,” pgs. 1-22

Week 10    American Imperialism

Section III. Transformative Possibilities

Week 11    Investing in Human Capital

Week 12    Democracy and Governance
*CLASS POTLUCK*
  o “Chapter 11: Designing Capitalism 3.0,” pgs. 233-250