US Foreign Policy and the Developing World
[POGO 750-010]

FALL 2019, Thursdays 7:20 PM – 10:00 PM, Location – ARLVM 475

DRAFT AUGUST 21, 2019

Contact Information
Professor Hilton Root
Hroot2@gmu.edu
Rm. #636, Office Hours: Thursday 5-7

Course Information

Description
This course examines the influence of US Policy on the longer-term distribution of power and the economic trajectoires of emerging nations.

Learning Outcomes
• Will provide a conceptual lens to understand how often unrecognized choices among categories and assumptions channel thinking and influence decisions and outcomes in US relations with developing nations, past and present.

Course Materials

Course Requirements and Grades
Students are expected to keep up with each week’s required readings and to participate in class discussion. More than two missed classes require a medical or work-related justification, without such justification your grade will be reduced one complete letter grade.

• 30% of Final Grade: Team Projects
(3 people each) take a school of Development Economics present or past and critique it (12 slides max)

• 20% of Final Grade: Book Review
Each student will review one book from the “Optional books for review”, or they may request approval of an alternative by email. Students will make a class presentation of the title.

The criteria for judging the written book reviews is as follows

1. Identifies author's thesis
2. Identifies an argument if there is one
3. Provide a review of supporting evidence
4. Assess if conclusion follows logically from the evidence
5. If not, where does it fail?
6. Conclude with the student's perspective on the book/article

• 50% of Final Grade: One term paper
  Essay of ten to twelve pages on the relationship of global economic development and U.S. security.

Required Books


Course Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
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| Week 1 (08/29)  | What Makes Development Complex?               | The Implications of Complexity for Development: The Kapuściński Lecture, by Owen Barder, 8/15/12  
  This module explores the implications of complexity theory for development policy. We explore how traditional economic models have tried and failed to understand why some countries have managed to improve living standards while other countries have not. We see that development is a property of a system, not the sum of what happens to the people within it. This suggests important policy implications for policymakers who want to bring about faster development in their own country, or to help other countries to make faster progress. Seven policy recommendations for development are presented.  
  Recommended Reading:  
  “Complexity and Collapse: Empires on the Edge of Chaos.” Foreign Affairs  
  https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2010-03-01/complexity-and-collapse
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<tr>
<th>Week 2 (09/05)</th>
<th>The Political Economy of Development Assistance.</th>
<th><strong>Alliance Curse: How America Lost the Third World.</strong> Chapter 1-3 (pp. 3-31).</th>
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<td><strong>The purpose of this module is to highlight the role of analytical frameworks that shape US foreign policy and diplomacy. We will analyze the economic logic and consequences of the alliance curse as well as the institutional constraints on democracy promotion. Special attention will be given to US policy and developing nation dictators as well as how economic competition affects political competition?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Recommended Reading:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Pacific Century (one-hour movie will be shown in class).</strong></td>
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<td>Read selectively from current articles about Pakistan <a href="http://www.brookings.edu/comm/infocus/pakistan.htm">http://www.brookings.edu/comm/infocus/pakistan.htm</a></td>
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<td><strong>Recommended Reading:</strong></td>
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<td>“Sachs, Easterly and the Banality of the Aid Effectiveness Debate: Time to Move On.” Daniel Miller. <a href="http://www.grips.ac.jp/forum/IzumiOhno/lectures/2015_Lecture_texts/S04_Aid_effective_debate.pdf">www.grips.ac.jp/forum/IzumiOhno/lectures/2015_Lecture_texts/S04_Aid_effective_debate.pdf</a></td>
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<td>“The running debate between Jeff Sachs and Bill Easterly on Effectiveness of Foreign Aid.” <a href="https://foreignpolicy.com/2014/01/21/the-case-for-aid/">https://foreignpolicy.com/2014/01/21/the-case-for-aid/</a></td>
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<td>“Foreign Assistance Reform: Now, then and around.” Unger, Noam. 2007.</td>
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<td>Presented by “Andrew Patterson, George Hutchinson, and Aleezay Khaliq.</td>
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**Week 9 (10/24)**

The US and China

China’s ambitions and the future of the global economy

How have recent trade negotiations (U.S.-China Trade War) affected competition and deterrence?


**Recommended Reading:**


**Week 10 (10/31)**

Interdependence and Deterrence

*How Does Economic Entanglement Affect Competition and Deterrence?*

We explore existing and possible future deterrence challenges in the context of economic interdependency.

**Framing Questions:**

Is economic interdependency a reliable restraint on strategic competition and deterrence? If yes, how? If not, why?

How have recent trade negotiations (U.S.-China Trade War, Brexit) affected competition and deterrence?

Does deterrence become more difficult with a decrease in economic entanglement?

Are there lessons from history regarding how economic entanglement has affected state relations?


| Week 11 (11/07) | Global networks over time  
Chapter 9-10. *Handed out in Class.*  
**Recommended Reading:**  
*Critical Reflections on Globalisation and Development and Challenges Ahead*  
The Palgrave Handbook of Development Economics. M Nissanke, JA Ocampo. 2019 |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
**Recommended Reading:**  
*National Security Strategy of the United States of America.*  
**Recommended Reading:**  
Week 13 (11/21) The Future of Global Democracy and Development Assistance

What prevents the extension of the suffrage in the developing world from producing a steep improvement in social rights, transforming power relations, property rights, regulatory systems, entitlements status and inequality? What causes democracy in the third world to result in poor quality governance, regimes that Schmitter notes are hardly worth the cost of the transition? Why have transitions not produced the salutary modernizing effects of the anticipated `end of history’?

Another transition mystery that baffles liberal internationalist theory is why anti-liberal elite coalitions in third world environments often include a slice of the entire social pyramid including the poor. Why do the political institutions of developing countries enjoy support that is perversely distributed -- not necessarily according to rational social interest? How do the poor become vested in a system of corruption that they detest? Why are institutional changes that liberalism holds to be dictated by logic and by history resisted by elites and non-elites in developing countries? What constrains the receptiveness of representatives of non-elites to institutionalized accountability?

Recommended Reading:

“The End of the Transition Paradigm.” 

“Twenty-Five Years, Fifteen Findings.” 


Week 14 (11/28) Thanksgiving Break

Week 15 (12/05) Student Presentations of final paper

Week 16 (12/12) Final Paper Due

Additional Information and Classroom Resources

Policy on Plagiarism

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the
meaning of the university and the purpose of a graduate education. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another’s words or ideas presented as one’s own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another’s work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one’s professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of “F.” This may lead to failure for the course.

To help enforce the policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services.

**Statement on Special Needs of Students**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

**Online Student Journal**

New Voices in Public Policy: I will consider nominating the very best papers in this course for publication in New Voices in Public Policy. New Voices is a student- and faculty-reviewed journal that shares SPP's finest student work with the rest of the world.

**SPP Policy on Plagiarism**

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

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Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one’s professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of “F.” This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student’s transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (e.g. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require
that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it.