

**University of Georgia**  
**INTL 4780: Special Topics- Comparative Global Development**  
**Fall 2015, TR 9:30-10:45 AM**  
**Park Hall 139**

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Instructor: Steven Walter  
Email: [swalter7@uga.edu](mailto:swalter7@uga.edu)  
Office: Candler Hall B02  
Phone: 706-542-6705 (main office)  
Office Hours: 11:00-12:00 PM Tuesdays and Thursdays in the MLC, or By Appointment  
CRN: 25366

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### **Course Description and Objectives**

What is development and how do we measure it? Is the world getting better for everyone, or only a select few? What can we do to keep up the progress we have made? These are difficult questions, and the answers we will attempt to find this semester may be frustrating and heart-breaking in equal parts. But there is hope, and through continued inquiry into the subject, we as scholars might actually be able to make a difference. We will proceed as follows: the first section of the class will review the basics of human development based on several key factors: economics, politics, health, education, the environment, human rights, and more. Subsequent weeks will see that framework applied to major regions in the world as we survey the state of global development today. We will conclude by exploring individual countries through student-led presentations and a simulation, and attempt to devise methods to improve the development of these and other states throughout the world.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- ⌚ Explain the basics of human development
- ⌚ Discuss regional variations in development, including differences in politics, economics, health, and more.
- ⌚ Provide deeper insight into the patterns of development of a country of their choosing and lay out a strategy for continued growth in said country

### **Required Reading**

There are two required texts for this course. Both are available on Amazon for less than \$20 a piece, and there may be several copies in the main library as well. Any edition will be fine.

- ⌚ Howard J. Wiarda. (1998). *Non-Western Theories of Development: Regional Norms versus Global Trends*. Wadsworth Publishing.
- ⌚ Howard J. Wiarda (2002). *Comparative Democracy and Democratization*. Harcourt College Publishers.

## **Recommended Reading**

Though not required, the following book is well worth checking out for development ideas.

- ⌚ Paul Collier. (2008). *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It*. Oxford University Press.

## **Course Expectations**

### **Attendance (10%):**

The greatest tip I ever received for doing well in college was simple: go to class. Every day. That being said, some days you simply cannot make it for whatever reason. If you have an excused absence (detailed policy listed below), you will not be penalized. If you have an unexcused absence, you will be allowed one freebie, no questions asked, without losing points here. Each additional unexcused absence beyond the freebie will deduct a point off your grade, up to the full 10%.

In addition, frequent tardiness may also impact the attendance grade. Late entrance to the class is disruptive and will cause you to miss important announcements made at the start of each lecture. I will contact you individually if this becomes a problem.

### **Participation (10%):**

Regular and active participation are essential to doing well in this course. Showing up is important, but proving you are engaged with the material is how you indicate that you are learning. Speaking in class, making informed comments, asking probing questions, and responding thoughtfully to prompts are all good ways to participate, but I understand they are not comfortable for everyone. While I encourage you to step outside of your comfort area, I will consider several other options for participation: coming to talk to me before or after class or during office hours; writing out-of-class response papers; e-mailing me questions or comments relevant to the material; volunteering for extra presentations; etc. If you do **none** of the above, but still show up every single day, the best you can hope for is a 5 out of 10 in this section. Please come and talk to me if you anticipate this will be an issue.

It should also be noted that attendance and participation are highly correlated. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Thus, if you miss several days but participate frequently when you are present, you still should not expect full credit in this area.

### **Region Leadership (10%):**

To better appreciate the material, and help your studies, each student will be required to serve as a region leader at least once during the semester. As a region leader, you will be responsible for working with a small group to generate a brief written summary of the material for a specific region of the world which we will cover during this semester. The available regions include: China and East Asia; India; the Middle East; Africa; and Latin America. The summary should include basic development facts, synopses of any and all assigned readings, and an analysis of the regional trends with a prediction for the future. You are free to divide the workload any way you wish, but the final product must be turned in no later than on the first day of class AFTER we have finished discussing the region (China and East Asia, for example, will have their summary material due on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>). More details will be given as the semester progresses, but the total output should be between 5 and 10 pages properly formatted.

### **Midterm Exam (30%):**

There will be one in-class, closed-book exam on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. All material covered up to that point will be fair game. The precise format of the exam will be announced closer to time, but will likely consist of several multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. You will have the full class period to complete the exam; a portion of the class on the Tuesday prior will be spent reviewing for the exam.

### **Final Project (40%):**

The main component of this course will be two parts: first, a class-wide presentation about the state of development in a country of your choice; and second, a written component featuring a summary of your presentation and a proposal for continued or accelerated growth in one or more areas of development. More details will be given as the semester progresses, but the presentation should be between 8 and 10 minutes in length and the paper should be between 8 and 10 pages properly formatted. Each section will account for 20% of the final grade. A one page proposal for your project will be due on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Presentations will take place the last day before Thanksgiving break and the week following. Written components are due by 11:59PM on Sunday, December 6<sup>h</sup>. Presentations must be distinct from material covered in class.

## **Course Policies**

### **Attendance:**

I follow the university's guidelines for excused absences: any class period missed due to a University-sanctioned event (conference/sport/trip), a documented medical reason (e.g. doctor's note), or death or serious injury to a direct relative (mother, father, child, sibling, grandparent) will be counted as excused. These absences will not count against your grade, and you will be allowed to make up any assignment, presentation, or exam that happened to fall on the excused date.

All other absences will count as unexcused: illnesses without a doctor's note provided within a week of the absence, sleeping through class, forgetting class, or missing for any other reason will count against your final grade. In addition, you will *not* be allowed to make up any assignment, presentation, or exam that falls on the date of an unexcused absence. No exceptions. The missed assignment grade will count as a zero. However, I understand some days you simply feel too lousy to go to class, but not lousy enough to go the doctor, so every student will get one freebie unexcused absence which will not count against the attendance/participation grade. To repeat, though, any assignments missed due to an unexcused absence (even a “freebie” absence) will be counted as a zero. Use the freebie wisely.

### **Grades:**

This class will use the standard plus/minus grading system. Grades will be rounded to the nearest point.

A= 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D= 60-69	F= Below 60
A- = 90-92	B= 83-86	C= 73-76		
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72		

### **Extra Credit and Grade Appeals:**

As an upper-division course, extra credit will generally NOT be available. Please refrain from asking. If you are concerned with your grade, please come and talk to me during office hours. In addition, if you feel that a grade you received does not accurately reflect your achievement, please contact me no sooner than 24 hours after the grade has been posted. Please have a valid argument for why you feel you deserve a higher grade; “I need a B to graduate/keep HOPE” or “I'm an A-student” are not valid arguments. If, however, I made a mathematical error in calculating your grade, please contact me immediately so that I can remedy it.

### **Cell Phones:**

Cell phones, MP3 players, and other noise-making devices (does anyone use a beeper or pager anymore?) must be silenced and put away during class. Also, there is no reason to have head phones on during class time. Frequent or flagrant disruptions may result in a reduction in the participation grade.

### **Laptops and Tablets:**

Laptops and tablets are permitted in class for note-taking and research purposes *only*. If you choose to use a laptop during class, please be courteous to your instructor and your colleagues: turn off the sound and avoid the temptation to tweet, facebook, or whatever else the kids these days are doing online. If these items become a distraction, I reserve the right to discontinue their use.

### **Academic Honesty:**

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: [www.uga.edu/honesty](http://www.uga.edu/honesty). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor. Any instance of cheating or plagiarism could be grounds for removal from the course with a grade of WF.

### **Disability Accommodation:**

The University of Georgia seeks to provide students with disabilities the opportunity to fully participate in educational programs and services. In keeping with this philosophy, it is University policy that students with documented disabilities receive reasonable accommodation in order to facilitate their full engagement in classroom activities. Any student who requires special accommodations because of a university-documented condition should contact me no later than the second week of the semester in order to facilitate appropriate and timely arrangements with the Disability Resource Center.

### **Class Discussion and Debate:**

At times during the class, we will be discussing controversial and/or sensitive subjects. It is of the utmost importance that all students conduct themselves in a professional, respectful manner. Personal attacks, hateful speech, or general disrespect to the instructor or your colleagues will not be tolerated. This does not mean you have to agree with everything being said: far from it! If you disagree with anything and can back it up, feel free to challenge your classmates, the textbook, or the instructor. Lively, informed, and passionate debate is at the heart of good learning.

### **Communicating with the Instructor:**

The best way to get in contact with the instructor is through e-mail at [swalter7@uga.edu](mailto:swalter7@uga.edu). All students will be expected to check their own UGA e-mail addresses for important updates about the course, assignments, etc. ELC will be used to post course content, but e-mail will be the most common means of communication.

If you have any questions you cannot or do not want to address over e-mail, please feel free to visit my office hours. They are scheduled for 11:00-12:00 PM Tuesday and Thursday in the second floor study area in the MLC, or by appointment in my office in Candler Hall B-02. If you want to guarantee your time, please send me an e-mail before you plan on stopping by.

### **Late Work and Make-up Exams:**

Late work will not be accepted, nor any extensions granted, except in the case of a *severe* medical or

family emergency. Any paper turned in after the assigned date and time will receive a zero unless cleared through me. **It is always better to send me what you have by the deadline and explain why you did not finish than to email me after the deadline telling me why it will be late.** This policy applies to various stages of writing the final paper and to the final paper itself. Save yourself the stress and drama of an inevitable technical malfunction or 24-hour bug: turn in your paper early!

As noted above, however, students with an excused absence will be allowed to take a make-up assignment or exam so long as the excuse is provided in a timely fashion: no more than a week after returning to class. Date and time of the make-up will be worked out between the student and instructor, and the content of the make-up may vary slightly from what was given to the class at large to ensure testing integrity.

### **Staying Informed:**

As an International Relations scholar, it is important to keep up with major events around the world. This course should make you into a better-informed citizen, but a lot of that work falls on you the student. Where you get your news is entirely up to you, but be sure to cite your sources if you try to bring it up as a point in class discussion. Some suggested sites include: [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [CNN](#), [NPR](#), or political blogs such as [The Monkey Cage](#), [The Quantitative Peace](#), or [The Duck of Minerva](#).

### **Changes to the Syllabus:**

This syllabus should be considered a general plan and not a hard and fast guide. All efforts will be made to keep test dates and due dates the same as listed, and any changes will be announced well in advance. This notice applies to policies as well as assignments. With that in mind, be sure to come to class and check your e-mail regularly so that you do not miss out on any new information.

## **Course Schedule**

*NWTD=Non-Western Theories of Development*

*CDD= Comparative Democracy and Democratization*

### **Week 1: Introduction**

**August 18:** Class Introduction

Assignments Due: Review the syllabus

**August 20:** What Is Development?

Assignments Due: *Beyond Economic Growth*: Introduction, Chapters 1-2, and 15-16 (ELC)

### **Week 2: State of the World**

**August 25:** Human Development

Assignments Due: UNDP, "Human Development Report 2013:" Chapter 1, pages 21-43 (ELC)

**August 27:** Freedom and Democracy

Assignments Due: Freedom House, "Freedom in the World 2013" (ELC)

**Week 3: West vs. the Rest**

**September 1:** The Western Tradition

Assignments Due: *NWTD* Preface and Chapter 1

**September 3:** Democracy and Democratization

Assignments Due: *CDD* Preface and Chapters 1-2

**Week 4: Russia and Eastern Europe**

**September 8:** Russia

Assignments Due: *NWTD* Chapter 8

*CDD* Chapter 4

**September 10:** Eastern Europe

Assignments Due: *NWTD* Chapter 7

UNDP (2010) "Human Development in Eastern Europe and the CIS Since 1990" (ELC)

**Week 5: China and East Asia**

**September 15:** Economics and Politics

Assignments Due: *CDD* Chapter 5

**September 17:** Social and Environmental Factors

Assignments Due: *NWTD* Chapter 2

**Week 6: China and East Asia**

**September 22:** Southeast Asia

Assignments Due: UNDP (2010) "Human Development in east Southeast Asian Economies: 1990-2010" Pages 1-38 (Overview up to Section 2.5) (ELC)

**September 24:** Southeast Asia (continued)

Assignments Due: UNDP (2010) "Human Development in east Southeast Asian Economies: 1990-2010" Pages 39-64 (Section 2.5 up to Section 3) (ELC)

UNDP (2010) "Human Development in east Southeast Asian Economies: 1990-2010" Pages 289-294 (Conclusion) (ELC)

**Week 7: India**

**September 29:** Economics and Politics

Assignments Due: *CDD* Chapter 6

UNDP (2003) "India: Towards the Millennium Development Goals" (ELC)

**October 1:** Social and Environmental Factors

Assignments Due: *NWTD* Chapter 3

**Week 8: The Middle East**

**October 6:** Economics and Politics

Assignments Due: *CDD* Chapter 7

UNDP (2010) "Human Development in the Middle East and North Africa" (ELC)

**October 8:** Social and Environmental Factors

Assignments Due: *NWTD* Chapter 6

**Week 9: Africa**

**October 13:** Economics and Politics

Assignments Due: *CDD* Chapter 8

**October 15:** Economics and Politics (continued)

Assignments Due: UNDP, (2012) "Africa Human Development Report:" Overview and Chapter 1 (ELC)

**Week 10: Africa (continued)**

**October 20:** Social and Environmental Factors

Assignments Due: One page proposal for your country project due

*NWTD* Chapter 5

**October 22: No Class**

**Week 11: Latin America**

**October 27:** Economics and Politics

Assignments Due: *CDD* Chapter 3

**October 29:** Social and Cultural Factors

Assignments Due: *NWTD* Chapter 4

UNDP (2005) "Violence Conflict and Human Development in Latin America" (ELC)

**Week 12: Exam Week**

**November 3:** Exam Review

Assignments Due: Come with questions

**November 5:** Exam

Assignments Due: Study

**Week 13: Simulation**

**November 10:** Simulation Preparation

Assignments Due: TBA



**November 12:** Simulation

Assignments Due: TBA

### **Week 14: Project Workday and Presentations**

**November 17:** Course Wrap-Up and Project Work-Day

Assignments Due: *NWTD* Chapter 9

*CDD* Chapter 9

**November 19:** Presentations

Assignments Due: Presentations

### **Week 15: Thanksgiving Break**

### **Week 16: Presentations**

**December 1:** Presentations

Assignments Due: Presentations

**December 3:** Presentations

Assignments Due: Presentations

**Week 17: Final Project Written Component due by 11:59PM on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**