PSC 565: Political Economy of Development

Fall 2014
Wednesdays, 2:45pm-5:25pm
Harkness, 329

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Overview

This course surveys selected topics in the extensive literature on political and economic development. We will focus on differences in formal and informal institutions across countries. Topics will include the determinants of economic growth, the modernization hypothesis, distributional conflict, government corruption, the success and failure of states to deliver of public goods, among others.

Requirements

Students must do all required readings, and be prepared to discuss them actively. To test this, students must submit a one page reading response by 10am the day of class. While these should address both the substantive and methodological aspects of the readings, they should not aim to be comprehensive. Instead, you should focus on key themes or questions raised by the readings, and develop your own thoughts about them.

As a final assignment, students must submit a research proposal on a topic relevant to the course material, which should be 10-15 double spaced pages in length. This proposal should outline 1) An existing theoretical or empirical puzzle, 2) an intuition as to a solution to this puzzle, 3) the data needed to test this s, and 4) the identification strategy to be used.
Course Schedule

September 3rd -- Introduction

September 10th -- Institutions and Development


Additional Reading:


September 17th -- The Historical Origins of Institutions


Additional Reading:


September 24th -- Clientelism


Additional Reading:

October 1st -- Corruption


Additional Reading:

October 8th -- Democracy: Macro-Institutional Effects


Additional Reading:
October 15th -- Democracy: Micro-Institutional Effects


Additional Reading:

October 22nd -- Macro-Economic Policy and Industrialization


Additional Reading:
October 29th -- Conflict and Civil War


Additional Reading:

November 5th -- The Resource Curse and Environmental Determinism


Additional Reading:

November 12th -- Foreign Aid


Additional Reading:

November 19th -- Identity and Politics


Additional Reading:
• Cilliers, J., O. Dube and B. Siddiqi. 2013. “‘White Man’s Burden?’ A Field Experiment on Generosity and Foreigner Presence,” *Unpublished*.

**December 3rd -- Identity and Behavior**


**Additional Reading:**


**December 10th -- Student Presentations**