POL 219 Politics of the Developing World

Dr. Ruth Melkonian-Hoover Fall 2019

MWF 1:00 – 2:00 Classroom: Chase 26

Office hours: TR 1:30 – 3:30; WF 11:30 – 12:30 Office: Frost 328

and by appointment

Email: ruth.melkonian@gordon.edu Office phone: 4517

# Course Description

Every day the gap between the rich and the poor only seems to grow wider. While some developing nations have advanced rapidly in the last century, many others have become more impoverished. What theories best explain development? What is the nature of the political systems of these developing nations? How have history, economics, politics, society, religion, and the international system played a role in nations’ development? This course introduces the comparative analysis of developing nations in general, and considers some of these key questions through the study of an array of key factors: institutional factors including governments, democracy, rule of law, and human rights; economic and market based factors including fiscal and trade policy strategies, credit access, and aid; and social and religious factors including gender, religiosity, religious and secular NGOs; and geographic factors including the environment and natural resources.

Course Objectives

1. To understand differences between the developed, underdeveloped, and developing world and to know the primary types of development.

2. To be acquainted with the primary theories that address development and underdevelopment.

3. To comprehend the political, economic, historical, social, religious, and international dimensions of development.

4. To develop critical thinking abilities as well as effective writing and oral communication skills.

5. To grow in one’s understanding of and care for the world -- to enhance faithful, thoughtful responses in future global engagements.

# Required Texts

Emma Tomalin, ed. 2017. *The Routledge Handbook of Religions and Global Development.* (New York: Routledge).

All other readings are available on Blackboard or online. If links to articles in blackboard are not functioning, you are responsible to find the articles assigned via the Gordon library databases or the websites and organizations listed in the syllabus.

Questions about library resources should be directed to librarians in the Jenks Library. Librarians are available to assist you from the library reference desk, by e-mail at library@gordon.edu, or by phone (978) 867-4878.

# Course Requirements

**Class participation:** Plan to attend class having read and analyzed the readings. Be ready to share your observations, assessments and questions with the rest of the class. Your participation in this course is valued and is important. The style of teaching utilized in this course relies extensively on discussion and interaction with students, therefore the quality of the course is in large part dependent upon your efforts. Careful attention to the readings will greatly enhance the intellectual experience of the course for you individually and will enable more meaningful contributions to the class as a whole. Participation and attendance will account for 15% of your grade. Given the necessity of attendance for fruitful participation, excessive unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final letter grade. Readings for each week should be completed by Monday of the week they are assigned.

To facilitate engaged, fruitful discussions, I request that all laptops, cellphones, and tablets be off in class.  As a practical matter, this means that you should plan to work off of paper versions of the articles and chapters we discuss.

**Response Writing:** You will be required to write 9 short summary blog responses based on weekly readings (400 - 600 words) during weeks 3-7 and weeks 9 -16. In these responses, you should briefly summarize and analyze the main points of the readings, highlight any areas of interest, contention or confusion, integrate the readings assigned for the week AND raise a question or two for the class discussion. After you submit your response, you should also comment on or ask a question of in response to another student’s post. These posts are due **via blackboard by 10:00 p.m. on Sunday** at the latestso that I may incorporate your considerations and questions into the classroom discussion. Your work will be evaluated based on evidence of a good understanding of the assigned readings, your ability to critically analyze and integrate the material, in addition to clarity, coherence, organization, grammar, spelling and citations (where necessary). Response writing is worth 25% of your grade. If you have difficulty recalling your own work, I suggest you bring a copy of your paper to class for reference. If you so choose, ONE of the 9 responses may be based on responses to relevant outside lectures this fall. See page 8 of the student handbook regarding academic honesty and plagiarism.

These responses are intended to assist you in processing and integrating the readings, and exploring the areas of greatest import to you (as well as keeping you accountable and up to date with the coursework). They are one of the best means for me to understand your thinking about our readings. Very importantly, they contribute to an overall strengthening of our collective discussion of the materials and issues at hand.

**Topic Expertise:** Student teams of 2-3 will be responsible to help facilitate classroom discussion two times during the semester.

These teams will be responsible to give a brief (5 minute) outline of the readings, discuss some of the main themes or points they made in their responses, and introduce their questions into the class discussion.

**Research Paper:** You are required to write a 7 – 9 page paper on the development prospects of a developing country of your choosing. Paper guidelines will be posted on blackboard. The research paper comprises 20% of your grade. Proposal and outline due **October 25** and final paper due **December 6**.

**Exams**: There will be two major examinations in this course, a midterm **(October 16)** and a final **(December 17)**. Both exams will be composed primarily of identifications, short answers, multiple choice, T/F and essay questions. They will cover material from readings, lectures, discussions, debates and current relevant news events. The final exam will not be cumulative. Exams together comprise 50% of your grade.

**Final Examination Policy:** It is College policy (p. 35 of the Undergraduate Academic Catalog) that an individual professor is not authorized, for any reason, to allow any student to take a final examination at any time other than that assigned by the Registrar.  Students with 3 or more exams scheduled on the same day must contact the Registrar's office to have one examination time reassigned.

**Components of the Final Grade**

Class participation 15%

Class discussion leadership 10%

Response Writing 15%

Research Paper 15%

Midterm exam 20%

Final exam 25%

**Academic Accommodations**: Our academic community is committed to providing access to a Gordon education for students with disabilities. A student with a disability who intends to request academic accommodations should follow this procedure:

1) Meet with a staff person from the Academic Success Center (ASC) and provide them with current documentation of the disability;

2) Obtain a Faculty Notification Form from the Academic Success Center, listing appropriate accommodations; and

3) Submit this form to professors and discuss those accommodations with them, ideally within the first two weeks of classes.

Some accommodations need more time to arrange so communicating early in the semester is important. For more information consult the Academic Success Center webpage: <http://www.gordon.edu/academicaccessibility> or email asc@gordon.edu.

**WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS:**

Week 1, 8/28 – 8/30 Introduction

* Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger and William A. Joseph, “Introducing Politics of the Developing World,” pp 6 – 33 of *Introduction to Politics of the Developing World*: Boston: Wadsworth, 2013
* Bruce Wydick, “Taking the Cell Phone Challenge,” *Across Two Worlds.*  <https://www.acrosstwoworlds.net/?p=517> 1/6/16

9/2 Labor Day

Week 2, 9/4 – 9/6 Brief History and Theories of Development

 Colonialism and Nationalism; Modernization and Dependency

* Christopher Clapham, pp 12- 25 of *Third World Politics* (London: Croom Helm, 1985)
* Howard J. Wiarda, pp 1-9 of *Non-Western Theories of Development* (Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2000)

Week 3, 9/9 – 9/13 Why Religion and Global Development?

* Emma Tomalin, Chapter 1, “Introduction” (pp 1-9)
* Gregory Deacon and Emma Tomalin, Chapter 5 in Tomalin, “A History of Faith-Based Aid and Development”

Week 4, 9/16 – 9/20 Governance, Democracy, and Development

* Seth Kaplan, Chapter 28 in Tomalin, “Religion, Development and Fragile States?”
* Larry Diamond, “A New Birth of Freedom,” *The American Interest,* 6/21/19

<https://www.the-american-interest.com/2019/06/21/a-new-birth-of-freedom/>

* Meng Chen, “Divergent Paths: The Future of One-Party Rule in Singapore,” *Harvard International Review*, Winter 2011

<http://proxy2.noblenet.org/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip&db=a9h&AN=58498609&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

*Recommended:*

Daniel Danelo, “Anarchy is the New Normal,” Foreign Policy Research Institute, October 2013. <https://www.fpri.org/article/2013/10/anarchy-is-the-new-normal-unconventional-governance-and-21st-century-statecraft/>

Week 5, 9/23 – 9/27 Rule of Law and Human Rights

* Gary Haugen and Victor Boutros, “And Justice for All: Enforcing Human Rights for the World’s Poor,” *Foreign Affairs,* May/June 2010 <http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA227885920&v=2.1&u=mlin_n_gordon&it=r&p=AONE&sw=w&asid=0d3c6e5f3a17e96408b66362792a78d5>
* Nicholas Wolterstorff, “Just Demands,” *Christian Century* July 27, 2010 <http://proxy2.noblenet.org/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=cookie,ip,cpid&custid=gor&db=aph&AN=54373891&site=ehost-live&scope=site>
* Sarah Eekhoff Zylstra, “How Not to Care for Widows,” *Christianity Today*, October 24, 2012

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/october/how-not-to-care-for-widows.html>

09/23 In class assignment: Measuring Development via various indices

9/25 Guest Speaker: Cindy Bauer, Director, Kupenda for the Children, “Religion, Disabilities, and Development”

Week 6, 9/30 – 10/4 Economic Development

* Nancy Birdsall, “Middle Class Heroes,” *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2016

<http://proxy2.noblenet.org/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip&db=a9h&AN=112811950&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

* Brahima Sangafowa Coulibaly,“Africa’s Alternative Path to Development,” The Brookings Institution, 5/3/18 <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/africas-alternative-path-to-development/>
* Keith Nurse, “Development: Unthinking the Past (Rethinking Development)” *NACLA Report on the Americas* (Nov-Dec 2003)

<http://proxy2.noblenet.org/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip&db=a9h&AN=11574314&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

Week 7, 10/7 – 10/11 Personal Transformation, Pentecostalism, and Sustainable Development in sub-Saharan Africa

* Dena Freeman, Chapter 8 in Tomalin, “Pentecostalism and Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa”
* Dena Freeman, “Development and the Rural Entrepreneur: Pentecostals, NGOs, and the Market in the Gamo Highlands, Ethiopia,” in Freeman, ed, *Pentecostalism and Development: Churches, NGOs, and Social Change in Africa* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012)

*Recommended:*

* Paul Freston, Chapter 9 in Tomalin, “Development and Religious Change in LA”

Week 8, 10/14 – 10/16 Review and Midterm Exam

10/16 Midterm Exam

10/18 No class – quad finals

Week 9, 10/21 -10/25 Religion and Development in South Asia

* Emma Tomalin, Chapter 13 in Tomalin, “Religion and Development in India and Pakistan”
* Shawn Teresa Flanigan, “Problems in Paradise: Violence, Fear, and Coercion in Sri Lanka’s NGO Sector,” *For the Love of God: NGOs and Religious Identity in a Violent World* (Sterling, VA: Kumarian Press, 2010)

10/23 Guest speaker, Hunter Carroll, Global Unites *(invited)*

*10/25 Paper thesis, proposal and outline due*

Week 10, 10/28 -11/1 China, development, labor mobility, and inequalities

* Martin King Whyte, “Soaring Income Gaps: China in Comparative Perspective,” *Daedalus,* 2014(2):39-52. <http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/martinwhyte/files/pdf.pdf?m=1397755377>
* Indermit Gill et al, “Winners and Losers Along China’s Belt and Road,” *The Brookings Institution,* 6/21/19 <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2019/06/21/winners-and-losers-along-chinas-belt-and-road/>
* Andre Laliberte, Chapter 16 in Tomalin, “Religion and Development in China”

Week 11, 11/4 – 11/8 Religious INGOs

* Gerald Clarke, “FBOs and International Development in a Post-Liberal World,” in Claudia Baumgart-Ochse and Klaus Dieter Wolf, eds, *Religious NGOs at the United Nations: Polarizers or Mediators?* (New York: Routledge, 2019)
* David P. King, “Heartbroken for God’s World: The Story of Bob Pierce, Founder of World Vision and Samaritan’s Purse,” in Thomas J. Davis, ed, *Religion in Philanthropic Organizations: Family, Friend, Foe?* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2013)

Week 12, 11/11 – 11/15 Religion, Tech, and Development in Middle East and Africa

* Rana Jawad, Chapter 19 in Tomalin, “Religion and Development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA): Poverty Relief or Social Transformation?”
* Robert Draper, “How Africa’s Tech Generation is Changing the Continent,” *National Geographic,* December 2017

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/12/africa-technology-revolution/>

*Recommended*

* Mariz Tadros, Chapter 21 in Tomalin, “Sexuality, Development and Islamophilia in the Arab Uprisings”

11/13 Guest Speaker: Marilyn/Cliff Gardner, “Islam and Development” *(invited)*

11/15 “Solar Mamas” <https://vimeo.com/52224442>?

Week 13, 11/18 – 11/22 Aid and Development (Aid debate of the 2000s)

* Jeffrey Sachs, “The Case for Aid,” *Foreign Policy,* January 21, 2014

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/01/21/the-case-for-aid/>

* Damisa Moyo,“Does Aid Work?” *New Statesman*, June 25, 2012

<http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/human-rights/2012/06/does-aid-work>

* Paul Collier, “The Politics of Hunger,” *Foreign Affairs* 87.6, Nov/Dec 2008

<http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA187842433&v=2.1&u=mlin_n_gordon&it=r&p=AONE&sw=w>

* Max Bearak and Lazaro Gamio, “US Foreign Aid Budget, Visualized,” *Washington Post,* 10/18/16

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/world/which-countries-get-the-most-foreign-aid/>

11/22 Guest Speaker: Peter Coleman, Country Director, Nicaragua at Mission, “The Private Sector and Limited Development in Nicaragua” *(invited)*

Week 14, 11/25 Women and Development

* Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn, “The Women’s Crusade,” *NYT* 8/23/09 <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/magazine/23Women-t.html>
* UN Women, “Gender Equality and Sustainable Development,” 2014, pp 95 – 104
* Hung-En Sung, “From Victims to Saviors? Women, Power and Corruption,” *Current History* (March 2006)

11/27 – 11/29 Thanksgiving break

Week 15, 12/2 – 12/6 The Environment, Natural Resources, and Development in Latin America and Globally

* Paul Freston, “Marina Silva: A Brazilian Case Study in Religion, Politics and Human Rights” in Evan Berry & Robert Albro, eds, *Church, Cosmovision, and Environment: Religion and Social Conflict in Latin America* (New York: Routledge, 2018)
* Joyeeta Gupta, “Growth, the Environment, and Development in the Anthropocene,” *Current History,* November 2015
* Veerabhadran Ramanathan et al, “The Next Front on Climate Change,” *Foreign Affairs*, March 2016

<http://proxy2.noblenet.org/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip&db=a9h&AN=112811961&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

12/6 Guest Speaker: Dorothy Boorse, “Christianity, Environmental Degradation, and Vulnerable People”

*Recommended*:

* NPR, “What Would Jesus Drive?” Podcast with Rick Cizik, *Rough Translation,* 7/24/19 <https://www.npr.org/2019/07/18/743118522/what-would-jesus-drive>

**12/6 Research paper due by 11 p.m.**

Week 16, 12/9 -12/11 Economic Development: Access to Credit and Cash

* Karol Boudreaux and Tyler Cowen, “The Micromagic of Microcredit, ” *Daily Times* 1/12/08 <http://archive.wilsonquarterly.com/essays/micromagic-microcredit>
* Bruce Wydick, “3 Reasons the Impact of Microcredit May be Bigger than We Thought,” *Across Two Worlds* <https://www.acrosstwoworlds.net/?p=1003> 4/19/19
* Conditional Cash Transfers’ article TBD

*Recommended*:

* Amin Mohseni-Cheraghlou, Chapter 20 in Tomalin, “Islamic Finance, Financial Inclusion

and Poverty Reduction in MENA”

12/13 Review Session

Tuesday 12/17 Final exam (12:00 – 2:00 p.m.)