

GOVT 379 – 21ST CENTURY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SYLLABUS

Instructor: Michael Cooper M.A.
Email: coopermp@state.gov
Mikecooper78@gmail.com

I am overseas most of the time so I am not reachable by phone; however, you can reach me on Skype (under my gmail address) or by email. I am able to do calls and/or video conferencing over Skype by appointment only, just email me and we can set up a time to talk. I may not return your email right away, but if I don't respond within a couple of days, send me another email and I will get back to you.

In addition to email and Skype, I have set up a blog page where you can ask questions and start discussion topics. The blog can be found at <http://ascintldevelopment.blogspot.com/>. I encourage you to utilize this blog page because other students may have the same question or may want to contribute to your discussion topic. Just email me and I can add you to the blog if you want to post to it. Of course if you have a question or discussion you want to handle outside of the blog, you can always email me or set up a time to talk via Skype.

COURSE DELIVERY:

Print-Based Correspondence Course

CREDIT HOURS:

Three Semester Hours

COURSE MATERIALS:

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the "ASC Bookstore" icon.

Use **Section Number: 1063** to order books from Bookstore site.

Sen, Amartya. (2000). *Development as Freedom*. New York, NY: Alfred Knopf.
Easterly, William. (2003). *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
Collier, Paul. (2009). *Wars, Guns, and Votes: Democracy in Dangerous Places*, New York, NY: Harper.
Collier, Paul. (2008). *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

I reserve the right to assign additional material (policy papers, articles, etc.) for you to read and possibly respond to. I will make sure that this material is available for free on the internet before I assign it.

GOVT 379 – 21ST CENTURY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I suggest that you read the New York Times World Section regularly, which is available for free online and will be extremely helpful to you as you work through the course. It will also give you ideas for research topics.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

International Development has taken on a new emphasis in the post 9-11 world, after the events of that day it became obvious that the poverty and lack of freedom in the developing world can have a direct, and catastrophic, impact on those living in any part of the world. This course will examine the approaches taken by the international community towards promoting democracy and economic growth in the developing world as well as assess the reasons why some people have so much, and some so little. This course will take theory and apply it to real world application as we consider the historical progression of development in determining how we practice it in the future.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will:

- Display strategic knowledge of development issues and approaches since WWII
- Perform analysis of the various proposed elements, “causes” and “cures” of less developed societies.
- Apply theoretical arguments to practical development efforts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

We will start the course with Amartya Sen’s outstanding contribution to the discourse with *Development as Freedom*. Sen focuses on development in the paradigm of individual capability to exercise freedom. He covers the standard fields of health, poverty, markets, population control, democracy, and overall philosophical underpinnings. This is a good beginning to the course because it covers the standard elements of international development and because this is a new approach within the field. Amartya Sen reversed the state-focused Cold War thinking I alluded to above, and focused the international development dialogue intensely on the individual:

“Rather than the common focus on income and wealth, or on mental satisfaction (by utilitarians) or processes (by libertarians), Sen suggests a focus on what he calls capabilities — substantive human freedoms. And he argues for a broad view of freedom, one that encompasses both processes and opportunities, and for recognition of “the heterogeneity of distinct components of freedom”.
(http://dannyreviews.com/h/Development_Freedom.html)

Luckily for you, you have an understanding instructor and you don’t have to read the entire book. You can skip Chapter 3, which is a discussion of the book’s philosophical underpinnings. However, I do recommend that you read it and you can utilize the

GOVT 379 – 21ST CENTURY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

internet to help you get through this chapter as well as the rest of the concepts in the book.

The next book we will read is William Easterly's *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. This book turned international development on its head. When Easterly wrote this book, he was a leading official at the World Bank, an organization that develops aid and lending programs for the developing world and is a major player in the field. Easterly briefly covers many of the past approaches and theories to international development, pointing out their successes and failures, both of which the World Bank was a part. Partly as a result of this book, Easterly made a hasty exit from the World Bank and followed up *The Elusive Quest for Growth* with *The New White Man's Burden*, which I am not requiring you to read, but I do suggest it.

Paul Collier has published two books in the last two years that are easy reads, and will introduce you to a slightly different take on international development with the concept of the "Bottom Billion", a phrase Collier coined, which means the population of the planet that subsides on less than a dollar a day. You will read *The Bottom Billion* first and then proceed to *Wars, Guns and Votes*. Both books rely on a lot of statistical work and have their critics, especially *Wars, Guns and Votes*.

International development is in a perpetual state of flux and since it encompasses so many fields, you are sure to find phrases and concepts that you are unfamiliar with. But you are lucky because this is part of why international development is so interesting, and you have the resources available to you to completely understand the material covered in this course. When you are doing your reading for this course and you come across something you don't understand, GOOGLE IT! Follow links on webpages and see where they lead, there are tons of think tanks, NGO's, Advocacy Groups, International Institutions, etc., all of which have lots of material on their work.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Development as Freedom Essay: 30 points

The Quest for Elusive Growth Essay: 25 points

The Bottom Billion and Wars, Guns and Votes Essay: 25 points

Op-eds: 20 points combined

100-90 points: A

89-80 points: B

79-70 points: C

69-60 points: D

59 points and below: F

GOVT 379 – 21ST CENTURY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ADA STATEMENT:

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719.587.7221 as soon as possible.