Why are developing countries still so impoverished? Why are income disparities in the world still so pronounced? Why are some countries progressing and others not or much less so? Focusing on these basic questions, this course provides an introduction to issues in Third World development and politics. After analyzing some of the objective indicators of underdevelopment as well as gaining a greater appreciation of the subjective experiences of poverty and marginality, we will examine a number of economic, sociological and political frameworks for understanding some of the major constraints to and opportunities for advancement in developing societies.

Readings:
The following books are required and are available for purchase at the University bookstore. A compilation of articles is also required and available on Blackboard.


Requirements and Grading:

Reading is due by the Tuesday session of each week. It is imperative that students do the readings, reflect upon them, and come to class prepared to discuss them. Class participation will be a significant factor in the final grade. Attendance will be taken into consideration to the extent that one must be present in order to participate. There will be one short initial written assignment, two in-class examinations, and one comprehensive take-home essay. Further instructions for each assignment will be discussed in class. Please bring a blue book to both in-class examinations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Grade Distribution</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial reflections/observations</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
<td>September 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First in-class examination</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
<td>October 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second in-class examination</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
<td>November 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive essay</td>
<td>30 percent</td>
<td>December 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make-up policy: Students are expected to take the two in-class exams on the scheduled dates, and to hand the essay in on time. Make ups and extensions will be reserved for the most exceptional of circumstances, such as a serious medical illness (accompanied by a physician’s letter) or death of a close family member. You must have documentation in order for a make up to be considered.

The take home essay must be submitted at the beginning of class on December 1. There is a penalty of a full letter grade per day for late essays (e.g. An “A” will move down to a “B.”) I will not accept papers that are submitted via e-mail.

Students are expected to understand and adhere to all University regulations about cheating. Students will also be expected to observe all University procedures and deadlines for withdrawals. If you have questions about the university honor code and what constitutes plagiarism, see registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471–6259, www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd.

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of any pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day.

Plus/minus grades will be assigned for the final grade.

The use of both cell phones and laptop computers during class is strictly prohibited.
SCHEDULE OF READINGS (* on Blackboard)

I. INTRODUCTION

Week 1 – August 29 and September 1: Objective Indicators and Subjective Feelings of Underdevelopment


II. ECONOMIC ROOTS OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT

Week 2 – September 6 and 8: Dependency, Globalization, and Development


Week 3 – September 13 and 15: Dependency, cont.

**Note: First assignment is due on September 13.


* Erik Weede. 1996. “Why Poor People Stay Poor Elsewhere.” Chapter 29 in Mitchell

Week 4 – September 20 and 22: Microcredit, Social Business, and Poverty Alleviation


Week 5 – September 27 and 29: Economic Development and the Environment


III. SOCIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL CONSTRAINTS TO DEVELOPMENT

Week 6 – October 4 and 6: Risk Aversion and the Subsistence Ethic

**Note: The first in-class exam will be on October 6.


Week 7 – October 11 and 13: Women and Development


**Week 8 – October 18 and 20: More on Women and Related Issues**


**IV. POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Week 9 – October 25 and 27: Colonialism and its Aftermath, Ethnic Conflict**


**Week 10 – November 1 and 3: Regime Issues: Authoritarianism vs. Democracy**

**Second in-class exam will take place on November 3**

V. SPECIAL ISSUES CONCERNING THE POOREST COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

Week 11 – November 8 and 10: Bottom Billion Concerns

Paul Collier. 2007. *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can be Done About It.* (Entire book)

Week 12 – November 15 and 17: More on the Bottom Billion


Week 13 – November 22 (and Thanksgiving):

No new reading.

Week 14 – November 29 and December 1: Reflections on Development, Past, Present, and Future

No new reading.

**Note:** The comprehensive essay will be due at the beginning of class on Thursday, December 1