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 a final take-home essay that reflects upon the course as a whole. Further instructions for each assignment will be handed out 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 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First in-class examination</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
<td>October 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second in-class examination</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
<td>November 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final take-home essay</td>
<td>30 percent</td>
<td>December 2</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 final 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 final essay must be submitted at the beginning of the last class session. 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.

There will be a strict ban on the use of cell phones.
SCHEDULE OF READINGS
(* on Blackboard)

I. INTRODUCTION

Week 1 – August 31 and September 2: Objective Indicators and Subjective Feelings of Underdevelopment


II. ECONOMIC ROOTS OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT

Week 2 – September 7 and 9: Dependency, Globalization, and Development


Week 3 – September 14 and 16: Dependency, cont.

**Note: First assignment is due on September 14.


Week 4 – September 21 and 23: Microcredit, Social Business, and Poverty Alleviation


Week 5 – September 28 and 30: Economic Development and the Environment


III. SOCIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL CONSTRAINTS TO DEVELOPMENT

Week 6 – October 5 and 7: Risk Aversion and the Subsistence Ethic
**Note: The first in-class exam will be on October 7.**


**Week 7 – October 12 and 14: Women and Development**


**Week 8 – October 19 and 21: More on Women and Development**


**IV. POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Week 9 – October 26 and 28: Colonialism and its Aftermath, Ethnic Conflict**


**Week 10 – November 2 and 4: Regime Issues: Authoritarianism vs. Democracy**


V. SPECIAL ISSUES CONCERNING THE POOREST COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

Week 11 – November 9 and 11: Bottom Billion Concerns

**Note: The second in-class examination will be on November 11.

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

Week 12 – November 16 and 18: More on the Bottom Billion


Week 13 – November 23 (and Thanksgiving):

No new reading.

Week 14 – November 30 and December 2: Reflections on Development, Past, Present, and Future

No new reading.

**Note: Final essay will be due at the beginning of class on Thursday, December 2