**Instructor:** Poulami Roychowdhury

**Email:** poulami.roychowdhury@mcgill.ca

**Office:** Leacock 839

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 3:30-4:45 pm

**Course Description and Goals**

What is development and how does it happen? Why have certain countries developed while others have not? This course provides a critical lens on the political economy of development. We will compare the divergent trajectories of both “developed” and “developing” countries. Throughout the course, we will analyze how economic processes, politics, and social relations shape developmental outcomes. This involves thinking about the way global power relations, class inequality, state capacity, and social movements influence industrial growth, social welfare, and resource distribution. By the end of the semester, students in the course should have a firm grasp on the following debates: 1) competing definitions of development; 2) key factors that enable and impede development; 3) consequences of different developmental models for human wellbeing.

**Course Policies**

**Ethics**

* You are responsible for behaving respectfully towards your Instructor and your fellow students. Aggressive and condescending behavior towards others will not be tolerated.
* McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism, and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. See <http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest> and <http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/academicrights/integrity/cheating> for more information.

**Written Materials**

* Students in this course have the right to submit written work in either English or French.
* Late assignments automatically lose 1 point every day they are late.
* There is no extra credit opportunity for late or missed work.
* All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman, with one-inch margins.
* Your final paper must include in-line citations and a bibliography.
* Spelling and grammatical mistakes will adversely impact your grade. The McGill Writing Centre provides help with written assignments.

**Accommodations**

* + *Short term*: Valid excuses for missed class or a late assignment include illness or personal emergency. Please provide an official note from a doctor or the Dean’s office.
* *Long term*: If you need accommodations for more than one assignment or multiple missed classes, please let me know immediately and register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) <http://www.mcgill.ca/osd/>

**Course Materials**

* There is an online site for this course. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with MyCourses and knowing how to use it. If you have technical issues, please contact ITS.
* All course materials are available free of charge through either McGill’s e-library or MyCourses. Look in the contents section of Mycourses for materials.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

**Class Attendance (10 classes x 1 point = 10 points total)**

Attendance is worth one point per class. I will start taking attendance after the add/drop period ends.

**Leading Class Discussion (2 presentations x 5 points = 10 points total)**

You will present one of the assigned readings for that week to the class. Presentations should last 5-10 minutes and include: 1) a brief summary of the author’s main argument, 2) linkages between the reading and prior class readings; 3) any critiques you have of the reading, including issues that confused you.

**Weekly Memos (8 memos x 2 points per memo = 16 points total)**

DUE 5:00pm Tuesday before each class. Post to the appropriate Memo folder in MyCourses*.*

You are expected to write a very short memo (max 1 pg. double spaced) for every class except those you lead class discussion. Memos can include any of the following: questions you have about the readings, new facts you learned, critiques, connections with other class readings. Please be concise.

**Group Presentation (14 points)**

In-class April 8

Throughout the semester, you will work with other students in the class on a mini research project that helps us understand current events in developing economies. On the last day of class, each group will present their findings. The research should cover news and journalistic reports (including podcasts). Each person in the group should take an active role in the research and presentation. Along with your presentation, please upload a short account (1 paragraph) of the role you played in preparing the group presentation.

* ***Group 1: Brazil***

Who is Jair Bolsonaro? How did he come to power and what is he doing?

* ***Group 2: Hong Kong v. China***

Why are people protesting in Hong Kong? How has China responded?

* ***Group 3: India***

What are the Citizenship Amendment Act of 2019 and the National Register of Citizens? What do these policies have to do with the rise of Hindu Nationalism?

* ***Group 4: Ukraine and the United States***

Who is Volodymyr Zelensky? What did he promise to do for Ukraine and how did he get mixed up with Donald Trump’s impeachment in the United States?

**Final Research Paper (50 points)**

DUE Friday April 17 at 5:00 pm. Upload to MyCourses.

Pick a country and locate an issue in that country that is relevant to class readings. The country you choose can be the same country that you research for the Group Presentation. But the topic cannot be the same topic. Please do outside readings for the paper (at least 2 outside readings on the country you have chosen). Use course concepts to analyze the issue (minimum of 3 class readings). The paper should be 15 pgs. double spaced. It should include a research question, a thesis, and a well structured argument. Include in-line citations and a bibliography.

**Reading Schedule**

**Jan 8 Introduction**

**I. Theories and Concepts**

**Jan 15 Conceptualizing Development: Income, Ideas, Exploitation**

* Debraj Ray. 1998. *Development Economics.* “Chapter 2: Economic Development Overview.”
* Karl Marx. 1976. *Capital: Volume 1*. New York: Penguin Books. “Chap 26: The Secret of Primitive Accumulation,” and “Chap 27: The Expropriation of the Agricultural Population from the Land.” Available as ebook.
* Arturo Escobar. *Encountering Development*. “Introduction” and “Chap 2: The Problematization of Poverty.” Available as ebook.

**Jan 22 Defining State Capacity** *Add/drop ends*

* Alice Amsden. 1990. “Third World Industrialization: Global Fordism or a New Model?” *New Left Review*, 182: 5-31. Library.
* Peter Evans. 1989. “Predatory, Developmental and Other Apparatuses: A Comparative Political Economy Perspective on the Third World State.” *Sociological Forum*, 4 (4). Library.
* Akhil Gupta. 2012. *Red Tape: Bureaucracy, Structural Violence, and Poverty in India*. “Chap 2: The State and the Politics of Poverty,” pgs. 41-72. Available as ebook.

**Jan 29 Varieties of Colonialism**

* Atul Kohli. 2004. *State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery*. “Part IV: Dashed Expectations – Nigeria.” Available as ebook.
* Matthew Lange. 2005. *Lineages of Despotism and Development*. “Chap 1: Introduction” and “Chap 4: Mauritius: Direct Rule and Development.” Available as ebook.

**Feb 5 Global Power Relations**

* Ha-Joon Chang. 2002. *Kicking away the Ladder: Development Policy in Historical Perspective*. “Chap 2: Policies for Economic Development,” and “Chap 3: Institutions and Economic Development”
* David Harvey. 2004. “The New Imperialism.” *Socialist Register.*

**Feb 12 Expertise**

* William Easterly. 2014. *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor*. “Why the debate never happened,” “Chap 4: Race, War, and the Fate of Africa,” and “The Blank Slate versus Learning from History.” Available as ebook.
* James Ferguson. 1994. *The Anti-Politics Machine: Development, Depoliticization, Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho*. “Chap 1: Introduction,” and “Chap 9: The Anti-Politics Machine.” Available as ebook.

**Feb 19 Financialization**

* Peter Gowan. 1999. *The Global Gamble: Washington’s Faustian Bid for World Dominance*. “Part I: The Globalization Gamble,” pgs. 3-138.

**Feb 26 Political Participation and Governance**

* Patrick Heller. 2001. “Moving the State: The Politics of Democratic Decentralization in Kerala, South Africa, and Porto Alegre.” *Politics and Society*, 29: pgs. 131-163. Library.
* Partha Chatterjee. 2004. *The Politics of the Governed*: *Reflections on Popular Politics in Most of the World*. “Chapter 3: The Politics of the Governed.” pgs. 53-78. Available as ebook.

**March 4 Reading Week**

**March 11 Meet with Presentation Group**

I rely on you to organize yourselves and figure out how to best spend this time preparing for your group presentation.

**II. Case Studies**

**March 19 India’s Uneven Progress**

* Vivek Chibber. 2003.“Chap 1”: Introduction “Chap 2: Late Development and State-Building in India.” *Locked in Place*. Available as ebook.
* Atul Kohli. 2012. “Section 1: Illusions of Inclusion,” *Poverty Amid Plenty in the New India.* Available as ebook.

**March 26 South Korea’s Transformation**

* Vivek Chibber. 2003. “Chap 3: The Origins of the Developmental State in Korea.” *Locked in Place.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Available as ebook.
* Diane Davis. 2004. *Discipline and Development: Middleclasses and Prosperity in East Asia*. “Chap 1: Introduction”, “Chap 3: Discipline and Reward South Korea.” Available as ebook.

**April 2 China Rising**

* Philip Pan. 2018. “The Land that Failed to Fail,” *New York Times*. Google.
* Ching Kwan Lee. 2017. “Chap 1: Unnatural Capital,” and “Chap 2: Varieties of Accumulation,” and “Chap 3: Labor Bargains.” *The Specter of Global China*.

**April 9 Group Presentations & Class Potluck**