

PSCI 4012: GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Department of Political Science
University of Colorado at Boulder

Professor Andy Baker
Andy.Baker@Colorado.edu
Spring 2019



COURSE OBJECTIVES

Why are a few countries rich while so many are relatively poor? This course will explore a number of different answers to this incredibly important question. Are the world’s vast inequalities due to centuries of exploitation of the global South by the West? Or are they due to bad leadership, poor institutions, and cultural values in the South itself? Alternatively, is global poverty due to something outside of human control, namely nature and geography? This course will give students a variety of tools for thinking about these questions. The course will also consider several country cases and present other descriptive material about the politics, economics, and societies of less developed countries.



COURSE SCHEDULE

Day 1

Course Guidelines and Themes

- Recommended reading: *Shaping the Developing World* by Andy Baker (978-1608718559)
- Recommended reading: *Getting Better* by Charles Kenny (978-0465031030)

UNIT 1: THE WEST: COLONIALISM, TRADE, AND AID

Day 2

Slavery and Western Colonialism

- Recommended reading: Engerman and Sokoloff. *Economic Development in the Americas since 1500* (978-0521251372)

Day 3

Dependency Theory, the Bretton Woods Institutions, and Foreign Aid

- Recommended reading: *White Man’s Burden* by William Easterly (978-0143038825)

UNIT 2: THE SOUTH: CULTURE, POLICY, AND INSTITUTIONS

Day 4

Culture and Development

- Recommended reading: *Poor Economics* by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo (978-1610390934)

Day 5

Economic Policy and Institutions

- Recommended reading: *Why Nations Fail* by Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson (978-0307719225)

Day 6

Political Institutions

- Recommended reading: *Dictator’s Handbook* by Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith (978-1610391849)

UNIT 3: THE NATURAL WORLD: GEOGRAPHY AND DEVELOPMENT

Day 7

Geography

- Recommended reading: *Guns, Germs and Steel* by Jared Diamond (978-0393354324)

Day 8

Written exam