Course description

Consider a photograph taken from space of the Earth at night. What will you see? Great agglomerations of light in some parts of the world (North America, Western Europe, parts of East Asia) contrasted with vast expanses of darkness in others (much of Central and South America, Southeast Asia and nearly all of Africa). This pattern of light and darkness depicts a vastly unequal global distribution of technology, urban infrastructure, capital accumulation – in short, the global patterns of development and underdevelopment. What makes some areas ‘light’ and some areas ‘dark’? More importantly, how are these areas connected – both within and across national boundaries – through trade and capital flows, political authority, violence and the natural environment? What are the relations between development and underdevelopment?

This course is an investigation of political, economic and societal growth (or lack thereof) and change in the Global North and Global South through the lenses of Political Economy and Political Ecology. We will focus in particular on the global factors influencing development and underdevelopment, political-economic connections across national borders, and the intersections of power, production and nature. During our course of study we will cover global patterns of inequality and their history; development strategies; the politics of population control; the intersections of power, violence, and nature; the contributions of technology to solving environmental and political problems; and finally, the prospects of development for all.

Readings

There are six books assigned for this course plus one course reader divided into two parts. You may pick up Part One of the reader now in Hollander Hall. Part Two will be available later in the semester. The following books are available for purchase at Water Street Books or through your favorite on-line retailer:


Course requirements and grades

1. **Essays** (20% each – 40% overall)

Out of five opportunities, you will write two essays (5-7 pages; 1-in. margins; double-spacing; 10-pt. font min.) on course readings during the semester. You may choose any two based on your personal interests, work due in other courses, sports schedule, etc. Students may write more than two essays and have only the best two count toward the overall course grade. Themes and due dates are as follows:

Poverty: Global and Globalized – February 21  
The Origins of North and South – March 10  
Development and Underdevelopment – April 4  
(Over)population – April 18  
Violent environments – May 5

You will not be given paper prompts, but will be expected to craft your own topic based on the readings for that section of the course. All students are strongly encouraged to discuss their papers plans with me before they begin writing!

2. **Research paper** (35%)

You will write one term research paper (12-15 pages; 1-in. margins; double-spacing; 10-pt. font min.) on a topic of your choice in consultation with me. A 1-2 page prospectus is due April 29. A bibliography is due May 10. The final paper is due May 21.

3. **Discussion questions** (15%)

Prior to each class, you will submit two questions for discussion based on the assigned readings for that day. Possible questions might explore unclear passages in the readings, point out notable gaps in an author’s discussion, or offer critiques of an author’s argument. I will use these questions to guide class discussion each day. Please use the online Glow system to submit your questions.

Questions are due by 10:00am the day of class. If you miss a day’s questions, don’t bother writing them later; they are of no use after class has occurred. I will return your questions with comments

**Note on written assignments:**

All papers are due by 4:00pm on the due date. This policy is firm! Early papers are always welcome, but late papers will be penalized one partial letter grade (e.g. from A to A-, B+ to B) per class session late. If you are able only to write a poor paper by the deadline, consider taking the grade penalty and the extra time to write an excellent one.

I prefer paper copies of your writing assignments, although under extraordinary circumstances you may email them to me in a common file format (i.e. .doc, .docx, .wpd, .rtf, .txt, .pdf – but please no .dat).

All papers should be the product of your own individual efforts. Remember, the Honor Code applies in this class!
but will not grade them until the end of the semester when you will turn them all in together in class on May 13. Do not lose or throw out your discussion questions!

4. Class participation (10%)

This course will be conducted as a seminar. The level and amount of reading is at times challenging, but certainly not beyond any student’s capabilities. All students will be expected to keep up with the readings during the semester and contribute to class discussion. Regular attendance and constructive participation is expected. More than one unexcused absence will result in a grade penalty.
## COURSE CALENDAR

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics and Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>INTRODUCTION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>• No readings</td>
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<td><strong>POVERTY: GLOBAL AND GLOBALIZED</strong></td>
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<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>Political ecology</td>
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<td>• Andrew P. Vayda and Bradley B. Walters, “Against political ecology,” <em>Human Ecology</em>, March 1999</td>
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<td>• Peter A. Walker, “Political ecology: Where is the policy?” <em>Progress in Human Geography</em>, June 2006</td>
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<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>Measuring poverty</td>
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<td>• Branko Milanovic, “Global inequality recalculated and updated,” <em>Journal of Economic Inequality</em> (forthcoming)</td>
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<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>What is development?</td>
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<td>• Jeffrey D. Sachs, <em>The End of Poverty</em>, ch. 18</td>
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<td>• Gilbert Rist, <em>The History of Development</em>, chs. 1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td><em>Winter Carnival – no class</em></td>
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THE ORIGINS OF NORTH AND SOUTH

Feb. 22  Pomeranz


NOTE: Just skim the appendices

Feb. 25  Critique of Pomeranz


March 1  Late Victorian Holocauts I

- Mike Davis, Late Victorian Holocauts, Preface and Part I

March 4  Late Victorian Holocauts I

- Mike Davis, Late Victorian Holocauts, Part II

March 8  Late Victorian Holocauts I

- Mike Davis, Late Victorian Holocauts, Part IV

NOTE: Class may be rescheduled for March 11 due to my civic obligation of jury duty
DEVELOPMENT AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT

March 11  Development strategies, 1945-1982

• Gilbert Rist, The History of Development, chs. 4-6 & 9

NOTE: Class may be rescheduled for the evening of Monday, March 14 due to my civic obligation of jury duty

March 15  Development strategies, 1982-date

• Gilbert Rist, The History of Development, chs. 10-13

March 18  Do we know how to develop countries?

• Jeffrey Sachs, The End of Poverty, chs. 12-16

SPRING BREAK

(OVER)POPULATION

April 5  The Malthusians

• Garrett Hardin, “The tragedy of the commons,” Science, 13 December 1968
• E. O. Wilson, The Future of Life (2002), ch. 2
• Paul R. Ehrlich and Anne H. Ehrlich, “The population explosion: Why we should care and what we should do about it,” Environmental Law, Winter 1997
April 8  
No class due to Prof. Paul rethinking capitalism in Santa Cruz, CA; rescheduled for the evening of Monday, April 11

April 11  
Fatal Misconception I
- Matthew Connelly, Fatal Misconception, Introduction & chs. 4-5

April 12  
Fatal Misconception II
- Matthew Connelly, Fatal Misconception, chs. 6-7

April 15  
Fatal Misconception III
- Matthew Connelly, Fatal Misconception, chs. 8-9 & Conclusion

VIOLENT ENVIRONMENTS

April 19  
Oil
- Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler, “Greed and grievance in civil war,” Oxford Economic Papers, October 2004

NOTE: Today is Passover. Students observing this holiday are excused from class without penalty

April 22  
Famine
- Amartya K. Sen, Poverty and Famines (1981), chs. 1, 4-5 & 7

NOTE: Today is Good Friday. Students observing this holiday are excused from class without penalty
April 26  **Malaria I**
- Randall Packard, *The Making of a Tropical Disease*, Introduction & chs. 1-4

April 29  **Malaria II**
- Randall Packard, *The Making of a Tropical Disease*, chs. 5-8 & Conclusion

May 3  **Animals**
- Matthew Scully, *Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy* (2002), ch. 6

**GREEN DEVELOPMENT?**

May 6  **Will green technology save us?**
- Thomas Friedman, *Hot, Flat and Crowded*, chs. 2, 9-10 & 12

May 10  **Jevons’ Paradox**

May 13  **Development or underdevelopment?**
- Jeffrey Sachs, *The End of Poverty*, chs. 2-3 & 17
- Gilbert Rist, *The History of Development*, ch. 14 & Conclusion