COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course offers an introduction to the theories, actors and substantive issues that are relevant to developing areas.

Its primary purpose is to expose students to the challenges that confront developing countries as well as the various political strategies used to address these problems.

A second overarching goal is to polish your critical thinking and communication skills. You will therefore be required to read original texts, think about the arguments they present, and write take home exams and one group project.

It is my hope that this course will create a foundation for understanding, tolerance, and compassion. It is also my hope that you will develop a deep and lifelong commitment to finding solutions to our most intractable global problems.

In September 2000, building upon a decade of major United Nations conferences and summits, world leaders came together at United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of time-bound targets - with a deadline of 2015 - that have become known as the Millennium Development Goals. Ending poverty is one of these.
Strategy
To achieve these goals, this class adopts two strategies. First, it exposes you to the dominant theoretical perspectives on development issues. As these works are challenging, class time will, to a large extent, revolve around discussions of the assigned readings. Second, you will be allowed to investigate one particular development problem in depth and communicate what you learned to the rest of the class.

Student Expectations
It is expected that you will complete all assignments on time and actively participate in classroom conversations. You are also expected to be courteous to your neighbors. In other words, you should turn off any noise-making electronic devices, like cell-phones, etc. You may use a computer to take notes; however, this right will be forfeit if your computer use is a distraction.

Class time will typically revolve around conversations of the assigned material. With so much weight resting on classroom conversations, it is essential that these conversations be civilized and respectful to everyone in the class and relevant to the topic under consideration. The most educational conversations are the products of attentive listening. As the Chinese Proverb reminds us, “to listen well is as powerful a means of influence as to talk well, and is essential to all true conversation.” When you are disrespectful towards others you only ensure that they will stop listening and therefore that you will stop learning.

Attendance
Attendance is mandatory. You can miss up to three classes without penalty but beyond this you will lose five percentage points from your final grade for each class you miss. In addition, missing any two presentations, meetings, or working sessions will result in a failing grade in the class. Exceptions to this policy are made at the instructors discretion.

Statement Concerning Students with Disabilities
Consistent with federal law and the policies of the University of Wisconsin, it is the policy of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay to provide appropriate and necessary accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. If you anticipate requiring any auxiliary aids or services, you should contact me or the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities at 465-2841 as soon as possible to discuss your needs and arrange for the provision of services.

Course Requirements
Take-home Essays (20 points each)
Take-home essays will be based on class material with some research-related material built in.

Quizzes (3 quizzes @ 10 points each)
Quizzes will be based on assigned pages from the Hammond Atlas and will be administered in class.

Research Project (30 points)
The politics of developing areas play out at the global, state, and local levels. Every day there are new stories about the challenges that confront developing areas and the strategies created to deal with them. All too often, the stories we tell and the strategies we propose highlight this complex and global struggle for power. These are the dynamics you will examine through your research project. Additional details are forthcoming.
Grading Scale

A      93-100
AB     87-92
B       83-86
BC      77-82
C       73-76
CD      67-72
D       60-66
F       0-59

**** Failure to submit any one essay or the final research essay will result in a failing grade in the class.

Required Texts

Course Schedule

9/6     Course Introduction

9/8     Sustainable Development
Read:

9/13    Development
Read: Gasper, Chapter 2; Dowden Chapter 1

9/15    Development in Uganda
Read: Dowden, Chapters 2 and 3

9/20    Efficiency and Effectiveness
Read: Gasper, Chapter 3

9/22    The History Trap
Read: Dowden, Chapter 4 and 15

9/27    Equity
Read: Gasper, Chapter 4
Geography Quiz #1: Africa and Education: Hammond pp. 36-49 and 120-121

9/29    Structural Inequity
Read: (in D2L)

Group Research Prospectus Due

10/4    Violence
Read: Des Gasper, Chapter 5
Take-home Essay #1 Due
10/6  Violence  
Read: Collier, Chapters 1 and 2

10/11  Violence  
Read: Collier, Chapters 4 - 6  
Geography Quiz #2: Asia and TBA

10/13  Violence  
Read: Collier, Chapters 8 - 10

10/18  Needs vs. Rights  
Read: Gasper, Chapter 6

10/20  Needs vs. Rights  
Read: Dowden, Chapters 11 and 18

10/25  Human Development  
Read: Gasper, Chapter 7  
Geography Quiz #3: Latin America and TBA

10/27  Human Development  

11/1  Human Development  
Read: Excerpts from Nicholas D. Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn 2009. Half the Sky. (D2L)

11/3  Culture  
Read: Gasper, Chapter 8

11/8  Culture  
Read: Dowden, Chapter 5; TBA  
Take-home Essay #2 Due

11/10 - 11/17 Research and Instructor Meetings

11/22 Stakeholder Group Meetings

11/24 Policy Group Meetings

11/29 Research

12/1 - 12/8 Presentations

12/13 Discussion

12/16 Research Essay Due - 2:15 pm in our usual room.

* As your instructor I reserve the right to change the terms of this syllabus at any time. It is your responsibility to keep up on any changes. Changes will be announced in class and via D2L.