Social Analysis 52 & Government 1100: 
The Political Economy of Development

Lectures: M, W, (F), 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Instructor: 
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CGIS Room N 213, Knafel Building  
Office Hours: Wednesday, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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Course Description:

Underdeveloped societies are agrarian and rural; developed societies, industrial and urban. 
Economic growth and economic development would appear therefore to imply a great transition. 
How does this transformation take place? What are the processes that lead rural and agricultural 
societies to become industrial and urban? What economic forces underlie this transformation? 
And what are the political processes by which agrarian elites become marginalized and the 
peasantry driven from off the land?

This course looks at the economics and politics of the great transformation. It examines the 
process historically, looking at the economic and political origins of the modern industrial states. 
And it does so in comparative perspective, comparing the process in the capitalist and socialist 
economies and in various regions of the developing world.

The course will be based upon two one-hour lectures and one section meeting per week. There 
will be regular reading assignments, a mid-term, and a final. In addition, students must complete 
three short (five page) papers.

The mid-term determines 15% and the final exam 25% of the final grade. Each paper will be 
weighted 10% of the final grade and performance in the section meetings 30%. Papers will be 
due October 7, November 16, and December 11.

Books to be Purchased:


R. H. Bates, Markets and States in Tropical Africa (Berkeley: University of California Press, 

R. H. Bates, Essays on the Political Economy of Rural Africa (Berkeley: University of 


All other readings will be on reserve at Lamont and/or contained in your course pack.

**Part I: Intellectual Background**

**Lecture 1: Introduction**

Wednesday, Sept. 2

**Lecture 2: Theorizing the developing world**

Wednesday, Sept. 9

Readings:


**Lecture 3: The conventional wisdom as illusion**

Monday, Sept. 14

Readings:


Recommended:


Alice Amsden, “Taiwan’s Economic History: A Case of Etatisme and a Challenge
Part II: Kinship Societies

Lecture 4: Economics and Politics in Kinship Societies  Wednesday, Sept. 16

Readings:


Lecture 5: Production in Kinship Societies  Monday, Sept. 21

Readings:


Lecture 6: Low Output: Conservatism or Choice?  Wednesday, Sept. 23

Readings: NONE

Lecture 7: Politics in Kinship Societies  Monday, Sept. 28 (Yom Kippur)

Readings:

Kenneth A. Shepsle, Analyzing Politics (New York: W. W. Norton, 1997), Chapters 8-10.


For additional reference:


**Part III: Peasant Societies**

**Lecture 8: The Demographic Theory of Development**

Wednesday, Sept. 30

**Readings:**


For additional reference:


**A. New Actors: The State and The Town**

**Lecture 9: The State, Extractive and Developmental**

Monday, Oct. 5

**Readings:**


Mid-term to be based on:


**Lecture 10: War** *First paper due.* (Clarify date paper due.)

Wednesday, Oct. 7

No class. **Columbus Day**

Monday, Oct. 12

**B. The Growth and Impact of Towns**
Lecture 11: The Growth of Towns
Readings:


For additional reference:


Lecture 12: The Rural Impact of Towns
Readings:


C. Town and Country

Lecture 13: Urban Bias and Industrial Production
Readings:


Midterm Examination

Monday, Oct. 26 (Is this when RHB wants mid-term?)

Lecture 14: The Ironic Origins of Industrial Development

Wednesday, Oct. 28

Lecture 15: The Commercial Revolution in Agriculture

Friday, Oct. 30
Part IV: Paths to Development – and Underdevelopment

A. Contemporary LDCs

Lecture 16: Forced Industrialization
Readings:

Lecture 17: Neutralizing the Farmer
Readings:


Lecture 18: Pitfalls and Recovery
Readings:

Dani Rodrik, “How Far will International Economic Integration Go?” Journal of
B. Communism

Lecture 19: The Political Economy of Communism
Readings:

No Class: Veterans’ Day

C. Capitalism

Lecture 20: Development in the United States
Readings:

Lecture 21: Economic Miracles  Second Paper Due
Readings:

D. A Synthesis

Lecture 22: The Ironic Position of Agriculture in the Political Economy of Development
Readings:

Part V: Violence Amidst Prosperity

A. Revolution

Lecture 23: Local Tensions I – Peasant Revolutions
Readings:
James C. Scott, The Moral Economy of the Peasant (New Haven: Yale University)
Press, 1976), chapters 1, 2, and 4.


**Recommended:**


**B. Communalism**

**Lecture 24: Local Tensions II – Communal Conflict, Living in Violence**

*Monday, Nov. 23*

**Readings:**


**No Class. Wednesday before Thanksgiving.**

*Wednesday, Nov. 25*

Last Day of Reading Period. **Third Paper Due.**

*Friday, Dec. 11*

Final Exam. See Exam Schedule.