



Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

POLITICS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Development, democracy, and...why did Pizarro, and not Atahualpa, win?

Number of sessions: 30

Length of each session: 1,5 h

Total length of the module: 45 hours

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

This is an introductory course to the politics of development from a comparative perspective. We will be addressing development issues across different points in time and across different world regions. Two main topics/concepts will be analysed throughout the semester: **development** and the **state**. We will study Latin America, Africa, and Asia, which form part of what is known as the *developing world* or *Third World*, which in fact we will make a problem out of this labelling. We will as well present a comparative overview of the Latin American, African, and Asian regions in general; and address and familiarise ourselves with the debates surrounding the *virtues & vices* of market economies (and globalisation). In addition, we will seek to answer part of this course title's premise/question, why did Francisco Pizarro (Spanish *conquistador*) won over Atahualpa (Inca Emperor)? throughout the semester. A cultural component, a film or play (related to development politics), will be part of this course by the end of the semester.

REQUIREMENTS

- Fluent in English
- No background knowledge in economics is required for this course.
- NOTE: Every written assignment in this class can be submitted in English, Spanish, Catalan, and/or Portuguese. Nonetheless, our class discussions and readings will be in English.

CONTENTS

- Politics of development
- Conceptualising development, democracy, the state, globalisation
- Development policies and the developing world
- Development in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia
- Regions in comparative perspective: The Developing World?
- Post-Keynes' Debates
- State, development, and other concerns

GRADING (THERE WILL BE NO EXAMS IN THIS COURSE)



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Discussion Papers (30%): Each student will write a 5-page (double-spaced) reaction paper criticizing and analyzing the readings pertaining to a preselected day. This task will be performed twice during the semester.

Research Paper (40%): This assignment will be divided in four parts throughout the semester. In this way, we can elaborate and discuss your ideas on what and how to write your final research paper assignment. The final paper will consist of 15 pages (double-spaced).

Presentation in class (10%): Each student will present his or her final research paper in class.

Reaction Critical Paper (10%): Each student will read another classmate's paper, listen to his/her paper presentation, and criticise the same ones. The student will submit a 5-page word-processed document (double-spaced) highlighting your comments, critiques, and questions posed to your classmate during his/her presentation and your level of satisfaction with the answers received in an orderly way. **YOUR COMMENTS WILL NOT HAVE ANY INFLUENCE ON YOUR CLASSMATE'S GRADING.**

Attendance (10%)

BIBLIOGRAPHY (Just a selection and we will read only a chapter or two of most books.)

- Amartya Sen (1999). *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books.
- Jared Diamond (1997). *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. Norton and Company.
- Mancur Olson (2000). *Power and Prosperity: Outgrowing Communist and Capitalist Dictatorships*. New York: Basic Books.
- Samir Amin *Beyond US Hegemony: Assessing the Prospects for a Multipolar World* (2006); *Capitalism in the age of globalization: The Management of Contemporary Society* (1997)
- Roberto Mangabeira Unger (1998). *Democracy Realized: A Progressive Alternative*. Verso.
- Robert H. Bates (2001). *Prosperity & Violence: The Political Economy of Development*. New York/London: W.W. Norton & Company.
- Charles Tilly (1975). *The Formation of National States in Western Europe*. Princeton University Press.
- A. Douglas Kincaid and Alejandro Portes, editors (1994). *Comparative National Development: Society and Economy in the New Global Order*. Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Carolina Press.
- Joseph E. Stiglitz (2002). *Globalization and Its Discontents*. W.W. Norton & Company: New York/London.
- Alex E. Fernández Jilberto and André Mommem, editors (1996). *Liberalization in the Developing World: Institutional and economic changes in Latin America, Africa, and Asia*. London and New York: Routledge.