


POLS 3358F
The Politics of Economic Development

Huron University College- Fall 2018

Dr. Jennifer Mustapha

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Fridays: 9:30- 11:30

Location: HC-W103

Course Prerequisites:

Poli Sci 2231E or permission of the department

My Office: A15

Office Hours: Wednesdays 4:00pm-5:00pm ; Fridays 12:30pm-1:30pm (Subject to change)

Contacting me:

The best way to contact me is through e-mail at jmustap@uwo.ca - During the week, I will try to respond within 24 hours, and on the weekends or over holidays within 48 hours. *Due to privacy rules, you must e-mail me from your own uwo.ca e-mail account.* E-mails are best for setting up office appointments and for asking brief questions, for which I can provide brief answers.

Course Materials:

- *There is no textbook for this course.* All required course materials are available through your access to the UWO library and through provided web links, and will consist mostly of academic articles, policy documents, and relevant media items. **A detailed list of weekly reading assignments will be provided at the beginning of term and posted on the course OWL site.**

Course Overview:

This is a 3rd year *seminar course* that examines debates and issues surrounding the politics of economic development. This course takes as its starting point the idea that existing global inequalities are rooted in historical structures, institutions, and narratives about what “progress” means. With this in mind, the course surveys the main theoretical and policy approaches that seek to explain the causes of development and underdevelopment; examines the dominant structures and institutions relating to development; and explores specific topics and issues in global development in areas like trade and economic globalization, foreign development aid, environmental governance, conflict and insecurity, and global health, among others.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate a critical understanding of the normative and analytical problems inherent in existing conceptions of development.
- 2) Demonstrate a critical understanding of dominant governance institutions and structures relating to development.
- 3) Demonstrate analytical knowledge of specific topics and issues relating to development.
- 4) Demonstrate and convey these competencies in a clear, critical and reflexive communication style.

Evaluation (Specifics will be discussed in class and posted on OWL):

Attendance and Participation:	20%
Critical Film Analysis:	20% (Due October 19)
Issue Discussion Lead:	15%
Research Roundtable:	15%
Final Essay:	30% (Due December 7)

Course Format:

This is a 3rd year seminar course that combines lectures, student-led discussions, writing assignments and a variety of learning methods. In general, each week will be devoted to a particular topic, and I will usually give a discussion-heavy lecture pertaining to that topic. My classes are interactive and collaborative- rather than just standing at the front and talking *at* you for an hour and a half, I will instead be asking you questions and engaging you in discussion in a variety of ways. As such, **all students are expected to complete the assigned readings each week before class**, and to come to every class armed with relevant questions and ideas to participate actively. In general, we will use the second half of class each week for a directed discussion led by me and/or student discussion leaders, where we critically engage the main points of the required readings and raise provocative and engaging questions relating to the weekly topic and the broader themes of the course.

Laptop/device use in the classroom:

I love tech as much as the next person, but over the years I have observed that an open laptop or a cellphone in the classroom can become an easy distraction, and students can fall into the habit of surfing and messaging, rather than listening to and engaging with the presentation or discussion that is taking place. This impedes your learning and it is also a distraction to others. This is especially important in a seminar class! Please be mindful of this, and know that I reserve the right to ask students to close their laptops or put their devices away on a case-by-case basis.

Index of Weeks and Topics

A detailed list of weekly reading assignments will be provided at the beginning of term and posted on the course OWL site.

IMPORTANT: Subject to change, especially in the event of illness or inclement weather. Appropriate notice will be given in the event of any changes.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Weekly Topic</i>
Sep. 07	Introduction to the course
Sep. 14	“Development” as a contested concept
Sep. 21	The politics of development discourses
Sep. 28	The politics of development governance*
Oct. 5	Economic globalization and development*
Oct. 12	*****NO CLASS: FALL READING WEEK*****
Oct. 19	Accounting for poverty and global inequalities* <i>(Critical Film Analysis due)</i>
Oct. 26	Development and the politics of global health and gender*
Nov. 02	Relating development to conflict and (in)security*
Nov. 09	Environmental challenges in development politics* <i>(*Weeks with student discussion leads)</i>
Nov. 16	TBD
Nov. 23	Research Roundtable- mandatory attendance
Nov. 30	Research Roundtable- mandatory attendance
Dec. 07	Class Wrap Up and Review: What is the future of “development”? <i>(Final Research Essay due)</i>



The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.