

PSCI 564
Development and Political Economy
Fall 2021
Thursdays 12:30pm-3:20pm, Harkness 329

Alexander Lee

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 10-12. Harkness 327

Course Goals:

This course surveys selected topics in the extensive literature on political and economic development. We will focus on differences in formal and informal institutions across countries. Topics will include the determinants of economic growth, the modernization hypothesis, distributional conflict, government corruption, the success and failure of states to deliver of public goods, among others.

Grading:

Class Participation — 30%

Three short research proposals (10% each) — 30%

Final Research Proposal — 40%

Course Policies:

Unexcused late work will be penalized a whole letter grade, and an additional letter grade for every additional 24 hours of lateness. Plagiarism or cheating will be treated seriously and reported to the Board of Academic Honesty.

Course Requirements:

Students must do all required readings, and be prepared to discuss them actively. **(30% of the grade).**

During the course, students must submit and present three short research proposal on a topic relevant to the course material, which should be a maximum of 500 words in length **(10% of the grade each)**. This proposal should outline 1) An existing theoretical or empirical puzzle, 2) an intuition as to a solution to this puzzle, 3) the data needed to test this puzzle, and 4) the identification strategy to be used.

As a final assignment, students must submit a research proposal that develops one of their shorter proposals, which should be a maximum of 3000 words in length. This proposal should outline include a more detailed literature review, discussion of theoretical hypotheses, and a

serious discussion of how to obtain the data. For projects with publicly available data, successful projects will include a rough preliminary analysis.

Readings

Week 1: Introduction

August 26th: Introduction to the class and the subject

No Class September 2nd

Week 2: The Historical Origins of Divergence

September 9th

Readings:

- 1) Mokyr, Joel. *The lever of riches: Technological creativity and economic progress*. Oxford University Press, 1992. Ch.1, 9, 10
- 2) Pomeranz, Kenneth. *The great divergence: China, Europe, and the making of the modern world economy*. Princeton University Press, 2009. P. 3-68
- 3) Acemoglu, Daron Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. "Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 118: 1231-1294. 2002.
- 4) Acemoglu, Daron & Simon Johnson & James Robinson. "The Rise of Europe: Atlantic Trade, Institutional Change, and Economic Growth," *American Economic Review*, American Economic Association, vol. 95(3), pages 546-579, June 2005.

Week 3: Colonialism

September 16th

Readings:

- 1) Lee, Alexander, and Kenneth A. Schultz. "Comparing British and French Colonial Legacies: A Discontinuity Analysis of Cameroon." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 7 (2012): 365-410.
- 2) Nunn, Nathan. "The long-term effects of Africa's slave trades." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123.1 (2008): 139-176.
- 3) Iyer, Lakshmi. "Direct versus indirect colonial rule in India: Long-term consequences." *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 92.4 (2010): 693-713.
- 4) Acemoglu, Daron, Tristan Reed, and James A. Robinson. "Chiefs: Economic development and elite control of civil society in Sierra Leone." *Journal of Political Economy* 122.2 (2014): 319-368.

Week 4: State Capacity

September 23rd

Readings:

- 1) Herbst, Jeffery. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2000. Ch.1.
- 2) Lee, Melissa M., and Nan Zhang. "Legibility and the informational foundations of state capacity." *The Journal of Politics* 79.1 (2017): 118-132.
- 3) Scott, James. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999. Ch.1.
- 4) Migdal, Joel S. *Strong societies and weak states: state-society relations and state capabilities in the Third World*. Princeton University Press, 1988. Introduction to Part 1, chapter 1.
- 5) Suryanarayan, Pavithra, and Steven White. "Slavery, reconstruction, and bureaucratic capacity in the American south." *American Political Science Review* 115.2 (2021): 568-584.

Week 5: State Policy and Development

September 30th

Readings:

- 1) Rostow, William. *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-communist Manifesto*. Third Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2003. Ch.1-2.
- 2) Evans, Peter B. *Embedded autonomy: states and industrial transformation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995. P.3-20, 43-73.
- 3) Jones, Benjamin F., and Benjamin A. Olken. "Do leaders matter? National leadership and growth since World War II." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 120.3 (2005): 835-864.
- 4) Topalova, Petia, and Amit Khandelwal. "Trade liberalization and firm productivity: The case of India." *Review of economics and statistics* 93.3 (2011): 995-1009.
- 5) Easterly, William, and Ross Levine. "Africa's growth tragedy: policies and ethnic divisions." *quarterly journal of economics* 112.4 (1997): 1203-1250.

Week 6: The Effects of Democracy on Development

October 7th

Readings:

- 1) Casey, Katherine, Rachel Glennerster, and Edward Miguel. "Reshaping institutions: Evidence on aid impacts using a preanalysis plan." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127.4 (2012): 1755-1812.
- 2) Fujiwara, Thomas. "Voting technology, political responsiveness, and infant health: Evidence from Brazil." *Econometrica* 83.2 (2015): 423-464.
- 3) Manion, Melanie. "Democracy, community, trust The impact of elections in rural China." *Comparative Political Studies* 39.3 (2006): 301-324.

- 4) Harding, Robin, and David Stasavage. "What democracy does (and doesn't do) for basic services: School fees, school inputs, and African elections." *The Journal of Politics* 76.1 (2013): 229-245.

Week 7: Democratic Institutions in Poor Countries

October 14th

Readings:

- 1) Opalo, Ken. *Legislative development in Africa: Politics and postcolonial legacies*. Cambridge University Press, 2019. Introduction
- 2) Klačnja, Marko, and Rocio Titiunik. "The incumbency curse: Weak parties, term limits, and unfulfilled accountability." *American Political Science Review* 111.1 (2017): 129-148.
- 3) Bussell, Jennifer. *Clients and constituents: Political responsiveness in patronage democracies*. Oxford UP, 2019. Introduction
- 4) Parthasarathy, Ramya, Vijayendra Rao, and Nethra Palaniswamy. "Deliberative democracy in an unequal world: A text-as-data study of South India's village assemblies." *American Political Science Review* 113.3 (2019): 623-640.

Week 8: Clientelism

October 21st

Readings:

- 1) Auerbach, Adam Michael, and Tariq Thachil. "How clients select brokers: Competition and choice in India's slums." *The American Political Science Review* 112.4 (2018): 775-791.
- 2) Shami, M. 2012. "Collective Action, Clientelism, and Connectivity," *American Political Science Review*, 106:3, 588-606.
- 3) Wantchekon, Leonard. "Clientelism and voting behavior: Evidence from a field experiment in Benin." *World Politics* 55.03 (2003): 399-422.
- 4) Stokes, Susan C., et al. *Brokers, voters, and clientelism: The puzzle of distributive politics*. Cambridge University Press, 2013. Ch.1, 5.

Week 9: Corruption

October 28th

Readings:

- 1) Brusco, Valeria, Marcelo Nazareno, and Susan C. Stokes. "Vote buying in Argentina." *Latin American Research Review*(2004): 66-88.
- 2) Ferraz, Claudio, and Frederico Finan. "Exposing Corrupt Politicians: The Effects of Brazil's Publicly Released Audits on Electoral Outcomes." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123.2 (2008): 703-745.
- 3) Manzetti, L., & Wilson, C. J. (2007). Why Do Corrupt Governments Maintain Public Support? *Comparative Political Studies*, 40(8), 949–970.

- 4) Olken, B. (2007). Monitoring Corruption: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Indonesia. *Journal of Political Economy*, 115(2), 200-249.

Week 10: Bureaucracies

November 4th

Readings:

- 1) Bertrand, M., S. Djankov, R. Hanna and S. Mullainathan. 2007. "Obtaining a Driver's License in India: An Experimental Approach to Studying Corruption," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122:4, 1639-1676.
- 2) Oliveros, Virginia, and Christian Schuster. "Merit, tenure, and bureaucratic behavior: Evidence from a conjoint experiment in the Dominican Republic." *Comparative Political Studies* 51.6 (2018): 759-792.
- 3) Dasgupta, Aditya, and Devesh Kapur. "The political economy of bureaucratic overload: Evidence from rural development officials in India." *American Political Science Review* 114.4 (2020): 1316-1334.
- 4) Banerjee, Abhijit, Raghavendra Chattopadhyay, Esther Duflo, Daniel Keniston, and Nina Singh. "Improving police performance in Rajasthan, India: Experimental evidence on incentives, managerial autonomy, and training." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 13, no. 1 (2021): 36-66.

Week 11: Trust, Social Capital and Diversity

November 11th

Readings:

- 1) Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner, and Jeremy M. Weinstein. "Why does ethnic diversity undermine public goods provision?." *American Political Science Review* 101, no. 04 (2007): 709-725.
- 2) Bhavnani, Rikhil and Alexander Lee. "Local Embeddedness and Bureaucratic Performance: Evidence from India" *The Journal of Politics*, 2018, 80.1, 71-87.
- 3) Tsai, Lily L. "Solidary groups, informal accountability, and local public goods provision in rural China." *American Political Science Review* 101.2 (2007): 355-372.
- 4) Putnam, Robert D., Robert Leonardi, and Raffaella Y. Nanetti. *Making democracy work: Civic traditions in modern Italy*. Princeton university press, 1994. P83-136.

Week 12: Gender and Family

November 18th

Readings:

- 1) Chattopadhyay, Raghavendra, and Esther Duflo. "Women as policy makers: Evidence from a randomized policy experiment in India." *Econometrica* 72.5 (2004): 1409-1443.
- 2) Karekurve-Ramachandra, Varun, and Alexander Lee. "Do gender quotas hurt less privileged groups? Evidence from India." *American Journal of Political Science* 64.4 (2020): 757-772.

- 3) Dube, Oeindrila, and S. P. Harish. "Queens." *Journal of Political Economy* 128.7 (2020): 2579-2652.
- 4) Chandra, Kanchan, ed. *Democratic dynasties: State, party, and family in contemporary Indian politics*. Cambridge University Press, 2016. Chapter 1.

No Class November 25th

Week 13: Ethnic Politics

December 2nd

Readings:

- 1) Dunning, Thad, and Lauren Harrison. "Cross-cutting cleavages and ethnic voting: An experimental study of cousinage in Mali." *American Political Science Review* 104.1 (2010): 21-39.
- 2) Posner, Daniel N. "The political salience of cultural difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are allies in Zambia and adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98.4 (2004): 529-545.
- 3) Lee, Alexander. "Ethnic diversity and ethnic discrimination: Explaining local public goods provision." *Comparative Political Studies* 51.10 (2018): 1351-1383.
- 4) Miguel, Edward. "Tribe or nation? Nation building and public goods in Kenya versus Tanzania." *World politics* 56.3 (2004): 327-362.