East Asian and Latin American Development

This seminar examines the meaning, measurement, and causes of social and economic progress in East Asia and Latin America. It focuses on four countries in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Costa Rica) and four in East Asia (South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, and Thailand). It has four sections: framework, outcomes, policies, and context.

In the framework section (Jan 27, Feb 3, Feb 10) we explore Amartya Sen's capabilities approach, which holds that development involves expanding the range of people's choices. We also evaluate some of the indicators devised by the United Nations Development Programme to measure the expansion of human capabilities.

In the outcomes section (Feb 17, Feb 24, Mar 3) we assess the progress of the eight countries, as well as of other nations, at registering improvement over the twentieth century (especially after 1960) at expanding the range of people's choices. We focus particularly on income-related outcomes (e.g., economic output per person, income distribution, and the proportion of the population in poverty), survival-related outcomes (e.g., life expectancy and the infant mortality rate), and gender-related outcomes (e.g., the ratio of women to men in the population, gender inequities in the processes and products of development).

In the policies section (Mar 24, Mar 31, Apr 7, Apr 14) we examine land tenure, agrarian reform, and agricultural policies; industrial and financial policies; and health, education, nutrition, and population policies. We examine the effects of these policies on income-related, survival-related, and gender-related outcomes. We assess the degree to which differences in these policy areas can explain variation in development outcomes across the eight countries, and the degree to which variation in the policy areas over time within countries affects affluence, inequality, and mortality.

In the contexts section (Apr 21, Apr 28, May 5), we explore how natural resource endowment, geographical factors, class structure and organization, bureaucratic initiative, international factors, and political regime form (democratic vs. authoritarian) have shaped the design and implementation of government policies. We also inquire as to how these factors may have influenced development outcomes in ways not mediated by policies.
**Course Requirements**

The seminar is designed for students who are highly motivated to find out why some countries do better than others at improving human development; who want first-hand experience with social science research; and who are comfortable with quantitative analysis.

We shall read one or two articles in common each week, but for the most part each student will decide on his or her own what and how much to read for each class session (except for the first two weeks, when we all read the Sen book and the Human Development Report). The seminar sessions will involve short lectures (usually on the material to be covered in the subsequent week), discussion of the assigned reading, and comparative analysis of the countries on which course participants are working.

The seminar will provide a framework in which each student will carry out a semester-long research project on a single country in East Asia or Latin America. The research project will involve weekly annotated bibliographies culminating in three papers. A paper on outcomes in your country will be due Friday, March 5; a paper on policies in your country will be due on Friday, April 16; and a paper on outcomes, policies, and contexts in your country will be due on Wednesday, May 12.

The seminar meets Wednesday afternoon. Each Tuesday by 6 PM, please send me as a .doc email attachment an annotated bibliography consisting of six or more high-quality books, book chapters, and/or articles pertaining to the topic assigned for that week. The purpose of the assignment is to help you pace yourself in writing your three papers, and to assure that the assigned readings are incorporated into your analysis. In addition to bibliographical entries, your annotated bibliography should include three paragraphs of text. The first paragraph of text should indicate how, when you write your next paper, you will use the information and/or arguments in one of the assigned readings (some weeks have only one assigned reading; others have two). The other two paragraphs should indicate respectively how, when you write your next paper, you will use the information and/or arguments in each of two sources you have found on your own. Several of your six sources should pertain to your particular country, but you can also include general works on the week's topic. Six is a minimum – feel free to cite and use more than six sources if you wish.

The final grade will be based on

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short papers for Feb 3 and Feb 10</td>
<td>10 percent (5 percent each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated bibliographies</td>
<td>20 percent (2 percent each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes paper March 5</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policies paper April 16</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes, policies, and contexts paper May 12</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/lateness, preparedness, participation</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Obtaining Course Readings**

All readings are available on reserve in Olin library or in Wesleyan's online journal collection. Available for purchase at Broad Street Books is the single required text:

Summary of Course Schedule

Wed Jan 27  Introduction to the Course
Wed Feb 3   Incomes, Capabilities, and Development I
Wed Feb 10  Incomes, Capabilities, and Development II
Wed Feb 17  Outcomes: Income-Related
Wed Feb 24  Outcomes: Survival-Related
Wed Mar 3   Outcomes: Gender-Related Outcomes Paper Due Friday, March 5
Wed Mar 24  Policies: Land Tenure, Agrarian Reform, and Agriculture
Wed Mar 31  Policies: Industrial and Financial
Wed Apr 14  Policies: Health, Education, Population II Policies Paper Due Friday, April 16
Wed Apr 21  Contexts: Geography and Natural Resources
Wed Apr 28  Contexts: Class Structure and Class Organization
Wed May 5   Contexts: Leadership, International Factors, and Democracy vs. Authoritarianism
Wed May 12  Paper on Outcomes, Policies, and Contexts Due Wednesday, May 12

TOPICS AND READINGS

Wed Jan 27  Introduction to the Course

1. Framework

Wed Feb 3   Incomes, Capabilities, and Development I


Wed Feb 10  Incomes, Capabilities, and Development II


2. Outcomes

Wed Feb 17  Outcomes: Income-Related


Wed Feb 24  Outcomes: Survival-Related


Wed Mar 3  Outcomes: Gender-Related


Fri Mar 5  Paper due: Outcomes in your country

3. Policies

Wed Mar 24  Policies: Land Tenure, Agrarian Reform, and Agriculture


Wed Mar 31  Policies: Industrial and Financial


Wed Apr 14  Policies: Health, Education, and Population II


Fri Apr 16  Paper due: Policies in your country

4. Contexts of Development Policies and Outcomes

Wed Apr 21  Contexts: Geography and Natural Resources


Wed Apr 28  Contexts: Class Structure and Class Organization


Wed May 5  Contexts: Leadership, International Factors, and Democracy vs. Authoritarianism


Wed May 12  Paper due: Outcomes, policies, and context in your country