

# **POLS\*2080: Development and Underdevelopment**

Department of Political Science  
University of Guelph

Fall 2019

Steffi Hamann, PhD

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**LECTURES:** TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS 4:00-5:20 PM, Thornbrough Building (THRN) 1200

**EMAIL:** shamann@uoguelph.ca

**OFFICE:** 805A MacKinnon Building (8<sup>th</sup> floor)

**OFFICE HOURS:** TBA

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course provides students with a broad introduction to the politics of development and underdevelopment. It starts out with an examination of several prominent analytical approaches to the study of politics in the developing world. Students will then be introduced to the politics of colonialism and post-colonial politics, and also to the position of the developing world in relation to the global economy and international politics. Subsequent lectures will cover established topics in the field and also draw attention to recent issue areas and themes. In class, we will discuss politics of poverty, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, and inequality and gender issues in the Global South. Other lectures will introduce newer themes in the development literature, including corporate social responsibility (CSR) and fair trade. The focus on contemporary issues will culminate in a discussion of recent rural and urban dynamics in development and a session on the complex issue of migration. To build upon all of these themes, a case study drawn from the course instructor's research on Cameroon will be presented and examined.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to answer the following questions:

- (1) What are the principal analytical approaches to understanding the politics of development and underdevelopment?
- (2) What are some of the key ideas, institutions and power relationships that shape development and underdevelopment?
- (3) What are the strengths and weaknesses associated with the activities and initiatives of non-state (civil society and corporate) actors in development?
- (4) In the present era, how is politics in the developing world changing or remaining the same?

**COURSE TEXTS**

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**Required text** (copies available on reserve at the library):

Haslam, Paul, Jessica Schafer, and Pierre Beaudet, eds. 2017. *Introduction to International Development: Approaches, Actors and Issues*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

**Book for the term paper** (e-copy available on reserve at the library):

Perkins, John. 2016. *The New Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*. Oakland, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

**Note:** Students who choose to use previous editions of the textbook or the memoir are responsible for updated content and differences between the editions.

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**REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT**

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- 1. In-Class Interaction (Top Hat)..... (10%)
- 2. Midterm Exam..... (25%)
- 3. Term Paper ..... (30%)
- 4. Final Exam ..... (35%)