



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 379 L01  
The Politics of Development  
Winter 2021**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Chris W. J. Roberts  
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**COURSE D2L:** <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca>  
**OFFICE HOURS (via ZOOM):** Wednesday 1:00-3:00pm, Friday 9:30-10:30am or by appt  
**COURSE DAY/TIME (via ZOOM):** Synchronous Tuesdays 12:30-1:45pm  
**DELIVERY METHOD:** Web-based  
**COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:** None  
**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Saaka Sulemana (Email [saaka.sulemana@ucalgary.ca](mailto:saaka.sulemana@ucalgary.ca))

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

What is development? How is it conceived, debated, practiced, and measured over time? Is development simply a technical problem requiring additional resources and technical solutions, or are politics at the heart of any development processes? What is the relationship between national development in specific countries of the Global South and the international development regime as it emerged after the Second World War? Why are some countries capable of increasing living standards for most of their people while others seem unable to do so? How do different development organizations (from multilateral institutions to bilateral agencies to voluntary NGOs) actually work? What are the ethical and moral responsibilities and dilemmas associated with the delivery of foreign aid or any developmental intervention?

This introductory course on the politics of development addresses these fundamental questions and many more. It will provide an intensive introduction to the vocabulary, concepts, theories, assumptions, debates, history, and practices that animate development as a core institution of contemporary international society. During this course, we'll embark on a comparative survey of approaches to development theory and economics including modernization, dependency, neoliberalism, globalization, gender, post-development and other critical approaches, as well as a number of thematic topics including debt, the role of the private sector, the environment, rural versus urban development, technology, and the various attempts to measure development.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will ...

- be able to employ the basic vocabulary, concepts, and theories relevant to the study and practice of development.
- understand the history, roles, origins, capabilities, and political interactions of various actors in international development.
- understand the historical emergence of development as both rooted in colonialism but also something new after the Second World War.
- deepen competencies to assess current national and international developmental policies and trends, including challenges of designing, measuring, and evaluating developmental interventions.
- improve their verbal and written analytical skills relevant to development studies, political science, and the social sciences generally.
- be prepared to advance into more specialized courses in development studies, international relations, comparative politics, human rights, global governance, international law and organizations, global political economy, and the political economy of development, etc.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Haslam, Paul, Schafer, Jessica & Beaudet, Pierre. *Introduction to International Development: Approaches, Actors, Issues, and Practice*, Third Edition (Oxford University Press, 2017). Available via the UCalgary Bookstore and other sources in both hard copy and digital versions.

## REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY:

You'll require as a minimum a computer device with internet connection. We'll be using Zoom for live and recorded classes, TopHat for questions and surveys, and D2L regularly for news, access to course materials, and to upload assignments to Dropbox.

## COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
<b>Weekly TopHat Questions</b>	<b>20%</b>	Regularly throughout the course, usually to be completed by Friday each week.
<b>Theory D2L Discussion Board 1 thread/1 reply</b>	<b>10%</b>	Each student will start one thread and respond to one other following guidelines provided: <b>Boards will close on Sat, Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, at midnight.</b>
<b>Mid-Term: Theories, Actors, &amp; Acronyms</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>Online: D2L "Quizzes" / 70-minute test / 24-hour window to complete by 1:45pm on Thursday, March 11th</b>
<b>Politics of development short paper (PDSP) assignment</b>	<b>30%</b>	The topics and guidelines for the paper will be available before Reading Break <b>Due: Saturday, April 3rd, 11:59pm (Upload on D2L Dropbox)</b>
<b>Registrar Scheduled Final Exam</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>TBA: Between April 19-29 Platform: D2L Quizzes</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

### ***TOPHAT (20%)***

TopHat is an online response application available for free for all University of Calgary students. Using a laptop, desktop, tablet, or smart phone, students can answer questions in real-time in class or as homework outside of class. Some questions generate participation points only (e.g., surveys), while most questions also generate points for correct answers. There will be weekly sets of homework questions due on Friday, related to recently completed or upcoming assigned reading/topics. If by the end of the term your TopHat average is **92% or greater**, you will receive 20/20 weighted points. This takes into account technical glitches and the occasional missed question. If you miss a set of questions there is no opportunity to go back and do them, so please do not send an email to inquire.

### ***THEORY D2L DISCUSSION BOARD (10%)***

Before Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> (midnight), each student will start one thread related to development theory and respond to one other student's thread. Full details and parameters will be provided in the second week of class.

### ***MID-TERM EXAMINATION (20%)***

One online (D2L Quizzes), time-delimited mid-term exam will be open from Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at noon to Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:45pm. It will comprise multiple-choice, true/false, and matching questions/exercises, and be scheduled for 70 minutes plus an additional 30 minutes technical time. You will thus have 100 minutes to complete the mid-term as long as you begin by noon on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. This will be an open-book exam but not cooperative with other students.

### ***POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT SHORT PAPER (PDSP) (30%)***

Each student will write one short, formal paper, using a proper citation format, following guidelines and topics provided in the week before reading break. This will be a maximum of six double-spaced pages, excluding title page and reference list. Due: Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11:59pm (uploaded on D2L Dropbox).

### ***REGISTRAR SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM (20%)***

#### **TBA: Between April 19-29 / Platform: D2L Quizzes**

The final will be an online, two-hour exam comprising multiple-choice, true/false, and matching/ordering exercise questions. There will be a 24-hour window to start the exam that ends at the end of the Registrar-scheduled exam period. Once you open the exam, you'll have two hours plus an additional hour to account for any technical issues, but you must start three hours prior to the end of the Registrar-scheduled exam period to get that full time. This will be an open-book exam but not cooperative with other students.

*To be eligible to pass the course, students need to take the mid-term, submit the PDSP, and take the final exam. If a student misses a required course component, please get in touch with the instructor as soon as possible. There will be no opportunities for additional work to make up for missed assignments or low grades.*

### **Writing Statement**

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing

Support Services in the Student Success Centre by contacting them at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

**GRADE SCALE:** The following grading scale will be used:

<b>A+ (91-100)</b>	<b>B+ (77-79)</b>	<b>C+ (67-69)</b>	<b>D+ (55-59)</b>
<b>A (85-90)</b>	<b>B (73-76)</b>	<b>C (63-66)</b>	<b>D (50-54)</b>
<b>A- (80-84)</b>	<b>B- (70-72)</b>	<b>C- (60-62)</b>	<b>F (0-49)</b>

**LATE PENALTIES:**

Late penalties of five percent (5%) will be applied to your short paper (PDSP) for each 24 hours past the deadline, including weekends.

**COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, & READING LIST:** The schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

<b>COURSE SCHEDULE</b> (Subject to change) "Chapter" refers to Haslam et al. (2017) textbook. Additional readings will be posted on D2L.		
DATE	TOPICS & THEMES	REQUIRED READINGS BEFORE CLASS
<b>Week 1</b> <b>Jan 12-14</b>	<p><b><i>Course Introduction</i></b>            Syllabus &amp; Assignments            D2L, Zoom, &amp; TopHat usage            Background survey</p> <p>What is development (or underdevelopment), how do we measure it, and why is imperialism relevant to any understanding of contemporary politics of development?</p>	<p><b>Note: There will be a live Zoom class every Tuesday (12:30-1:45pm) plus a recorded Zoom class or other videos that will be available asynchronously, equivalent to the Thursday class.</b></p> <p><b>Chapters 1 &amp; 2</b></p>
<b>Week 2</b> <b>Jan 19-21</b>	<p><b><i>Theory 1:</i></b> Comparative survey of the major theories of development and debates over the role of the state</p>	<p><b>Chapters 3 &amp; 7</b></p>
<b>Week 3</b> <b>Jan 26-28</b>	<p><b><i>Theory 2:</i></b> Critical alternatives to conventional development theories</p>	<p><b>Chapter 4</b></p>
<b>Week 4</b> <b>Feb 2-4</b>	<p><b><i>Theory 3:</i></b> Gender, globalization, &amp; development</p>	<p><b>Chapters 5 &amp; 6</b></p> <p><b>Theory Discussion Board Closes: Sat, Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, midnight.</b></p>
<b>Week 5</b> <b>Feb 9-11</b>	<p><b><i>Actors 1:</i></b> Multilateral organizations and institutions in development: the ongoing struggle between Bretton Woods and UN agencies</p>	<p><b>Chapters 9 &amp; 10</b></p> <p><b>Guidelines (module/video) &amp; topics for "Politics of Development Short Paper" (PDSP) released</b></p>

Week 6 Feb 16-18	<b>READING BREAK – NO CLASSES</b>	
Week 7 Feb 23-25	<i>Actors 2:</i> (OECD) Bilateral agencies & Civil Society/NGOs	Chapters 8 & 12
Week 8 Mar 2-4	<i>Actors 3:</i> Private Sector Development & Trade – From local farmers and entrepreneurs to multinational enterprise, FDI, and global supply chains	Chapters 11 & 15  George Ayittey, “The Indigenous Economic System,” Chapter 9 in <i>Africa Unchained: The Blueprint for Africa’s future</i> (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).
Week 9 Mar 9-11	<i>Actors 4:</i> China, BRICS, and Non-Traditional Donors	Chapter 13  Liya Palagashvili and Claudia R. Williamson, “Are Emerging Donors Engaging in Poor Foreign Aid Practices? A Comparison of Traditional versus Non-Traditional Aid Agencies,” SSRN (2018).
Week 10 Mar 16-18	Tuesday: Development actors review  <b>Wed-Thur: Cumulative Mid-Term</b>	<b>Online: D2L “Quizzes” / 24-hour window to complete by 1:45pm on Thursday, March 11th)</b>
Week 11 Mar 23-25	<i>Issues &amp; Practices 1:</i> The Ethics of Debt & Development: Micro and Macro Considerations of Responsibility	Chapters 14 & 29
Week 12 Mar 30- Apr 1	<i>Issues &amp; Practices 2:</i> Rural and Urban Development	Chapters 18 & 19  <b>PDSP Due: Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, midnight on D2L Dropbox</b>
Week 13 Apr 6-8	<i>Issues &amp; Practices 3:</i> Climate Change, the Environment, and ICTs – Leapfrogging the digital divide?	Chapters 17 & 22
Week 14 Apr 13-15	<i>Issues &amp; Practices 4:</i> Measuring poverty and inequality; planning and evaluating developmental interventions	Selected parts of Chapters 24 thru 27 will be discussed: the final exam will require deeper engagement with these chapters and others.
<b>Registrar Scheduled Final Exam (2 hour exam / 3 hour time limit given additional hour for technical issues)</b>		<b>TBA: Between April 19-29 (24-hour window) Platform: D2L Quizzes</b>

## **INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES**

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet via Zoom outside of office hours, please email or call to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments. All meetings will be held virtually.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. **Always include the course name (Poli 379) in the subject header of your email.** It is imperative that students regularly check their UCalgary email accounts and D2L for course related information and announcements. If you have sent the instructor an email but have not received a reply within 24 hours, please resend.

## **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### **Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration**

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioners for Oaths, visit [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

### **Absence From a Mid-term Examination**

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

### **Deferral of a Final Examination**

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

### **Appeals**

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

### **University Regulations**

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at

[www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html).

### **Student Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

### **Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

### **Required Access to Technology**

Please see the University's resource page at [https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb\\_article&sys\\_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afb2e144b031](https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afb2e144b031)

### **Copyright Legislation**

As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, “students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.” <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-electronic-resources-and-information-policy.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

### **Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)**

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

For program planning and advice, please consult with the Arts Students’ Centre by calling 403-220-3580 or by email at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625].

### **Important Contact Information**

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students’ Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Students’ Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students’ Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@ucalgary.ca)

URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)



Student Ombudsman  
Phone: 403-220-6420  
Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)

### **Campus Mental Health Resources**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

*SU Wellness Centre:* <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

*Student Wellness Services:*  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

*Campus Mental Health Strategy website:* <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.