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HIST/LALS 233

**TAKING OFF:
How (some) Economies Get Rich**

Prof. Melissa Teixeira

Spring 2019



OVERVIEW

What makes an economy grow? This question has been asked – and answered – many times over in the modern era. From Adam Smith’s classic *Wealth of Nations* (1776) to today’s political leaders, many have debated the ingredients necessary for a nation to prosper, or policies to promote growth. Some point to the need for fiscal responsibility, others an educated labor force, or to tariffs, natural resources, and the right laws. This seminar explores the deep history of this problem of economic growth. Students will read works by economists, social scientists, and historians that present different theories for why some nations develop faster than others. With case studies from across the globe, we will tackle topics like why Europe industrialized first, or the paradox of why the abundance of natural resources does not necessarily contribute to long-lasting economic development. This course also asks students to think critically about the metrics used to measure “success” and “failure” across nations, as well as how such comparisons between societies have been mobilized to legitimize imperial expansion, human exploitation, environmental destruction, or political repression. By discussing how governments, corporate interests, and individual actors have implemented strategies to increase national wealth, students will also be asked to grapple with some of the consequences of economic growth for the environment, human welfare, and social inequality.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Class Participation (25%)
Attendance is mandatory. Come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Ask questions. Raise doubts. Critique the readings. Respond and engage with your peers.
2. Research Paper Brainstorm (5%)
Discuss in a few sentences three potential ideas you might like to develop for your research paper. What is the question driving each project? What sources might you use? Why is each topic relevant to the course and its discussion of economic development and its pitfalls?
3. Research Paper Topic Abstract (15%)
Now that you have narrowed down your topic, it's time to begin researching! Do some preliminary reading. Discuss in a one-paragraph abstract the question you plan to address in your paper. What is the timeframe and context? Who are the primary actors? What is at stake in your chosen topic? And what argument do you plan to make?
4. Research Paper Annotated Bibliography (15%)
Select three secondary sources and two primary sources. Describe and summarize each. Who is the author? What is the argument? How did you find these? And how will each source be useful as you write your paper. Please include complete bibliographic references, according to the Chicago Manual of Style.
5. Readings Presentation, 7minutes (10%)
Each student will be responsible for introducing the readings on a given week. Share with your classmates the main argument from the readings. Discuss how the primary and secondary texts work together. Pose questions, raise doubts and critiques.
6. Final Research Paper, 12-15pp (30%)
Write a well-researched and well-argued research paper on your topic of choice. Your paper should discuss the sources in your annotated bibliography in addition to other sources you find. Include footnotes and a complete bibliography, according to the Chicago Manual of Style.

OFFICE HOURS

Students are highly encouraged to attend office hours. Office hours are held in College Hall 206F on Mondays, 3:00pm – 5:00pm, or email Prof. Teixeira to schedule an appointment at an alternative time.

REQUIRED READINGS

All required readings are on Canvas or available as Ebooks in the Penn library system, accessed at www.library.upenn.edu.

For students who prefer to read printed books, certain books have also been placed on reserve

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in Van Pelt Library (Rosengarten Reserve). If you would like to borrow books from the library for more than a few hours, use EZBorrow or Borrow Direct.

DISABILITY POLICY

University of Pennsylvania, provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who have self-identified and been approved by the office of [Student Disabilities Services](#) (SDS). Please make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible in order to discuss your accommodations and your needs.

If you have not yet contacted SDS, and would like to request accommodations or have questions, you can make an appointment by calling SDS 215.573.9235. The office is located in the [Weingarten Learning Resources Center](#) at Stouffer Commons 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300.

All services are confidential.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to be familiar with the Penn's Code of Academic Integrity. You are encouraged to study and discuss course materials with other students, but all submitted assignments should be original and individual work. Please note that an important element of academic integrity is fully and correctly citing the work of others. If you have any questions or concerns about how to properly acknowledge the ideas, words, and research of others, feel free to reach out to me directly.

WEEKLY READINGS

Week 1: Introduction: How do we talk about wealth and welfare?

Week 2: Who Took Off First?

1. Adam Smith (1776), *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, selections.
2. Kenneth Pomeranz (2000), "Political Economy and Ecology on the Eve of Industrialization: Europe, China, and the Global Conjuncture," *American Historical Review*, 107:2, pp. 425-46.
3. David Landes (2006), "Why Europe and the West? Why Not China?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 20:2, pp. 3-22

Week 3: Empire: Riches and Exploits

1. Eric Williams (1944), *Capitalism and Slavery*, chapters 4-8, pp. 85-153.
2. Walter Rodney (1972), *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, selections.
3. Nathan Nunn (2008), "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123:1, pp. 139-76.

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Week 4: Institutions and Growth

1. Douglass C. North (1989), "Institutions and Economic Growth: An Historical Introduction," *World Development*, 17: 9, pp. 1319-1989.
2. Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson (2012), *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Power*, chapters 3-4, pp. 7-44, 70-123.
3. Jeremy Adelman, *Republic of Capital: Buenos Aires and the Legal Transformation of the Atlantic World*, chapter 9, pp. 224-250.

[Research Paper Brainstorm Due]

Week 5: Crisis of Capitalism and Welfarism

1. The Beveridge Report (1942)
2. Daniel T. Rodgers (1998), *Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age*, selections.
3. Karl Polanyi (1944), *The Great Transformation*, chapters 6-10, pp. 71-135.

Week 6: War and Recovery

1. Walt W. Rostow (1960), *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto*, chapters 2-3, pp. 4-35.
2. Mark Mazower (2012), *Governing the World: The History of an Idea*, chapter 10, pp. 273-304.
3. Daniel Immerwahr (2015), *Thinking Small: The United States and the Lure of Community Development*, chapters 1-2, pp. 15-65.

Week 7: Dictatorship and Development: East Asian Miracle

1. Alice Amsden (2001), *The Rise of the Rest: Challenges to the West from Late-Industrializing Economies*, chapters 1, 6, pp. 1-30, 125-160.
2. Atul Kohli, *State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery*, chapter 3, pp. 84-123.

[Research Paper Topic Due]

Week 8: Environment and Displacement

1. Susanna Hecht and Alexander Cockburn (2010), *The Fate of the Forest: Developers, Destroyers, and Defenders of the Amazon*, chapters 6, 9 + appendix interviews, pp. 104-141, 217-268.
2. Stephen Macekura (2016), *Of Limits and Growth: The Rise and of Global Sustainable Development in the Twentieth Century*, chapters 6-7, pp. 219-303.

Week 9: Dependency and (Under)Development

1. Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Enzo Faletto (1979), *Dependency and Development in Latin America*, translated by Marjory Mattingly Urquidi, chapters 5-6, pp. 127-171.
2. Eduardo Galeano (1971), *Open Veins of Latin America*, selections.

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3. Andre Gunder Frank (1966), "The Development of Underdevelopment," *Monthly Review*.
4. Heidi Tinsman (2014), *Buying into the Regime: Grapes and Consumption in Cold War Chile and the United States*, chapters 1-2, pp. 25-102.

Week 10: Paradox of Plenty: The Resource Curse

1. Terry Lynn Karl (1997), *The Paradox of Plenty: Oil Booms and Petro-States*, chapters 1-2, pp. 3-43.
2. Timothy Mitchell (2009), "Carbon Democracy," *Economy and Society*, 38:3, pp. 399-432.
3. Fernando Coronil (1997), *The Magical State: Nature, Money, and Modernity in Venezuela*, chapter 6, pp. 237-285.

[Annotated Bibliography Due]

Week 11: Indebted: Lost Decades

1. Paul Blustein (2006), *And the Money Kept Rolling In (and Out): Wall Street, the IMF, and the Bankrupting of Argentina*, chapters 5-6, 10, pp. 87-134, 209-236.
2. Peter Evans & William Sewell Jr. (2013), "Neoliberalism: Policy Regimes, International Regimes, and Social Effects," in *Social Resilience in the Neoliberal Era*, Peter Hall and Michèle Lamont, eds., pp. 35-68.
3. Juan Gabriel Valdés (1995), *Pinochet's Economists: The Chicago School in Chile*, chapters 7-8, pp. 162-200.

Week 12: Globalization: Winners and Losers

1. Dani Rodrik (2012), *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy*, chapters 7-10, pp. 135-232.
2. Paul Gootenberg (2008), *Andean Cocaine: The Making of a Global Drug*, chapters 6-7, pp. 245-324.

Week 13: Who Gets Left Out?

1. Alma Guillermoprieto, *The Heart that Bleeds: Latin America Now*, pp. 68-91, 237-258.
2. Arturo Escobar (2011), *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*, 2nd edition, chapters 4-5, pp. 102-211.

Week 14: Inequality

1. Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*, selections.
2. Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, selections.
3. Amartya Sen (1999), *Development as Freedom*, selections.

Week 15: Declinism? Or What's Next

1. Jeremy Adelman (2017), "Why the idea that the world is in terminal decline is so

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dangerous," *Aeon* [Accessed <https://aeon.co/ideas/why-the-idea-that-the-world-is-in-terminal-decline-is-so-dangerous>].

2. Christopher Meyer and Julia Kirby (2012), "Runaway Capitalism," *Harvard Business Review* 90:1/2, pp. 66–75.
3. Joseph Stiglitz (2016), *The Euro: How a Common Currency Threatens the Future of Europe*, chapters 1, 4, pp. 3-33, 85-123.
4. Robert Solow (1987), "Nobel Lecture, December 8, 1987: Growth Theory and After."

[Research Paper Due in Two Weeks]