PUAF 698Q: Selected Topics in Public Affairs:
Ethics, Development, and Foreign Aid
Spring 2006
(Revision II)

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PUAF 698Q
- Wednesday, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- Democracy Collaborative Seminar Room in Tawes 1209
- Office hours: Van Munching 3111G, Mondays, 12-1:30 p.m. and Wednesday 4:15 – 5:30 p.m. (and other times by appointment)

I. Aims of the Course:

This course will address empirical, conceptual, and ethical dimensions of national and international development policies and of bilateral and multilateral foreign aid, especially food aid. The class will ask several related questions with respect to development and foreign aid.

With respect to development, we will seek to understand and ethically evaluate the present character and future prospects of development in poor countries and regions. Should development be rejected as, for example, an instrument of Northern (US) hegemony over the South? If not, how should development be conceived, designed, and implemented? How should we assess the capability approach's proposal that development be understood not as economic growth but as promoting and protecting valuable human capabilities and functionings as well as human agency? What are the leading competitors to and criticisms of the capability approach? How should the benefits and burdens of development be distributed? What development strategies are best? How should poverty be understood, measured, and alleviated? What is and should be the relationship between human rights, democracy, and development? What ethical principles and empirical theories should be used to answer these questions? Who should answer these questions and by what methods? What are the most significant challenges to development (cultural and moral relativism, national sovereignty, political realism), and how should they be assessed?
With respect to foreign aid, especially food aid, and development assistance, we will ask the following questions: Who are the players and what are the issues in international development aid and lending? How should we understand and evaluate past and current foreign aid and development assistance? Do foreign aid and loans do more harm than good? Is it, as some argue, “the road to hell”? What is and should be the purpose of foreign aid, loans, and development assistance? What are the most effective and morally appropriate ways of achieving these ends?

To help answer these questions, we will consider recent perspectives and practices of the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Agency for International Development.

Four interweaving themes for this semester will be the critical examination of (1) the World Bank’s and UNDP’s approaches to national and global equity; (2) versions and criticisms of the capabilities approach to development; (3) the merits of “deliberative participation” for development and foreign aid; (4) new approaches to development assistance and especially food aid. (5) the Huaorani Indians in the Ecuadorian Amazon. With respect to the Huaorani, at the beginning, throughout, and at the conclusion of the course we will consider a concrete case: the development dilemmas and options facing Ecuador’s Huaorani Indians (as depicted in Joe Kane’s Savages and through other sources). What kind of development approach and external assistance would be best for the Huaorani, what should we mean by “best,” and who should decide and implement the approach?

II. Recommended Books (University Book Store, Maryland Book Exchange, World Bank InfoShop [701 18th Street NW], Internet):


II. Relevant Websites

- International Development Ethics Association: [www.development-ethics.org](http://www.development-ethics.org)
- Ethics and Development Initiative, Inter-American Development Bank: [www.iadb.org/etica/ingles](http://www.iadb.org/etica/ingles)
- Human Development and Capability Association: [www.fas.harvard.edu/~freedoms](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~freedoms)

III. Requirements:

1. **Consistent Attendance and Participation** (10 % of grade)
   - You should come to class having read carefully the assigned reading. You should be prepared to summarize the reading’s main arguments, raise at least one question of interpretation, identify at least one positive feature, and make at least one criticism of the reading.
   - Final discussion (May 12) of Joe Kane’s *Savages* and two films, *Trinkets and Beads* (shown in class) and *End of the Spear* (at a theatre near you).

2. **Mid-term Examination**
   - **Hour Examination** (4/26) (30% of grade): A one-hour in-class, closed book exam over assigned readings, class discussions, and your judgments and arguments about the issues. Covers materials through 4/19.

3. **Papers**
   - **Option I: Long (20-25 page) Final Term Paper** (60% of grade). All deadlines are at 5:00 p.m.
     - Topic Proposal: A one-page sketch of proposed topic (3/6).
     - Detailed three-page outline of paper plus bibliography (4/3).
     - Paper due (5/1), if you want the option to revise.
     - Paper due (5/15), if you do not want the option to revise.
     - (Optional) revision of paper due (5/15) (If you choose to revise, the grade on the revision will replace the original paper's grade.)
**Option II: Four Short (5-6 page) Papers** (15% each of final grade). Each short paper should interpret and assess some narrow topic, position, problem, or argument in the reading assigned for the corresponding two-week period. Each paper may be revised on the basis of instructor's comments and criticisms. (If you choose to revise, the grade on the revision will replace the grade on the original paper). All deadlines are at 5:00 p.m.

- II#1: Due: 2/13 (optional revision due: 2/20)
- II#2: Due: 3/6 (optional revision due: 3/13)
- II#3: Due: 3/27 (optional revision due: 4/10)
- II#4: Due: 5/1 (optional revision due: 5/8)

**IV. Course Outline:**

**Week 1 (1/25) Introduction**
- Course Aims, Books, Requirements, Outline
- What is Development Ethics?
- *Amartya Sen*, “What Difference Can Ethics Make?” (in class video)

**Week 2 (2/1): Development Ethics, Development Theory-Practice**
- World Bank, Hear Our Voices—The Poor on Poverty (in class video)
- Gasper, *ED*: Preface, Ch. 1
- Crocker, *EGD*: Ch. 1 “Introduction,” pp. 1-11; Ch. 2 (website)
- *WDR*: pp. 1-27

**Week 3 (2/8): Models of Development;**
- Gasper, *ED*: Ch. 2
- *WDR*: Ch. 1-3, pp. 70-71

**Week 4 (2/15): The (New?) World Bank Approach(es) II**
- Gasper, *ED*: Ch. 3
- *WDR*: pp. 105-106, Ch. 4, 6-7, pp. 126-131
- Short paper #1 due 2/13

**Week 5 (2/22): The (New?) World Bank Approaches III**
- Gasper, *ED*: Ch. 4
- *WDR*: Ch. 8-10, Epilogue
- (Optional) revision of short paper #1 due 2/20

**Week 6 (3/1): The Capability Approach I: Development as Freedom**
- *Sen, Dr.*, Preface, Intro., chs. 1-2
- Gasper, *ED*: pp. 163-170
- Sen, DF: Ch. 3 (54-67, 70-81, 85-86), ch. 4, ch. 5 (pp. 111-29, 142-45)
- Gasper, ED: Ch. 7 (pp. 170-82)
- Crocker, EGD: Ch. 5-6
- Short paper #2 due 3/6
- One-page sketch of long paper topic due 3/6

Week 8 (3/15): The Capabilities Approach III: Agency and Democracy
- Sen, DF: Ch. 6, 8, pp. 189-92, 202-203), ch.11 (pp. 249-54, 279-81), 12 (pp. 281-92)
- Gasper, ED: Ch. 7 (pp. 182-90)
- Crocker EGD: Ch. 7, 11 (pp. 1-24)
- (Optional) revision of short paper #2 due 3/13

Spring Break 3/20-3/24 Read Joe Kane, Savages

Week 9 (3/29): Deliberative Democracy and Deliberative Participation
- Archon Fung and Erik Olin Wright, eds., Deepening Democracy, ch. 1 (email attachment)
- Participatory Budgeting in Brazil (In class video)
- Crocker, EDG: Ch. 11 (24-57), 12
- Short paper #3 due 3/27
- 3-page outline of long paper due 3/27

Week 10 (4/5): Culture, Ethnocentrism, and the Ethics of Development
- Gasper, ED: Ch. 8
- Sen, DF: Ch. 10
- Crocker: EGD: Ch. 4

Week 11 (4/12): UNDP: Inequality, Human Development, and Pro-poor Growth
- UNDP, HDR: Overview, ch. 1-2
- (Optional) revision of short paper #3 4/10

Week 12 (4/19): UNDP: Aid and Development Cooperation
- UNDP, HDR: ch. 3
- Paul Collier, “Making Aid Smart”
- David A. Crocker, Comments on Paul Collier, “Making Aid Smart”
  http://www.iris.umd.edu/forum/Crocker%20on%20Collier.pdfS
Week 13 (4/26): Examination and Film
  - Examination
  - Film: “Trinkets and Beads”

Week 14 (5/3) Food Aid
  - Barrett and Maxwell, FA: Intro., Chs. 1-2, 5-6
  - Sen, DF: ch 7
  - Crocker, EGD: Ch. 8, pp. 1-25
  - Short paper #4 due 5/1
  - Long Paper (with option to revise) due 5/1

Week 15 (5/10): Food Aid
  - Barrett and Maxwell, FA: Chs. 7, 9-11
  - Crocker, EGD: Ch. 8, pp. 25-53.
  - (Optional) revision of short paper #4 due 5/8

Final Session and Party: 5-8 p.m., 4400 Holly Hill Road, University Park (5 minutes from Van Munching; Map to be provided)
  - Discussion of Savages, “Trinkets and Beads,” and “End of the Spear”
  - Party

Week 16 (5/15-5/19): Final Exam Week
  - Long papers (without the option to revise) and (optional) long paper revisions 5/15