SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

PUAF 698Q: Selected Topics in Public Affairs:  
Ethics, Development, and Foreign Aid  
Spring 2007

Syllabus  
(Revised January 31, 2007)

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- Wednesday, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.  
- Democracy Collaborative Seminar Room in Tawes 1209; Van Munching 1107  
- Office hours: Van Munching 3111G, Wednesday and Thursdays 4:30 – 6:00 pm; (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. The class will ask several related questions with respect to development and foreign aid.

With respect to foreign 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 – ethically and in other ways – 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” (with good intentions)? 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? How does Easterly distinguish Planners from Searchers and is his argument sound when he condemns the former and applauds the latter?

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?

Overall themes for Spring 2007: (1) Agency-focused capability approach; (2) Development and Human Rights; (3) Development challenges in India; (4) Development challenges for Ecuador’s Huaorani Indians. 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):


III. Relevant Websites

- Class Webpage: [www.wam.umd.edu/~dcrocker/courses/html](http://www.wam.umd.edu/~dcrocker/courses/html)
- 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)
IV. 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 the video *Trinkets and Beads* (shown in class)

2. **Mid-term Examination**
   - **Hour Examination** (4/11) (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 4/4

3. **Papers: Option I: Long (20-25 page) Final Term Paper** (60% of grade)
   - All Assignments due by 9:00 a.m.

   - Topic Proposal: A one-page sketch of proposed topic (3/5).
   - Detailed three-page outline of paper plus bibliography (4/2).
   - Paper due (4/30), if you want the option to revise. (If you choose to revise, the grade on the revision will replace the original paper's grade.)
   - Paper due (5/7), if you do not want the option to revise.

4. **Papers: Option II: Four Short (5-6 page) Papers** (15% each of final grade).
   - All Assignments due by 9:00 a.m.

   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).

   - #1: Due: 2/19 (optional revision due: 2/26)
   - #2: Due: 3/5 (optional revision due: 3/12)
   - #3: Due: 3/26 (optional revision due: 4/2)
   - #4: Due: 4/30 (optional revision due: 5/13)

V. **Course Outline:**

**Week 1 (1/24) Introduction**
- Course Aims, Books, Requirements, Outline
- What is Development Ethics?
- Video: “Trinkets and Beads”
- Ethical Issues in *Savages*
Part I: Ethics of Development

Week 2 (1/31): Development Ethics and the Aid Controversy
- Crocker, EGD: Ch. 1, 1-18 (website; email); Ch. 2 (website; email)
- Easterly, WMB: Ch. 1-2

Week 3 (2/7): Easterly on Aid and Development I
- Easterly, WMB: Ch. 3-4
- Crocker, EGD: Ch. 3 (website; email)
- Crocker, “Cross-Cultural Criticism and Development Ethics” (hand out)

Week 4 (2/14): Easterly on Aid and Development II
- Easterly, WMB: Ch. 5, 10-11

Part II: The Capability Approach and Indian Development

Week 5 (2/21): The Capability Approach and Indian Development I
- Crocker, EGD: Ch. 1, 18-28 (website; email), Ch. 5
- Sen, DF: Preface, Intro., chs. 1-2
- Dreze and Sen, I: Ch. 1
- Short paper #1 due 2/19

Week 6 (2/28): The Capability Approach and Indian Development II
- Crocker, EGD: Ch. 5
- Sen, DF: Ch. 3 (54-67, 70-81, 85-86), ch. 4, ch. 5 (pp. 111-29, 142-45)
- Dreze and Sen, I: Ch. 2
- (Optional) revision of short paper #1 due 2/26

Week 7 (3/7): The Capability Approach and Indian Development III
- Sen, DF: Chs 7, 9
- Dreze and Sen, I: Ch. 3, 6
- Crocker, EGD: Ch. 8
- Singer, Peter
- Short paper #2 due 3/5
- One-page sketch of long paper topic due 3/6

Week 8 (3/14): The Capabilities Approach and Indian Development III: Gender Inequality, Agency, and Human Rights
- Sen, DF: chs. 8, 10
- Dreze and Sen, I: Ch. 5, 7
- Crocker EGD: Ch. 7, 11 (pp. 1-24)
• (Optional) revision of short paper #2 due 3/12

Spring Break 3/19-3/23

Week 9 (3/28): The Capabilities Approach and Indian Development IV: Agency and Democracy
• Sen, DF: Ch. 6, Ch.11 (pp. 249-54, 279-81), 12 (pp. 281-92)
• Dreze and Sen, I: ch. 10
• Crocker, EDG: Ch. 9, 10 (pp. 1-29)
• Short paper #3 due 3/26
• 3-page outline of long paper due 3/26

Week 10 (4/4): Evaluating the Capability Approach
• Dreze and Sen, I: ch. 9
• Pogge, Thomas, “Can the Capability Approach Be Justified?” (website and email)
• Crocker, EDG: Ch. 10 (pp. 29-45), 11
• (Optional) revision of short paper #3 4/2

Week 11 (4/11): Examination

Part III: Development and Human Rights

Week 12 (4/18): Human Rights I: An Issue in World Politics
• Donnally, IHR: Introduction and chs. 1, 4-5
• Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Donnally, IHR, 233-36

• Donnally, IHR: chs. 2 and 3

Week 14 (5/2) Human Rights III: Recent Issues in Human Rights
• Donnally, IHR: chs. 7-10
• Short paper #4 due 4/30
• Long Paper (with option to revise) due 4/30

Extra Session and Party: (5/4) 5-8 p.m., 4400 Holly Hill Road, University Park (5 minutes from Van Munching; Map to be provided)
• Discussion of Savages: What ought to be done to promote good development in Ecuador’s Oriente? Who ought to do it? Who should decide? Can and should foreign aid play a positive role?
• Party
Week 15 (5/9): Rights and Development

Week 16 (5/15-5/19): Final Exam Week
- Long papers (without the option to revise) and (optional) long paper revisions 5/13
- (Optional) revision of short paper #4 due 5/13