

**PUAF 6980: Selected Topics in Public Affairs:
ETHICS, DEVELOPMENT, AND FOREIGN AID
Spring 2008
(Revised 1/31/08)**

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PUAF 6980

- Wednesdays 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. in Van Munching 1107
- Office hours: Van Munching 3111G, Wednesday, 4:15-6:00 p.m. and 1214 Centerville (North Campus), Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30 – 6:00 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 official (bilateral and multilateral) and NGO foreign aid. The class will pose several related questions with respect to development and foreign aid and the role of ethics in aid and development.

First, we will consider the reasons for the emergence of development ethics from the earlier ethics of famine relief and ethics of 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 functioning, 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, women's empowerment, 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? These questions will be addressed in relation to India.

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?

Overall themes for Spring 2008: (1) agency-focused capability approach; (2) development and human rights; (3) development challenges in India; (4) rights-based foreign aid.

II. Recommended Books

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

1. Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can be Done about It* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007). Abbrev: **BB**
2. David A. Crocker, *Ethics of Global Development: Agency, Capability, and Deliberative Democracy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming), selected chapters from manuscript (email attachments). Abbrev: **EGD**
3. Jean Drèze and Amartya Sen, *India: Development and Participation*, 2nd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2002). Abbrev: **I**
4. James W. Nickel, *Making Sense of Human Rights*, 2nd Ed. (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007). Abbrev: **HR**
5. Roger C. Riddell, *Does Foreign Aid Really Work?* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007). **FA**
6. Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom* (Random House, 1999) (ISBN: 0-385-72027-0) Abbrev: **DF**

III. Relevant Websites

- Class Webpage: <http://www.wam.umd.edu/~dcrocker/Courses.html> (case sensitive)
- International Development Ethics Association: www.development-ethics.org
- Ethics and Development Initiative, Inter-American Development Bank: www.iadb.org/etica/ingles
- Human Development and Capability Association: www.fas.harvard.edu/~freedom
- World Bank, www.worldbank.org
- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, www.plato.stanford.edu/entries

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.

2. Examination

- **Examination (4/23) (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 4/16

3. Papers: Option I: Long (20-25 page) Final Term Paper (60% of grade)

All assignments due by 9:00 a.m.

- Topic Proposal: one page sketch of proposed topic (3/3).
- Detailed three page outline of paper plus bibliography (4/2).
- Paper due (4/28), 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 (5/12), if you do *not* choose the option to revise and revised paper due (if you chose 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: 2/11 (optional revision due: 2/25)
- #2: Due: 3/3 (optional revision due: 3/24)
- #3: Due: 3/31 (optional revision due: 4/21)
- #4: Due: 4/28 (optional revision due: 5/14)

V. Course Outline (Subject to revisions and updates):

Week 1 (1/30) Introduction

- Course Aims, Books, Requirements, Outline
- What is Development Ethics? Reading: EGD Ch. 1 (website; email)

Part I: From Ethics of Aid to Ethics of Development

Week 2 (2/6): Development Ethics and the Aid Controversy

- Crocker, EGD: Ch. 2 (website; email)
- Singer, Peter, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" (email pdf file)
- Riddell, FA, Preface, Ch. 1, 2-3, 8-9

Week 3 (2/13): Development Theory-Practice and Collier's Four Development "Traps"

- Crocker, Ch. 3
- Collier, BB: preface and Ch. 1-5
- **Short paper #1 due 2/11**

Week 4 (2/20): Collier: What Should be Done? Who Should Do It?

- Collier, BB: Chs. 7-11

Part II: The Capability Approach and Indian Development

Week 5 (2/27): The Capability Approach and Indian Development I: Foundations

- Sen, DF: Preface, Intro., Chs. 1-2
- Sen, Autobiography,
http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economics/laureates/1998/sen-autobio.html
- Dreze and Sen, I: Preface, Preface 1995, Ch. 1
- **(Optional) Revision of short paper #1 due 2/25**

Week 6 (3/5): The Capability Approach and Indian Development II: Capability, State, and Market;

- Sen, DF: Ch. 3 (54-67, 70-81, 85-86), ch. 4, ch. 5 (pp. 111-29, 142-45)
- Crocker, EGD: Chs. 4-5
- Dreze and Sen, I: Ch. 2-3
- **Short paper #2 due 3/3**
- **One-page sketch of long paper topic due 3/3**

Week 7 (3/12): The Capability Approach and Indian Development III: Gender, Well-being, and Agency

- Sen, DF: Chs 7-9
- Dreze and Sen, I: Ch. 5-7
- Crocker, EGD: Ch. 8

Spring Break 3/17-3/21

Week 8 (3/26): The Capabilities Approach and Indian Development V: Agency and Democracy (National and Local)

- Sen, DF: Chs. 6, 11 (pp. 249-54, 279-81), 12 (pp. 281-92)
- Dreze and Sen, I: Ch. 9, 10
- Crocker, EDG: Ch. 9
- **(Optional) Revision of short paper #2 due 3/24**

Week 9 (4/2): Democratic Deliberation vs. Constitutions (Rights)?

- Amartya Sen, "Human Rights and Capabilities," *Journal of Human Development*, 6/2 (July 2005): 151-66
- Martha Nussbaum, "Capabilities and Fundamental Entitlements: Sen and Social Justice," *Feminist Economics*, 9, 2-3 (July/November, 2003): 33-60. website and email
- Crocker, EDG: Ch. 10
- **Short paper #3 due 3/31**
- **3-page outline of long paper due 3/31**

Part III: Development and Human Rights

Week 10 (4/9): Human Rights I: What Are Human Rights?

- Nickel, HR: Introduction and Chs. 1-3
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Nickel, HR: 191-97

Week 12 (4/16): Human Rights II: Justification of Human Rights

- Nickel, HR: Chs. 4-5
- The European Convention, Nickel, HR: 198-212
- **(Optional) revision of short paper #3 due 4/14**

Week 11 (4/23): Examination

Week 13 (4/30): Which Rights?

- Nickel, Chs. 6-10
- Civil and Political Covenant; Social Convents, Nickel, HR: 213-242
- Riddell, Ch. 9
- **Long Paper (with option to revise) due 4/28**
- **Short paper #4 due 4/28**

Week 14 (5/7): (Minority) Rights and Relativism

- Nickel, chs. 10-12
- Sen, DF, ch.10

5/14: No class (University Study Day)

- **(Optional) revision of short paper #4 5/12**
- **Long papers (without the option to revise) and (optional) long paper revisions due 5/12**

Week 15 (5/21): Ethically defensible Aid?

- Riddell, FA, 10, Part IV, Chs. 20-22.