Econ 568
The Practice of Development Policy and International Cooperation

Instructor: Léonce Ndikumana
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UMass Amherst
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SYLLABUS

Number of credits: 3 credits

See Statement on Accommodation and Academic Honesty at the end of the syllabus.

Pre-requisites:
- Masters and PhD students in economics and related fields: no pre-requisites
- Undergraduate students: Econ 203 and Econ 204 are required; Econ 366 is encouraged

Course description

This course exposes students to the practice of development policy and international cooperation and how they affect policy design and implementation in developing countries. It discusses the role of academic thinking and operational experience in guiding development policy and cooperation over time; it examines key instruments of development assistance and cooperation, their effectiveness and limitations; and it discusses agenda setting processes in global strategies, the role played by key stakeholders in the North and the Global South, and the implicit and explicit rules of division of power. The instructor draws on both the literature and his own experience in development policy (in the United Nations and at the African Development Bank). This course is ideal for students considering advanced studies in economic development, development studies, and international relations, as well as those interested in a career in development policy in national governments, international development institutions and non-profit development organizations.

Note: key readings will be made available electronically in a Box folder and through the Library online access.

Content

1. Trends and shifts in development paradigms
   a) Shifts in development in theory and practice
b) The global context


2. International institutions, global governance and development cooperation
   a) International aid architecture
   b) Global cooperation frameworks and conventions
   c) Role of new official donors
   d) Role of private donors: Foundations and NGOs


Documentary: When China met Africa. [Moodle: UMass Library Course Material]

3. Development cooperation and national development policy in developing countries
a) National development strategies – Donor and recipient perspectives
b) Tools of development assistance: Policies, Strategies, Country Assistance Strategies (CAS) and Country Strategy Papers (CSP), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP)

Available on Box:
AfDB’s High Fives Agenda.
African Development Bank (AfDB)’s Strategy for 2013-2022
Various AfDB strategy documents are accessible here: https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/strategy-documents

Documentary: Our Friends at the Bank. [Moodle: UMass Library Course Material]

4. Conflict, fragility, aid and international cooperation
a) Donor engagement in fragile states
b) Fragility-sensitivity of donor engagement states
c) Role of foreign aid in post-conflict countries
d) An illustration with the Democratic Republic of Congo


CRPD Working Paper 30


Documentary: Mobutu, King of Zaïre [Moodle: UMass Library Course Material]

5. Aid allocation procedures and criteria
   a) Performance aid allocation (PBA)
   b) Assessment of the PBA
   c) Vulnerability and aid allocation


Ramalingam, Ben (2013), Aid on the Edge of Chaos. Part I (chap 3). [Available at the Library as eBook]


6. Assessment of aid effectiveness
   a) Institutional Framework and Processes of Evaluation of Aid effectiveness
   b) Donor Behavior and Aid Effectiveness; Are donor practices improving?
   c) Illustrations: Aid effectiveness – evidence from African countries


Ramalingam, Ben (2013), Aid on the Edge of Chaos. Part I (chap 5) [Moodle: UMass Library Course Material]
Grading and Requirements
The course grade will be based on the following:
1. Attendance and individual class participation and 10%
2. In-class group discussions 10%
3. Essay on documentary video (2 required) 2 pages each: 10%
4. Reading Briefs 30%
   (personal reflection on readings on 2 out of 5 Sections, 4 pages each)
5. Course project (equivalent to a ‘term paper’) 40%
   (35% for the report, 5% for presentations)
No midterm exams, no final exam
Due dates:
- Course project:
  - submit a topic sentence;
  - submit an abstract and outline;
  - submit a zero draft (not graded);
  - present topic, outline and draft in class;
  - present final report in class;
  - submit the final report (‘term paper’) through Moodle
- Reading Brief: due 7 days after the completion of each Section.

Grading Scale

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ECON 568
Léonce Ndikumana

Indicative schedule: Spring 2021
To be completed
Accommodation Statement

The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability on file with Disability Services (DS), you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations to help you succeed in this course. If you have a documented disability that requires an accommodation, please notify me within the first two weeks of the semester so that we may make appropriate arrangements.

Academic Honesty Statement

Since the integrity of the academic enterprise of any institution of higher education requires honesty in scholarship and research, academic honesty is required of all students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in all programs of the University. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and facilitating dishonesty. Appropriate sanctions may be imposed on any student who has committed an act of academic dishonesty. Instructors should take reasonable steps to address academic misconduct. Any person who has reason to believe that a student has committed academic dishonesty should bring such information to the attention of the appropriate course instructor as soon as possible. Instances of academic dishonesty not related to a specific course should be brought to the attention of the appropriate department Head or Chair. Since students are expected to be familiar with this policy and the commonly accepted standards of academic integrity, ignorance of such standards is not normally sufficient evidence of lack of intent (http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty/).