

CPO 4034 Developing Nations

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This course focuses on the struggles that developing countries go through to achieve prosperity, peace, democracy and effective government. We will spend the semester exploring the interplay between economics and politics primarily in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. We will visit many of the broad challenges facing countries in these regions, and in particular we will explore the political effects of resource wealth. In the middle of the last century, economists believed strongly that countries rich in oil, natural gas and other primary commodities stood to prosper and to use those resources to develop quickly into advanced economies. Fifty years later, resource-rich countries are less likely to be democratic, stable, or for women to enjoy strong roles in government and the economy. What accounts for these trends? Can resource wealth play any positive roles in economic and political development? We will explore the impact of resource wealth on regime type, political stability, long-term economic prospects, violent intrastate and interstate conflict, women's participation in the economy and politics, and more.

In addition to the course readings—through which I hope to help you continue to build your critical thinking and writing skills—we are going to spend most Friday class meetings in a computer lab, working with an array of statistical databases commonly used in political science and economics. When you all leave UF, it is my hope that in addition to the critical analytical skills that are the hallmark of a top-flight liberal arts education, you will also have a solid foundation from this course in the collection and interpretation of statistical data in the social sciences. That applied skill will be valuable in any number of career choices.

Course Requirements

The major assessment components of this course include

- A country report (worth 20%) of about 2,000 words on a country not addressed in any of the books assigned for the course focusing on either a) resource wealth and politics OR b) development and poverty reduction. It is due April 13.
- Three response papers of about 1,000 words (4 double spaced pages) based on issues in the readings. These will be due February 9, March 9 and April 27. 10% each or 30% total.
- 10 short data assignments related to our data lab work. I have detailed the assignments below. 4% each for 40% of the total grade.
- Participation. Your contributions to class discussion and to the data lab exercises will count for 10% of your total grade and that will be based on the regularity and quality of your participation in discussions and contribution to data lab discussions on the course Canvas page.

Cheating in any form undermines the integrity and mutual trust essential to a community of learning and places at a comparative disadvantage those students who respect and work by the rules of that community. It is understood that any work a student submits is indeed his/her own. Plagiarism—that is, lifting without giving credit from something someone else has written such as a published book, article, or even a student paper—is forbidden and is, in most cases, fairly easily detected. There are other, more obvious forms of academic dishonesty, such as turning in work completed by someone else, bringing inappropriate notes into an exam,

and offering or receiving whispered, signaled, or other forms of assistance during an exam. Working with fellow students in exam study groups is not only acceptable but also encouraged, as long as one is refining ideas that are essentially his or her own. Included within this definition of academic integrity is the assumption that all documents and excuses provided as explanations for late or missed assignments have not been falsified. Please review the University's policies regarding [student conduct and conflict resolution](#), available through the [Dean of Students Office website](#). Any violations of the Student Honor Code will result in a failing grade for the course and referral to Student Judicial Affairs.

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the professor when requesting accommodation. For more information regarding University policies on this issue, please visit the [Disability Resource Center's website](#).

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following numerical scales:

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	GPA equivalent
A	93-	4.0
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.0
D-	60-62	0.67
E	<60	0.00
E1	stopped attending	0.00
I	Incomplete ¹	0.00

Required Readings:

Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done About It*
 Michael Ross, *The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations*
 Jeff Colgan, *Petro-Aggression: When Oil Causes War*
New York Times (available for free through UF; see how to register here <http://hr.ufl.edu/nyt/>)

All of these books will be available at local bookstores. They are also available for sale online and on course reserve at Library West (with some of them available as e-books). There are also a number of journal articles and book chapters assigned below; they may all be found through the library's website and we will have a short workshop during the first two weeks on accessing and locating these articles.

Schedule:

January 7: Course Introduction. No readings

What is the Developing World? The Bottom Billion? What are Their Special Problems?

January 9: Collier, preface and Chapter 1.

¹ In my classes incompletes are extremely rare, like white tigers, and are only granted in exceptional cases.

January 12: Collier, Chapters 2-3.

January 14: Collier, Chapter 4.

January 16: Data Friday. Anderson Hall Computer Lab meeting.

The countries of the Bottom Billion are listed here -

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bottom_Billion#Bottom_billion_countries – but fellow economist Andy Sumner (<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/idsperson/andy-sumner>) suggests Collier's focus misses nearly a billion poor people in non-poor countries.

January 19: No class. Martin Luther King Day.

January 21: Collier, Chapters 5-6.

January 23: No class. I am at the University of Michigan presenting research.

January 26: Collier, chapters 7-8.

January 28: Collier, Chapter 9. **Selection of Country for Report Due.**

January 30: Data Friday. Anderson Hall Computer Lab meeting. [working with Collier replication data]
Assignment 1: peruse the replication data and submit brief definitions of all variables used in the article assigned for February 4.

February 2: Collier, chapter 11 and pp. 193-96

February 4: Paul Collier, Anke Hoeffler, and Dominic Rohner, Oxford Economic Papers 61 (2009), 1–27.

February 6: Data Friday. Anderson Hall Computer Lab meeting. [prep assignment downloading Ross's data and converting it].

Assignment 2: find Ross's replication data online, download it and convert it to a format you can use in Excel. Submit a brief report explaining where it is located (include the URL), in what form and how to convert it.

A Straight-Up Take on the Oil Curse

February 9: Ross, Chapter 1.

Response Paper one due.

February 11: Ross, Chapter 2.

February 13: Computer lab meeting.

Assignment 3: Create a graph illustrating the relationship between Ross's measure of oil wealth and democracy.

February 16: Ross, Chapter 3.

February 18: Ross, Chapter 4.

February 20: Computer lab meeting.

Assignment 4: create a graph illustrating the relationship between oil wealth and women's participation in the economy.

February 23: Ross, chapters 5-6

February 25: Ross, Chapter 7.

February 27: computer lab meeting.

Assignment 5: access two of the following three political stability indicators: civil war onset, coups d'état, or regime change. Submit a brief summary defining them, explaining how each one is measured, and graph indicating whether your two indicators are highly correlated.

March 1-8: spring break.

Is the Resource Effect Conditioned by Politics?

March 9: Terry Karl, "Perils of the Petro-State: Reflections on the Paradox of Plenty," *Journal of International Affairs* 53, 1: 31-48; and Smith, AJPS paper.

Response Paper two due.

March 11: Christa N. Brunnschweiler and Erwin H. Bulte, Natural resources and violent conflict: resource abundance, dependence, and the onset of civil wars, *Oxford Economic Papers* (2009).

March 13: Computer lab meeting. [prep assignment 6 on regime type indicators]

March 16: Haber and Menaldo.

March 18: Benjamin Smith, "Oil Wealth, Order and Conflict."

March 20: computer lab meeting. [prep assignment 7 on Colgan data and MID indicators]

Does Oil Cause Interstate War?

March 23: Colgan, Chapter 1

March 25: Colgan, Chapter 2.

March 27 computer lab meeting [assignment 8 on Colgan replication data].

March 30: Colgan, Chapter 3.

April 1 Colgan, Chapter 4.

April 3: computer lab meeting [prep assignment 9]

April 6: Colgan chapter 5

April 8: Colgan chapter 6

April 10: computer lab meeting [prep assignment 10]

April 13: Colgan chapter 7
Country report due.

April 15: Colgan, chapter 8

April 17: Colgan, chapter 9.

April 20: Colgan, chapters 10-11.

April 22: course conclusion.

April 27: **Response paper 3 due.**