Aid to Developing Countries
INTL 422/522, Spring 2016
T, Th 12-1:20 p.m., 276 Education
Class website at:
http://pages.uoregon.edu/aweiss/intl422_522/Index%20S2016.html

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306 PLC, Office hours: TBA & appts

The Development Set

Excuse me, friend, I must catch my jet-
I'm off to join in the Development Set;
My bags are packed, and I've had all my shots,
I have travelers' cheques and pills for the trots.

We bring in consultants whose circumlocution
Raises difficulties for every solution -
Thus guaranteeing continued good eating
By showing the need for another meeting.

The Development Set is bright and noble,
Our thoughts are deep and our vision global;
Although we move with the better classes,
Our thoughts are always with the masses.

The language of the Development Set,
Stretches the English alphabet;
We use swell words like 'epigenetic',
'Micro', 'Macro', and 'logarithmic'.

In Sheraton hotels in scattered nations,
We damn multinational corporations;
Injustice seems so easy to protest,
In such seething hotbeds of social rest.

Development Set homes are extremely chic,
Full of carvings, curios and draped with batik.
Eye-level photographs subtly assure
That your host is at home with the rich & the poor.

In such seething hotbeds of social rest.
We discuss malnutrition over steaks
And plan hunger talks during coffee breaks.
Whether Asian floods or African drought,
We face each issue with an open mouth.

Enough of these verses - on with the mission!
Our task is as broad as the human condition!
Just pray to God the biblical promise is true:
The poor ye shall always have with you.

Ross Coggins

This course examines the history and current realities of international bilateral and multilateral development assistance. After placing globalization and development assistance in an historical context, we will look at different kinds of aid that exists, the debate over what is to be developed and how that should occur, the project planning and assessment process, and the rise in importance of NGOs in the aid arena today. We then review and critique the current aid emphasis on promoting democratization, civil society and human rights, and the mandates of the Millennium Declaration and the resultant MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) as well as the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The course culminates in our own aid consortium simulation, where students have the opportunity to experience the decision-making process first-hand. Our emphasis throughout is on the development process and its critics, which could lead to a greater understanding of both the possibilities and the constraints of aid.

We will try to break down into small group discussions as much as possible. Therefore, try to finish all readings prior to the beginning of the segment in which they will be discussed. Readings other than those from the required texts have been kept at a minimum, and are accessible via the course website.

**PLEASE NOTE: MANDATORY CLASS MEETING, FRIDAY JUNE 3RD, 6:30-9 P.M.**
Course Objectives:
1. To understand how the global system of bilateral and multilateral development assistance is structured and functions today, and to assess its effectiveness critically;
2. To understand the historical background to the current system, as well as various orientations towards globalization and development assistance;
3. To gain an awareness of the various actors involved in international development assistance and in the development process, particularly i) the United Nations and its constituent multilateral donor agencies; ii) key bilateral donor agencies (especially JICA and USAID); iii) international non-governmental organizations (INGOs); and iv) local non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
4. To learn specific skills including how a project is envisioned and planned, assessment tools (e.g., RRA and PRA), how to promote participatory development, and standard evaluative methods (e.g., ‘successes, failures and lessons learned’)

Course Requirements:  

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<tr>
<th>Percentage of final grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>In-class midterm exam: <strong>Tuesday May 3</strong>&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group project (see separate handout)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay assignment (will be handed out in class on May 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; and is due at final class meeting on Friday June 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
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<td>Class participation (e.g., questions/responses that underscore efforts to understand course materials)</td>
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*For graduate students only: there is no additional requirement, per se, for graduate students. Instead, it is expected that they will be eminently prepared for all in-class discussions and take the lead (or share the lead) in facilitating the smooth operation of the group process in their respective group projects.*

Required texts:
(3) de Haan, Arjan *How the Aid Industry Works: an Introduction to International Development* Kumarian Press, 2009
(4) UNDP *Human Development Report 2015: Work for Human Development* accessible via website (on Requirements page)
Course Outline

WEEK I March 29-31  Introduction to the course, the project process, and development assistance as an issue

*Please review the project information (on a separate handout) and ascertain your top three choices for a group you’d like to be in. We will try to finalize the group project list by the end of the first week of classes (thereby underscoring the importance of starting to research this early!). Yen Tran (International Documents, Knight library) joins us on March 31st to discuss strategies for project research.*

Required Reading:
Carothers & deGramont, pp. vii-viii, 3-17
de Haan, pp. ix-xi
Easterly, pp. 17-42
HDR 2015, pp. iii-iv

*"USAID and 32 Partner Organizations Launch U.S. Global Development Lab to help end Extreme Poverty by 2030" April 3, 2014 (link via website)*

WEEK II April 5-7  Historical contexts of Globalization and Development assistance

Required Reading:
Carothers & deGramont, pp. 21-54, 55-88, 89-124
de Haan, pp. 63-88
Easterly, pp. 43-46, 47-79, 105-121
*Address by General George C. Marshall, June 5, 1947 (The ‘Marshall Plan’) (link via website)*

WEEK III April 12-14 The debate over what is to be developed

Required Reading:
Carothers & deGramont, pp. 125-155
de Haan, pp. 1-19
Easterly, pp. 3-16, 94-97, 123-127
HDR 2015, pp. 1-15

*United Nations Commission on Human Rights “Human Rights in Development: the Right to Development” (link via website); also see the “Declaration on the Right to Development” (link via website)*

The current development debate (accessible via the course website):
William Easterly "The Aid Debate is Over" December 26, 2013
Jeffrey Sachs 'The Case for Aid' Foreign Policy January 21, 2014
WEEKS IV & V    April 19-21, 26-28
Major forms of assistance; Methods used in project planning, capacity building, assessment, and safeguards for sustainability; the mandate of the MDGs and the new SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)

“Where does USAID's money go?” “USAID Fast Facts on ODA” (link via website)
EU Aid Explorer: Development Atlas (link via website)

Required Reading:
Carothers & deGramont, pp. 157-194
de Haan, pp. 21-60, 91-109
Easterly, pp. 155-173
*HDR 2015, pp. 15-25, 29-46 (statistical tables to review will be announced)
*OECD "Aid to developing countries rebounds in 2013 to reach an all-time high" (link via website)
*UN Sustainable Development Goals (link via website)
*USAID Primer: What We Do and How We Do It (link via website)
*USAID Assistance to Kenya (link via website)

WEEK VI May 3  In-class mid-term examination

WEEK VI May 5  Policy dialogue and structural adjustment

Required Reading:
de Haan, pp. 111-133, 135-149
*Nellie Bristol "Do UN Global Development Goals Matter to the U.S.?” Center for Strategic & International Studies, May 2013 (link via website)

WEEK VII May 10-12  Democratization, Good Governance, and Development
*Final essay assignment will be handed out May 12th

Required Reading:
Carothers & deGramont, pp. 195-224
Easterly, pp. 201-213, 215-236, 307-338
*HDR 2015, pp. 55-74

WEEK VIII May 17-19  Efforts to Sustain Human Progress, Reduce Vulnerabilities and Build Resilience
*Note:  Country reports and donor profiles due in class on May 17th and will be accessible via the course website on May 19th

Required Reading:
Carothers & deGramont, pp. 225-253
de Haan, pp. 151-171
Easterly, pp. 237-274
*TED talk (video): Sanjay Pradhan: How open data is changing international aid (link via website)

**WEEK IX**

How does aid work?

May 24-26

*Note for May 24th*: Based on additional information they have garnered from the donor profiles, each country group will make a presentation based on their aid needs.

*Note for May 26th*: We will hold our Aid Consortium Simulation, an opportunity for donor organizations and countries to meet face-to-face, make bargains and reach some understanding. The consortium will most likely be held in the Ford Alumni Center.

**WEEK X**

Does Aid work?  Can Aid work?  Critique of Process and Theories

May 31, June 2 & 3

*Note*: Donor organizations will report on what percentage of their aid budgets will go to each country, and what was the basis for this decision.

**Required Reading:**
Carothers & deGramont, pp. 255-284
de Haan, pp. 173-187, 189-195
Easterly, pp. 339-351
_HDR 2015_, pp. 131-148, 151-181

*Advice as you go out into the world! (link via website)

**FINAL CLASS MEETING**: Friday, June 3rd, 6:30 p.m. [Final essay assignment due in class]
Lewis Lounge, 4th floor, Knight Law School, Agate & 15th Street

_You are cordially invited to attend the concluding ceremonies of the International Development Assistance Consortium. Participants are requested to bring food and/or beverages from their respective countries. We will have the opportunity to critique the aid process as well as the course._

**Note to delegates:**
Please keep the time and location confidential, for security concerns