

PO220:
Poverty and Inequality in the Global South
Wilfrid Laurier University
Winter 2017

Instructor: Dr. A. Brown

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Lecture Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4pm-5:20pm

Classroom: BA202

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30am-2:30pm (or by appointment)

Office: DAWB 4-114

Tutorials

T1 Tuesdays 11:30-12:20 S101 Bianca Jamal jama4870@mylaurier.ca

T2 Tuesdays 12:30-1:20 S101 Bianca Jamal

T3 Thursdays 2:30-3:20 S101 Ryan Janssen jans3080@mylaurier.ca

T4 Thursdays 5:30-6:20 3-103 Ryan Janssen

Course Description

What are the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality in the Global South? How are they best addressed? Using case studies drawn from countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa, we will review the origins and manifestations of poverty and inequality, and evaluate the political responses and policies adopted by local, regional, national, and international actors. Poverty and inequality are framed by economic, political, social and sustainable understandings and measures of development.

Learning Objectives

- Situate poverty and inequality in reference to: political, economic, social and sustainable dimensions of development, as expressed in different regions of the Global South
- Identify and cite examples of the causes, consequences, and manifestations of poverty and inequality
- Identify and assess responses (initiated by local, regional, national and international actors) to poverty and inequality
- Locate and effectively utilize peer-reviewed and policy-relevant research materials
- Create an informed and well-argued policy analysis related to a specific problem of poverty and/or inequality in a country in the Global South

Course Evaluation

Tutorials (15%)

Policy Analysis Proposal (20%) due February 10

Policy Analysis Paper (25%) due March 17

Final exam (40%)

Text: Haslam, Shafer, and Beaudet (eds). 2017. Introduction to International Development, 3rd edition. Oxford University Press.

All other readings can be found linked to outline or posted on MLS

Weekly Schedule:

Note: this schedule may be altered during the term in response to student feedback and progress.

Introduction

What are the content, objectives, assessments, and expectations of this class? Is this the right class for me?

January 3:

- Course outline

Framing and Measuring

What are: development, poverty, and inequality? Why do they matter? How do we measure them? What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

January 5, 10, and 12:

- Haslam. Ch. 1 Meaning, Measurement, and Morality in International Development
- Haslam. Ch. 17 Climate Change, Environment and Development
- Haslam. Ch. 24 Understanding Global Poverty Reduction
- Haslam. Ch. 25 Measuring and Evaluating Poverty

Tutorials begin week of January 10

All readings to be completed before tutorials

Preparing for your policy analysis

What is a policy analysis? How do you write one? What are the best research strategies for this assignment?

January 17 and 19:

- Haslam. Ch. 26 Inequality and Social Policy
- Additional resources posted on MLS

Resource librarian visit

No tutorials this week

Underdevelopment

How have colonialism and global actors contributed to poverty and inequality? What can global actors do to reduce poverty and equality?

January 24 and 26:

- Haslam. Ch. 2. Imperialism and the Colonial Experience
- Haslam. Ch. 6 Globalization and Development

January 31 and February 2:

- Haslam. Ch. 9 The International Financial Institutions
- Haslam. Ch. 14 Debt and Development

Film: Poverty Inc, 91 min (Jan 31/Feb2)

States and Civil Society in the Global South

How can states and communities cooperate effectively? What is state-led development and can the East Asian experience serve as a model elsewhere in the Global South? What are: civil society, social capital, good governance, participatory development and inclusive development?

February 7 and 9:

- Haslam. Ch. 7 State of the State
- Haslam. Ch. 12 Civil Society and Development

Policy Analysis Proposal due February 10 before midnight

Social Protection and Cash Transfers

What is social protection? Can cash transfer programmes have transformative effects? Are conditions necessary? How has this approach worked in Brazil?

February 14 and 16:

- *The Economist*. 2013. Cash to the Poor: Pennies from Heaven
<http://arc.bien.ch/sites/default/files/archive/files/131026%20The%20Economist%20-%20Cash%20to%20the%20poor%3A%20Pennies%20from%20heaven.pdf>
- Terry L. McCoy. 2016. As Brazil Tilts Rightward, Lula's Leftist Legacy of Lifting the Poor is at Risk. Huffington Post http://www.huffingtonpost.com/the-conversation-us/as-brazil-tilts-rightward_b_12336850.html
- Wetzel and Economico. 2013. Bolsa Familia: Brazil's Quiet Revolution. World Bank.
<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/opinion/2013/11/04/bolsa-familia-Brazil-quiet-revolution>

READING WEEK

Rural Poverty and Africa's Green Revolution

What are the best ways to address rural poverty in the Global South? What is food security, what is food aid, and can an African Green Revolution effectively reduce hunger and improve rural livelihoods in Africa?

February 28 and March 2:

- Haslam. Ch. 18 Rural Development
- Carol B. Thompson. 2014. Philanthrocapitalism: Appropriation of Africa's genetic wealth. *ROAPE*
- Sibanda and Mwamakamba. 2016. Africa's "Rainbow Revolution:" Feeding a Continent and the World in a Changing Climate. *Solutions*
<https://www.thesolutionsjournal.com/article/africas-rainbow-revolution-feeding-continent-world-changing-climate/>

Urbanization and Slum Redevelopment

How can urban planners and communities improve the living conditions of the urban poor? What is the potential for improving urban slums in Mumbai?

March 7 and 9:

- Haslam. Ch. 19. Urban Development
- Lisa Weinstein. 2013. 'One-Man Handled': Fragmented Power and Political Entrepreneurship in Globalizing Mumbai. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.
- Yue Zhang. 2016. Building a Slum-Free Mumbai. The Wilson Centre.
<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/building-slum-free-mumbai>

Film: *Good Fortune* Part 2, 45 min (March 9)

Conflict and Poverty

What are the leading causes of conflict in the Global South? What is a resource curse? How do poverty and conflict reinforce one another in Nigeria?

March 14 and 16:

- Haslam. Ch. 21 Conflict and Development
- Kathleen Caulderwood. 2014. Boko Haram and Nigeria's Economy: Why the poorest suffer most. *International Business Times*. <http://www.ibtimes.com/boko-haram-nigerias-economy-why-poorest-suffer-most-1645190>
- Joshua Goldfond. 2015. Nigeria's Resource Curse: Boko Haram and the poverty of plenty. Open Democracy. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/joshua-goldfond/nigeria-s-resource-curse-boko-haram-and-poverty-of-plenty>

Policy Analysis due March 17 before midnight

Gender and Microfinance

What are the challenges for women in the global south? How does microfinance work? Has microfinance empowered women in Bangladesh?

March 21 and 23:

- Haslam. Ch. 5 Gender and Development
- Isahaque Ali and Zulkernain A. Hatta. 2012. Women's Empowerment or Disempowerment through Microfinance: Evidence from Bangladesh. *Asian Social Work and Policy Review*.

Film: *Microdebt*, 57 min. (March 23)

March 28 and 30:

Catch-up and review for final exam

No tutorials this week

Academic Integrity / Misconduct and Plagiarism

Laurier is committed to a culture of integrity within and beyond the classroom. This culture values trustworthiness (i.e., honesty, integrity, reliability), fairness, caring, respect, responsibility and citizenship. Together, we have a shared responsibility to uphold this culture in our academic and nonacademic behaviour. The University has a defined policy with respect to academic misconduct. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with this policy and the penalty guidelines, and are cautioned that in addition to failure in a course, a student may be suspended or expelled from the University for academic misconduct and the offence may appear on their transcript. The relevant policy can be found at Laurier's academic integrity website along with resources to educate and support you in upholding a culture of integrity. **Ignorance of Laurier's academic misconduct policy is not a defense.** Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism. If requested to do so by the instructor students are required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.

Accommodations and Accessible Learning

Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact Laurier's Accessible Learning Centre for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Academic Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.