Sociology of Economic Development

Instructor: Dr. Wen H. Kuo
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Class Hour: W:  6:00-8:45 pm, SANDY 122

Introduction:

Economic development has been uneven across nations. In the last several decades, while a few countries have achieved phenomenal economic growth, there are also many countries in the world that gained little economically. This course addresses this difference in economic growth and development by looking into the causes, effects, and the processes behind development and underdevelopment. As factors related to economic growth and development are complicated, this class selects to look into only some social and institutional factors associated with growth, and the influence the economic development has on societies. The class will begin discussing a few perspectives of economic development drawn from sociology and economics, and then exam some specific areas of economic development and their societal impacts, including market, industrialization, human resources, trade, state’s function, and the global institutions. Lastly, since globalization has became such an important factor in economic growth, the last part of the class will also exam it relationship with growth and its bearings on society.

Required Textbooks:

This class has intensive reading assignments. Students will have to learn concepts both from economics and sociology. Some may find the first textbook somewhat difficult to read due to unfamiliarity to economic terms.

Reading materials are from these two books:


Course Requirements:
1. Class participation in discussion is required.

2. Assignment of reading will be given to students weekly. You are required to read these materials carefully, and participate in class discussion.

3. All students will also be assigned to make a short presentation to the class on the assigned readings.

4. The class presentation and your participation in the class discussion will be a part of your final grade (25%).

5. The other 75% of your final grade will be test scores. Three tests, 25% each, including short answers or essay questions will be given.

**Class Schedule:**

**Part 1: An overview of economic development:**

Week 1: Introduction and overview
- Income levels and economic growth around the world:
  - World Bank, *Global Development Indicators*, Washington D.C.,

Week 2: Development imperative and globalization
- Reading: Cypher and Deitz (C&D), chapter 1
  - McMichael, chapter 1: Development and Globalization

Week 3: Measuring economic growth and development.
- Reading: Cypher and Deitz (C&D), chapter 2

Week 4: Development in historical perspective
- Reading: C&D, chapter 3; McMichael, chapter 2

**Part II: Economic and sociological perspectives of development and underdevelopment.**

Week 5: Classic theories and neoclassical growth theories.
- Reading: C&D; chapter 4

Week 6: Test 1 on the materials from week 1 to week 5
Week 7: Theories of modernization, and dependency  
Reading: C&D, chapter 6

Part III: The Structural Transformation

Week 8: The state as a potential agent of transformation  
Reading: C&D, chapter 7

Week 9: Endogenous Growth theories and new strategies for development.  
Reading: C&D, chapter 8

Week 10: The industrialization process: initial structural transformation, Strategy switching and industrial transformation  
Reading: C&D, chapter 9

Week 11: **Test 2 on the materials from weeks 6-10**

Week 12: Development, human resources, and human welfare (poverty, inequality, Human needs)  
Reading: C & D, chapter 12

Part IV: Problems and Issues

Week 13: Globalizing National Economy and Third World  
Reading: Philip McMichael, chapters 4 and 5

Week 14: Globalization Project  
Reading: McMichael, chapters 6 & 7

Week 15: Class report and review

Week 16: **Test 3 on materials of Week 12-14**

ADA statement:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.