This course is a graduate colloquium studying the political economy of development. Through a combination of lectures and discussions, the course explores the central theoretical perspectives, debates, and findings in the political economy subfield of development. Students should have a basic knowledge of political economy. The course relies heavily on assigned readings. Each student is expected to do all the reading every week and to come to class prepared to participate in discussion. There will be additional periodical and journal readings distributed every week, notably from *The Economist.*

- **10%:** Weekly Attendance and Participation. Preparing for and contributing in class is mandatory for the successful completion of this course and I will not be lenient with this requirement.
- **40%:** Two Critical Reviews (20% each). Write two, 5-7 page essays analyzing and critiquing a week’s readings. Do not unnecessarily summarize; reviews are to be sophisticated judgments on the research and arguments presented in that week’s readings. The reviews are due at your discretion throughout the semester, by the *Monday* before that Tuesday’s class, no later than *5pm.* Please email the reviews to me at akingsley@ambac.com or allison.kingsley@nyu.edu.
- **50%:** Take-Home Essay Exam or Paper. A final, take-home essay exam makes up the remaining 50% of your grade. For the exam, you will be able to use readings and notes from the course and draw upon any external materials you deem relevant. For the paper, it can be on the development topic of your choice. Please discuss your paper topic with me no later than March 7th to receive official approval. Exams and papers are due on *Friday, May 13th* by *noon.* I look unfavorably upon extensions and you should not anticipate receiving deadline flexibility from me. Please email your exam to me at akingsley@ambac.com or allison.kingsley@nyu.edu.

**Books:**

- **Hernando De Soto,** *The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else.*
Week 1: Defining Development – What is it?

Week 2: Human Civilization – How did we get to modernity?
5. Review of Landes. [http://www.j-bradford-delong.net/Econ_Articles/Reviews/landes.html#anchor2077092](http://www.j-bradford-delong.net/Econ_Articles/Reviews/landes.html#anchor2077092)

Week 3: Historical Development – Why are we where we are now?
1. *The Elusive Quest for Growth* (select chapters)
2. *The Mystery of Capital* (select chapters)

Week 4: Development and Growth as Causal Stories – What matters?
2. *In Search of Prosperity*. Chapter 1 ([http://pup.princeton.edu/chapters/s7518.html](http://pup.princeton.edu/chapters/s7518.html)) and select chapters.
4. *The Elusive Quest for Growth* (select chapters)

Week 5: Politics and Development – Are political institutions important?
1. *Market and States in Tropical Africa* (select chapters)
2. Chapter 4: Botswana in *In Search of Prosperity*.
4. Chapter 11: China in *In Search of Prosperity*.

Week 6: Emerging Markets and Sovereign Debt -- What role does capital play?

Week 7: Democracy and Development – How do countries transition to democracy?
1. *Democracy and the Market* (select chapters)
2. In *Search of Prosperity* (select chapters)

Week 8: Democracy and Markets – How do countries sustain democracy?
1. *In Search of Prosperity* (select chapters)
2. *World on Fire* (select chapters)


**Week 9: Aid and Corruption – What works?**

1. The *Elusive Quest for Growth* (select chapters)

**Week 10: Culture and Norms – Is every country the same? [TBD]**

1. The *Mystery of Capital* (select chapters)
2. The *Elusive Quest for Growth* (select chapters)
3. In *Search of Prosperity* (select chapters)

**Week 11: The Ethic of Development – Is there one?**

1. Development as Freedom

**Other Potential Discussions:**

- Development Banks (Guest Lecturer: Ruth Ben-Artzi)
- Sovereign Risk (Guest Lecturer: Dan Bond)