Understanding and promoting economic, social, and political development is one of the primary challenges for the world in the twenty-first century. Despite the tremendous efforts over the last fifty years, a large share of the world’s population – in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and some of the Transition Economies – still lives in abject poverty. And while many countries have made the transition to democracy, pervasive inequalities, weak political institutions, and fragile civil societies pose significant challenges to the exercise of genuine democratic freedoms. Moreover, the “problem” of development has become an increasingly global challenge as issues of security, governance, economic stability, and environmental sustainability have become internationalized. Recent cases of economic collapse, political upheaval, and resurgent nationalism provide jarring reminders that we still have much to learn. Success stories that defy traditional trajectories of development – rapid and sustained growth in East Asia, cases of social development without growth, and waves of democratic transitions – call for new explanatory models. Coming to terms with these complexities requires modes of thinking, forms of knowledge, and tools of research that borrow from all the social sciences.

DS 2000 is the first half of a two semester course. It explores a range of substantive debates in development by drawing on empirical and theoretical work from the disciplines of anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology. The course has four objectives: 1) to provide students with a broad understanding of current debates and research on development; 2) to evaluate both the differences and complementarities among disciplinary perspectives; 3) to develop interdisciplinary analytic skills that can be applied to concrete research questions; and 4) to foster cross-disciplinary conversation and debate.

DS 2010 will be offered in the spring and is designed to assist students in preparing preliminary dissertation proposals (or, in the case of Economics students, a research agenda). The course will be organized around presentations by Brown and external faculty on a range of development topics. While DS 2000 can be taken alone, both DS 2000 and 2010 are required of all students in the Graduate Program in Development.

Requirements:

* Do all the readings and be active in class participation.

* Attend the Colloquium on Comparative Research (CCR) presentations held every other Wednesday, 5:00-6:30.

* Six 1-3 page thought papers to be shared with class. These are required, but will not be graded, and they should be circulated before class.

* 1 or 2 group presentations depending on the size of the class.
* A final research paper in which a substantive research problem is framed and analyzed from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Readings: The following 6 required books can be purchased at the Brown Bookstore.


A course packet with most of the other readings is available from Alegra Copy on Waterman and Thayer. Some additional readings will be posted electronically on the course Web CT sight.

**Debates on Development**

**Sept. 3: Introduction: Course Logistics**

**Sept. 10: Foundations I: Alternative Disciplinary Perspectives on Development**


Sept. 17: Foundations II: “Post-Modernization” Approaches to Development


Sept. 24: The Debate on Development: The Historical-Structural View

Cardoso, Fernando Henrique and Enzo Faletto. Dependency and Development in Latin America. (all).


Oct. 1: The Debate on Development: the Capabilities Approach


Growth and Distribution

Oct. 8: Equity and Development


**Oct. 15: Growth and Distribution**


**Political and Social Contexts of Development**

**Oct. 22: History and Institutions in the Making of Development**


**Oct 29: Colonialism, Power and Democracy**


**Power, Politics and Transformation**

**Nov. 5: The State and “Development”**


**Nov. 12: Politics, Institutions and Transformation**


**Nov. 19: Power and Inequality**


**Dec. 3: Deepening Democracy**


