

## TO BE UPDATED FOR SPRING 2012

### Development Studies 2010: Theory and Research in Development II

Daniel Smith  
Richard Snyder

Spring 2011  
Thursday, 9:00-11:30

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 Asia, Africa, 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 continue to 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, civil war, 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 2010 is the second half of a two semester course. It is designed to assist PhD students in preparing research proposals. The course will be organized around presentations by Brown and external faculty on a range of development topics.

Requirements:

- \* Do all the readings and be active in class participation.
- \* Attend and participate in the Colloquium on Comparative Research (CCR), which meets every other Wednesday, 5-6:30.
- \* A “research proposal” paper. The paper should frame a substantive research question, say why it is worth exploring, and then outline the steps that should be taken to answer the question. A short 2-3 page statement of the topic of the paper, including a preliminary bibliography, is due on **March 3, 2011**. The paper itself is due at the end of the semester.
- \* Written comments and presentations on 1 or 2 student research proposals (depending on course enrollment).
- \* Two short (3-5 page) observation and research design papers.

\* An in-class presentation on your research proposal paper.

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

Daniel J. Smith, *A Culture of Corruption: Everyday Deception and Popular Discontent in Nigeria* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007).

Richard Snyder, *Politics after Neoliberalism: Reregulation in Mexico* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001).

Most other course readings will be posted electronically on the course's Web CT cite.

**January 27: Introduction: Course Logistics, etc.**

### **Issues of Method and Research Design in the Study of Development**

**February 3: Issues of Method and Research Design I**

Richard Snyder, "The Human Dimension of Comparative Research," In Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007).

"On Dissertations and First Books: Perspectives from Leading Comparativists," Excerpts from Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007).

Gerardo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen, "Research Designs," pp. 385-95, in Kimberly Kempf-Leonard (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Social Measurement* Vol. 3 (San Diego, Cal.: Academic Press, 2005).

Thad Dunning, "Natural Experiments," Draft entry for the International Encyclopedia of Political Science, Yale University, Department of Political Science, 2010.

Evan S. Lieberman, "Nested Analysis as a Mixed Method Strategy for Comparative Research," *American Political Science Review* 99 (August 2005): 1-18.

John Comaroff, "Notes on Anthropological Method mainly in the key of e."

## **February 10: Issues of Method and Research Design II**

Elisabeth Jean Wood, "Field Research," In Carles Boix and Susan Stokes, eds. *The Handbook of Comparative Politics* (New York: Oxford University Press).

"On Fieldwork: Perspectives from Leading Comparativists," Excerpts from Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007).

Gary Alan Fine. 1993. "Ten Lies of Ethnography: Moral Dilemmas of Field Research," *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. 22(3):267-294.

Michael Burawoy, "The Extended Case Method," *Sociological Theory* 16 (March 1998): 4-33.

Richard Snyder, "Scaling Down: The Subnational Comparative Method," *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 36:1 (Spring 2001): 93-110.

Thad Dunning, "Design-Based Inference: Beyond the Pitfalls of Regression Analysis?" 2010. In Henry Brady and David Collier, eds, *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2nd edition.

## **From Method to Practice in the Study of Development**

### **February 17: The Craft of Writing Research Proposals**

Adam Przeworski and Frank Salomon, "The Art of Writing Proposals: Some Candid Suggestions for Applicants to Social Science Research Council Competitions," ([http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/art\\_of\\_writing\\_proposals.page](http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/art_of_writing_proposals.page))

Philippe C. Schmitter, "The 'Ideal' Research Proposal," 2002.

Samples of grant proposals. TBA.

**February 24: Presenter:** Richard Snyder, Professor of Political Science, Brown University

**March 3: Presenter:** Salo Coslowsky, Assistant Professor of International Development, New York University

**March 10: Presenter:** Bianca Dahl, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Brown University

**March 17: Presenter:** Juan Pablo Luna, Associate Professor of Political Science, Catholic University of Chile

**March 24: Presenter:** Leah Vanwey, Associate Professor of Sociology, Brown University

**April 7: Presenter:** Arun Agrawal, Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE), University of Michigan

**April 14: Presenter:** Pranab Bardhan, Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley

**April 21: Presenter:** Daniel Jordan Smith, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Brown University

**April 28: Student Presentations**

**May 5: Student Presentations**