



COURSE: IDEV 6800

Instructor: Ryan Briggs
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course was developed by Ryan Briggs, based in part on past versions of the course offered by Craig Johnson and Adam Sneyd. After briefly surveying the philosophical foundations of international development, the course begins with five classes on macro-structural theories. In this section we cover major social theorists, dependency theory, the state, and we lightly touch on growth theory. The next section focuses on micro or agentic theory. We cover political economy and the micro-foundations of institutions. We then move closer to the present and cover situated knowledge, post-development, and the recent empirical turn in development research. While the content of the course familiarizes you with some main themes in international development, the ultimate goal is to prepare you to create knowledge in this area.

You will note that the course eschews “topics” like climate change, gender, or conflict. This is intentional and I did this because: 1. I really dislike how such major issues get siloed off into their own little spaces, and 2. The point of the course is to cover theories and introduce you to different ways of creating knowledge in international development. Thus, I have tried to weave theoretically-relevant material on gender, scarcity, or conflict into the syllabus where appropriate. Consider this an instance of gender (and environmental, and conflict, etc) mainstreaming.

FALL 2020 COURSE DELIVERY FORMAT

Online, synchronous

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

IDEV*6800 offers a doctoral seminar in development theory. Its central aim is to develop theoretical insights about the contributions of social, political, and economic theory to the study of international development through individual reading and class discussion. The goal is to *train researchers* rather than to try to answer specific international development-related questions. Students are expected to play a leading role in the seminar. The required readings will serve as a central focus for discussion and debate.

EVALUATION

Book review, discussion, term paper

REQUIRED READINGS

On ARES