

POP88194
State and Society in the Global South

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Course description

What kind of institutions promote human flourishing? How can the character of domestic politics and institutions explain underdevelopment in the Global South? These are the fundamental questions that this course addresses. In the course we will take a historically informed approach to answering these questions over the *longue duree*. We will look first at how structural factors like geography and histories of colonialism and slavery have shaped long term institutional development. We will then examine in detail the nature of the state in most countries in the Global South, comparing them to states in the Global North. The relationship between democracy and development will be examined, including the reasons why clientelism and corruption are so pervasive. Finally we will address the issue of aid, and whether it helps or hinders political development in Global South states.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Understand the long-term legacies of colonialism and slavery
- Analyze the nature of states in the Global South
- Critically review the evidence on the relationship between democracy and development
- Understand the root causes of clientelism and corruption
- Debate the effect of aid on politics and institutions.

Course structure

There will be 5 weekly seminars of 3 hours and is worth 5 ECTS credits. Attendance at these seminars is compulsory. Please contact me in advance by email if you cannot make a seminar.

Assessment

1. Participation (20%)
2. Presentation (20%)
3. Final Assignment (60%)