

Syllabus

PSC 564 - Development and Political Economy

Professor & Term: Anderson Frey | anderson.frey@rochester.edu | Spring 2024

Room & Time: HARK 112 | TR 11:05-12:20pm

Office & Hours: HARK 313A | T 1:30-3:30pm

Overview

This course surveys selected topics in the recent literature that studies politics in the context of developing nations. It is designed to familiarize students with both the frontier research questions and the methodological tools employed in the field. Topics include but are not limited to democratic transitions and the institution of elections; accountability and government responsiveness; polarization and voters' responses to misinformation; and the role of cultural institutions such as gender roles and ethnic cleavages.

Grading

- Participation and Presentations (30%)
- Short Research Proposals (30%)
- Final Project (40%)

Classes, Participation, and Presentation

This is a discussion-based course. Students are expected to do the readings before class, and to be prepared to contribute to the discussions about the papers. Starting in the 3rd week of class, students will rotate leading the discussions for each class. This involves (i) introducing and summarizing the readings; and (ii) raising questions and guiding the discussion in class. Everyone must sign up to serve as a discussant for at least three meetings. In one of them, students will prepare a 25 min presentation to introduce the readings.

Short Research Proposals

Students must submit 3 short research proposals on topics directly related to the class (500 words max). They should briefly outline the research question in connection with the literature, and the intuition behind the strategy used to answer it. For empirical projects, briefly discuss the data and the research design. For formal models, summarize the basic framework of the model. The proposals are due on Feb 22, Mar 21, and Apr 11. Students should bring a printed version to class, it should fit on a single page.

Final Project

Students must submit a longer research proposal that includes a more detailed literature review, and more extensive discussions of the theoretical hypotheses, data and research design, or formal model. This could be either a new proposal or a longer version of one of the short assignments. This is due on May 07, by email.