New York University
Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

Decentralized Development Planning in Developing Countries

P11.2665                  Fall 2009
Monday, 4:55 p.m.         Silver 705

Instructors:

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Description:

The last three decades have witnessed a global proliferation of public sector reform, decentralization, and democratization in developing countries. Traditional development planning has adapted to these trends as they have unfolded. This course presents an overview of the evolution of the theory and practice of planning in developing countries. A central theme is that the structure of a planning system and its success in producing good results depend heavily on the economic, political, institutional and cultural context of a particular country. The course outlines and evaluates conceptual planning models and systems, introduces a range of practices and tools used by local planners in developing countries, and reviews approaches used by international development agencies to support local development planning. The overall focus is on how local development planning systems can be designed to work effectively in different country contexts. Detailed case studies and exercises based on them are an integral part of the course.

Goals:

The main goals of the class are:

1) To familiarize students with the evolution of the theory and practice of development planning in developing countries;
2) To provide students with an overview of common types of development planning systems and efforts to decentralize planning processes;
3) To introduce students a range of local planning tools commonly used in developing countries;
4) To familiarize students with the approaches of international aid agencies to supporting local development planning, and,
5) To help students think about how to cope with real-world constraints on effective development planning and implementation.
Format:

The class will meet weekly. The format will blend lecture and discussion. Class participation is encouraged and expected. Some of the assignments will require group work. The last part of the course will involve student research and presentations on a range of case studies of local planning systems in developing countries.

Requirements:

The grade will be based on the following:

**Mid-term Exam** (Individual Take Home) Covering Parts I and II (30%)

*Assignment 1* (Individual) Covering Part III (15%)

*Assignment 2* (Team) (Covering Part IV (15%)

*Class Participation* (10%)

*Final Synthetic Paper* (Individual) (30%)

The assignments will involve a mixture of specific questions to be answered, analysis of policy situations, and application of planning tools and techniques. The final paper will require you to assess the system of decentralized development planning in a particular country. Details on all of the assignments will be provided in class.

Readings:

There are *no required text books* for the course. Relevant readings are provided on the Blackboard course site or can be downloaded from websites provided in the reading list. *Please note that some websites for journals that the NYU Library subscribes to can only be accessed from your NYU email account. You cannot get into these sites from other email addresses unless you have a personal subscription to the journal.*

The attached reading list also provides a number of optional readings. Guidance about the required and optional readings will be given regularly.

Teaching Assistant:

The teaching assistant for the course is Luis Chalico. He has some grading and instructional responsibilities and may be contacted for assistance. His email is: luis.chalico@nyu.edu.
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Summary Schedule: Fall 2009

I. The Conceptual Foundations of Development Planning (Sept. 14-21)

Part A: The Evolution of Development Planning Paradigms (Sept. 14)
Part B: The Urban-Rural Debate: Implications for Development Planning (Sept. 21)

II. Broad Approaches to Development Planning Processes/Systems (Sept. 28-Oct. 5)

Part A: Traditional and Alternative Approaches (Sept. 28)
Part B: Planning Levels, Institutions, Actors and Linkages (Oct. 5)
(Midterm Exam distributed)

III. Development Planning Systems and Citizen Participation (Oct. 12-19)

(Oct. 12) (Midterm Exam due; Assignment 1 distributed)
Part B: Decentralized Participatory Planning and Budgeting (Oct. 19)

IV. Local Planning Tools in the Developing Country Context (Oct. 26-Nov. 2)

Part A: Tools for Identification, Prioritization and Formulation of Development
Strategies, Programs and Projects (Oct. 26) (Assignment 1 due; Assignment 2 distributed)
Part B: Techniques for Appraisal of Programs and Projects (Nov. 2)

V. International Development Agency Approaches to Supporting Local Development Planning (Nov. 9-16)

Part A: Overview of Recent Approaches: Social Funds, Community Driven
Development, Local Development Funds, City Development Strategies and
Sector-wide Approaches (Nov. 9) (Assignment 2 due; Final Paper guidelines distributed)
Part B: Strategically Defining and Approaching Reform (Nov. 16)

VI. Case Studies of Local Development Planning Systems and Synthetic Discussion
(Oct. 23-Dec. 14)

Final Paper due on December 15.
Decentralized Development Planning in Developing Countries

Outline and Reading List

I. The Conceptual Foundations of Development Planning (Sept. 14-21)

A synthetic overview of key concepts from development economics, public finance and urban and rural development that have helped to shape the theory and practice of development planning.

A. The Evolution of Development Planning Paradigms (Sept. 14)


Recommended

D. Conyers and P. Hills, An Introduction to Development Planning in the Third World (Chichester: John Wiley and Sons, 1984), Chapters 1-4.


B. The Urban and Rural Debate and is Implications for Development Planning (Sept. 21)


Readings marked with an "*" are required and are available on Blackboard. Readings marked with a "**" are required and can be downloaded from the internet site provided.


Recommended


R. Buehler, “Urban Development in Mega-cities in Developing Countries,” Faculty of Politics and Administrative Sciences, University of Konstanz, Germany, 2003. Dokument 1.pdf (728 KB)

II. Broad Approaches to Development Planning Processes and Systems (Sept. 28-Oct. 5)

Overview of the major approaches to planning and implementation—project-driven, sectoral, integrated, strategic, and collaborative—as well as centralized, decentralized and multi-level planning systems.

A. Traditional and Alternative Approaches to Planning (Sept. 28)

*Conyers and Hills (1984), Chapters 5 and 8, pp. 67-87, pp. 130-153.


Recommended


P. Healey, Collaborative Planning (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1997).

B. Planning Levels, Institutions, and Actors and Linkages (Oct. 5)


*Conyers and Hills, Chapter 12-13, pp. 193-228.


Recommended


S. Fritzen and Patrick Lim, “Problems and Prospects of Decentralization in Developing Countries,” LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, 2006.

J. Cohen and S. Peterson, Administrative Decentralization Strategies for the 1990s and Beyond (West Hartford, CT: Kumarian Press, 1999), Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-68.

B. Smith, Decentralization: The Territorial Dimension of the State, (Boston, MA: George Allen & Unwin, 1985), Chapter 2, pp.18-45.

III. Development Planning Systems and Citizen Participation (Oct. 12-19)

Overview of key dimensions and issues of local planning practice: strategic planning, capital development programming, performance budgeting, spatial-socioeconomic planning linkages, and participatory approaches/mechanisms


Recommended


B. Decentralized Participatory Planning and Budgeting (Oct. 19)

*UNCHS and Municipal Development Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa, , Participatory Budgeting in Africa – A Training Companion with cases from eastern and southern Africa; Volume I: Concepts and Principles, UNCHS (2008), Ch. 3 pp 32-38


IV. Local Planning Tools in the Developing Country Context (Oct. 26-Nov. 2)

Overview of key planning tools used in developing countries: mapping the local context and environment, problem identification, project prioritization, project cycle management, and project appraisal

A. Tools for Identification, Prioritization and Formulation of Strategies, Programs and Projects (Oct. 26)


Recommended


B. Programs and Projects Appraisal Techniques (Nov. 2)


Recommended


M. Rogers, Engineering Project Appraisal, Blackwell Science (2001) Ch.10 and Ch.11 pp.195-257

V. International Development Agency Approaches to Supporting Decentralization and Local Development Planning (November 9-16)

Review recent donor approaches and strategies to support development planning and governance/capacity building, including Social Funds, Community Driven Development, Sector-wide Approaches, Local Development Funds, and City Development Strategies.

Note: The readings for this section are not separated into Part A and Part B because many of the readings cover both an explanation of the various programs (Part A) and the strategy for their use (Part B).


*L. Romeo, Yemen: towards the Formulation of the National Program for Local Governance and Development (N-PLGD), LDI report 03/08 (2008)

Recommended


World Bank, City Strategies to Reduce Poverty through Local Economic Development


(Full document posted under General Folder of Blackboard Course Documents).


**VI. Case Studies of Local Development Planning Systems (November 23-December 14)**

*Detailed cases of intergovernmental development planning system reform are summarized, critiqued and discussed.*

We will cover three cases—one from Africa (Uganda), one from Asia (Cambodia), and one from Latin America (Nicaragua). The cases have been selected to cover a spectrum of experience in different regions. Each case will include a presentation by an expert involved in the case (one of the faculty members or a guest speaker) and a class discussion on the case.

The readings will be a mix of academic papers on the case countries, project documents, and evaluation documents. The readings will be provided (posted on Blackboard) at least one week in advance of the case presentation in class.