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

Institutions, Governance, and International Development

P11.2214
Fall 2010

Lecture Coslovsky/Iskander Tuesdays 6:45-8:25PM Silver 207
Section 1 Coslovsky Tuesdays 8:35-9:15PM Silver 403
Section 2 Iskander Tuesdays 8:35-9:15PM Silver 507
Section 3 Loffler Tuesdays 8:35-9:15PM Silver 407

Instructors:
Salo Coslovsky Puck, 3096 212-992-9873 salo.coslovsky@nyu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Natasha Iskander Puck, 3043 212-998-7479 natasha.iskander@nyu.edu
Office Hours: Mondays: 5-7 pm (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistant: Gundula Loffler gundula.loffler@nyu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Description:
This course introduces the theory and practice of institutional reform in developing and transitional countries. It reviews the evolution of international development paradigms, examining how the role, structure, and management of institutions, the public sector, and non-governmental organizations have changed in response to shifting economic and political trends. The focus is on major institutional and managerial reforms intended to promote economic development as less developed countries liberalize and their societies democratize. Key topics include issues of property rights, knowledge and innovation, learning, the rule of law, decentralization, civil service reforms, anti-corruption, citizen engagement, and public-private partnerships. The course concludes with a synthetic review and a comparative case study exercise.
**Goals:**

The main goals of the class are:

1) To familiarize students with the evolution of the theory and practice of the relationships between institutions, governance, public sector reform, and economic development in developing and transitional countries, with a focus on current trends and challenges;

2) To introduce students to international development aid and the various types of organizations that support it; and

3) To help students think analytically and synthetically about the role of the government, international institutions, and non-governmental organizations in promoting economic development.

**Requirements:**

The grade will be based on the following:

30% Class Participation
   15% participation in discussion
   15% postings to the class blog

30% Midterm Exam

40% Group Exercise
   15% group presentation
   25% final paper

Active class participation means coming to class prepared to engage in a thoughtful and reflective discussion, and being able to ask good questions at least as much as being able to answer them. As part of the participation requirement, each student is required to prepare one 400-500 word blog posting that discuss the week’s reading and two 200-250 word responses to blog postings made by your colleagues (three postings total: one longer reflection, two shorter responses). The commentary (longer) blog postings should not summarize the readings; they should provide commentary on the readings, linking the main themes and insights presented to current events where appropriate. The response posting should comment on other blogs postings for that week and their take on the readings, or on posting from previous weeks touching on the same themes. These entries will account for 15% of the final grade and they will be graded on their insightfulness, pertinence to the discussion, and originality. (Maintaining a civil tone is required of all postings). Postings should be concise and to the point, and should not reiterate arguments made by colleagues in posting already made that week. Posting should be made at least 6 hours before the class in which the readings you comment on will be covered. You will receive feedback on postings at mid-term but if you want to receive feedback earlier, please email Gundula Loffler (gundula.loffler@nyu.edu) to request it.
A take-home midterm exam will be distributed two-thirds of the way through the class. It will consist of two essay questions, with a maximum of 5 pages each – 10 pages total. The exam is open book, open note and you will have two weeks to complete it. Please note that the exam is an individual exercise, and should not be discussed with your colleagues in class.

The group exercise is a synthetic analysis of materials on institutional reform in a particular country. The class will be divided into country groups, and each group will examine one aspect of the institutional makeup and suggest courses for its reform in the country studied. Groups are expected to choose an area of institutional reform to study. They must prepare a 1 page abstract of the topic and a short 1 page bibliography (10 items) by October 5. Groups must get final approval for the abstract topic by October 19. Groups will conduct research on their topic, using a wide range of sources. The groups will meet outside of class time to discuss the case materials, prepare group presentations, and write a final group paper of approximately 20-25 pages in length.

Presentations:
Groups will make their presentations to the class on November 23rd and 30th.

Papers—due date:
Papers are due Monday December 13th at noon. To submit them, please use the drop-box function on Blackboard (additional instructions to follow)

Readings:
There are two required books for the course:


These required/recommended books are available for purchase at the NYU Professional Bookstore and are also on reserve at Bobst Library.

All the other required readings are either available on Blackboard or available online. This syllabus provides additional instructions on how to obtain readings not posted on Blackboard, as needed.

Finally, this syllabus does not include optional readings, but there are plenty of those available. If interested, consult the instructors.
Overview of Course Schedule

SECTION I: THE CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS AND PRACTICAL CHALLENGES OF INSTITUTIONS IN DEVELOPMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Evolving Development/Institutional Reform Paradigms: From Plan…</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>To Market…and Back</td>
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<td>September 21</td>
<td>Contemporary Directions in Development Theory and Practice</td>
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<td>September 28</td>
<td>Guest Speaker -- TBA</td>
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SECTION II: INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>Rule of Law</td>
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<td>Abstract for final project due</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>Property Rights and Governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 19</td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
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<td>Sections: group work on final projects</td>
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SECTION III: INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNANCE, AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>Accountability, Anti-Corruption and Good Governance</td>
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<td>EXAM HANDED OUT</td>
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<td>November 2</td>
<td>Decentralization and its Discontents</td>
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<td>November 9</td>
<td>Public-Private Partnerships and Citizen Engagement</td>
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<td>EXAM DUE</td>
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<td>November 16</td>
<td>Governing Knowledge</td>
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SECTION IV: SYNTHESIS: INTEGRATED INSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN COMPARATIVE CONTEXT

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 23</td>
<td>Country Case Presentations</td>
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<td>November 30</td>
<td>Country Case Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>Wrap-Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>GROUP PROJECT FINAL PAPER DUE</td>
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I. The Conceptual Foundations and Practical Challenges of Institutions in Development

A. Evolving Development/Institutional Reform Paradigms: From Plan…


http://books.google.com/books?id=b1uQNYbE8DkC&dq=naomi+klein+shock+doctrine&printsec=frontcover&source=bn&hl=en&ei=y7BhTMGHDSH7lwJoICNBg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6&ved=0CDYQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q&f=false

Interview with Dr. Norman Borlaug:
http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/podcasts/BorlaugMexico.m4v

B. To Market…and Back


C. New Directions in Development Theory and Practice


Kolbert, Elizabeth, Greening the Ghetto, The New Yorker, January 12, 2009

D. Guest Speaker: readings to be announced

II. Institutions and Governance: Property Rights, Knowledge, and Organizational Learning

A. Rule of Law


B: Property Rights, Public Goods, Investment and Innovation


Raymond, Eric S.. The Cathedral and the Bazaar, manuscript version 3.0, 2000


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C: Knowledge


III. Institutions, Governance, and Public Sector Reform

A. Accountability, Anti-Corruption, and Good Governance


B: Decentralization and its Discontents


C: Public-Private Partnership and Citizen Engagement


D: Governing Knowledge: Organizational Learning and Change


IV. Synthesis: Integrated Institutional Reform in Comparative Context