PADM-GP 2204: Development Assistance, Accountability and Aid Effectiveness

Spring 2022

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Course Information
- Class Meeting Times: Selected Fridays, 9 am – 1:45 pm
  (February 11, 25; March 11, 25; April 8, 22)
- Class Location: 60 Fifth Avenue, Room 161

Course Description
International development assistance has evolved considerably in the post WWII period. Although some of the early development agencies are still operating and remain influential, the way they function and the modalities they use has evolved, and important new players have entered the field. This course provides an overview of contemporary debates in international development assistance with a selective review of the major actors—multilateral, bilateral, and nongovernmental development partners. The course explores the political economy of donor-client country relationships, the key accountability challenges that have emerged as development assistance has evolved, and the link between accountability and aid effectiveness. Particular emphasis is given to recent development assistance approaches and mechanism that have attempted to bridge the accountability-effectiveness divide. We also consider how major global crises, such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, have affected demands on development assistance and how they operate. The course closes with consideration of the possible future shape of development assistance.
Course Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will:

1. Understand the evolution and goals of international development assistance;
2. Be familiar with the main actors—both traditional and more recent--involved in providing development assistance;
3. Have an awareness of the political economy dynamics surrounding development assistance, including donor-client and donor-donor relationships;
4. Possess a working knowledge of key issues, debates and proposals related to improving aid accountability and effectiveness;
5. Be able to think pragmatically and constructively about the future of development assistance.

Prerequisites

In order to take the course, students are generally expected to have previously taken:

1) Microeconomics for Public Management, Planning and Policy Analysis (CORE-GP 1018); and
2) Introduction to Public Policy (CORE-GP 1022) or History and Theory of Urban Planning (URPL-GP 2660) or equivalent

Those without these prerequisites can enroll in the course with the permission of the instructors. It would also be helpful if students have taken Institutions, Governance and International Development (PADM-GP 2201) and a prior course in the politics, sociology, economics, or management of development, but these are not required.

Format

The class will meet six times during the semester. The sessions are long, but there will be a break and a mixture of approaches. The format will blend lecture (with occasional guest speakers), discussion and in-class exercises. In the first class, we will cover two topics, and in the next four classes only a single topic. Class participation is encouraged and expected.

The last session of the course will involve student presentations on a range of case studies of development assistance and a closing synthetic discussion.

Readings

There is one book we will use for the course (for Part V, class of April 8).

You can access the book at Bobst Library (electronic and hard copy versions) or purchase it online (electronic or paperback version) for under $25. [https://muse.jhu.edu/book/56503](https://muse.jhu.edu/book/56503)

In addition, there is one useful book we recommend if you do not have a background in development assistance or want a refresher. It is not up to date (2009), but it is the only volume we know of that systematically covers the history of a range of difference development agencies:


The introduction to this volume is posted under the Syllabus tab in Brightspace. The full volume is available online in both print and electronic form for $15-$25. If you want to read more than what we were able to post on Brightspace, you will have to purchase the volume.

*Required readings are provided on the Brightspace course site or can be downloaded from website links provided in the reading list.* In some cases, the links are to videos or podcasts. The number of readings may seem excessive, but not all need to be read with the same level of care, and we will provide guidance on priority readings in advance of each class session.

At the end of the syllabus is an extensive supplemental list of optional readings—a mix of older and more recent—provided as a resource for those who wish to consult them. These are organized under headings. These supplementary readings are not posted on Brightspace.

**Course Requirements**

The course has three requirements:

1) **Class Attendance and Participation** (20%)

   The success of the course depends on regular attendance and active participation by all class members. The participants are expected to do the readings in advance of each class. That means coming prepared to engage the class with questions and/or critiques and/or comments related to the readings.

   Please note that the attendance requirement is subject to NYU's Policy on Religious Holidays ([https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html](https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html))

2) **Midterm Exam** (30%)

   The midterm exam (take-home) will assess your basic knowledge and ability to think critically about the material covered in the first part of the course. It will be be on the material we cover through the third class session on March 11th.

   The exam will be distributed prior to the March 11th class so that you can ask questions about it in class, and **it will be due on March 25th after spring break.**
3) **Case Study** (50%: 20% presentation and 30% individual paper)

The main assignment for this course requires students (working in small teams of two or individually by permission) to prepare a presentation (20 minutes) on a case study that analyzes the history, dynamics, and future possibilities of one of the following:

- **The relationship between one development partner (multilateral, bilateral, NGO, etc.) and one recipient country**: What is the nature of the relationship? How did it evolve and why? What are its implications for aid effectiveness? Where might it go in the future?

- **Development assistance in a particular area** (public sector reform or an aspect thereof), a public service sector (education, health, infrastructure, etc.), or some dimension of governance (civil society empowerment, justice, etc.): What is the nature of the assistance and how has it evolved? Which factors allowed change over time? How successful were the efforts and why?

- **Efforts to reform a particular development partner**—or one of its specific departments or programs: Which actors animated the reform efforts (insiders, outsiders, recipients, a mix)? How successful have they been? How sustainable are they likely to be? What were the political, policy, and/or management dimensions of change?

You are expected to prepare a **one-page abstract of your topic by March 28th**, and the topic must be discussed and **finalized with the instructors by April 8th**. **The presentations will take place in the final class meeting on April 22nd**.

In addition to the presentation, **each team member will prepare an individual final paper of up to ten pages on an aspect of the team topic, or with permission of the instructors, another topic.** An individual paper based on a presentation should go beyond/build on what is covered in the presentation. **The deadline for submission is May 16th.**

More details on each of the assignments will be provided in advance of when it is due.

**Assignment Format and Submission:**

All assignments should be written on Times New Roman size 12, doubled-spaced lines (not 1.5), with one-inch margins all around. Please submit them as a Word document via the Assignments tab on Brightspace and use the following convention to name your submitted files: DAAAE [Last name][Assignment].docx, e.g. DAAAENameExam.docx

**Grading Policy**

*The course follows the NYU Wagner policy guidelines on academic honesty, grading and incompletes. It is the responsibility of course participants to become familiar with these policies.*

All students are expected to pursue and meet the highest standards of academic excellence and
integrity. Please see the NYU Wagner Student Portal for information on the academic code and grading policy, including incompletes (you need to be logged in to access these links).

Academic Code: https://wagner.nyu.edu/portal/students/policies/code
Grading: https://wagner.nyu.edu/portal/students/policies/grading
Incompletes: https://wagner.nyu.edu/portal/students/policies/incompletes

Late Policy

Please note that extensions on assignment due dates will be granted only in an emergency or if requested in advance for well justified reasons. This policy is adopted out of respect to those who have abided by deadlines, despite having hectic and complex schedules. Assignments handed in late without approved extensions will be penalized one-third of a grade per day.

Useful Websites

Some of our readings are drawn from the large universe of development assistance related websites. Many of these regularly update information and provide data, commentary and blogs.

Additional sites that may be of interest to you include the following:

Aid Data: http://www.aiddata.org
Bank Information Center: https://bankinformationcenter.org
Bretton Woods Project: http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/
The Brookings Institution: https://www.brookings.edu/topic/global-development/
Center for Global Development: http://www.cgdev.org/
Devex: https://www.devex.com/en/
Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation: http://effectivecooperation.org
Government Accountability Project (International): http://whistleblower.org/international
International Aid Transparency Initiative: https://iatistandard.org/en/
International Initiative for Impact Evaluation: http://www.3ieimpact.org/
Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network: http://www.modernizeaid.net/
OECD Development Cooperation Directorate: http://www.oecd.org/dac/
ONE: https://www.one.org/international/
Overseas Development Institute: http://www odio.org/
Publish What You Fund: http://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/
The Reality of Aid: http://www.realityofaid.org/

This glossary of aid effectiveness terms may also be useful:
http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/aideffectivenessglossary.htm

Additional links to specific development agencies and other development assistance actors are provided in the supplemental reading list.
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Course Schedule Spring 2022

PART I (February 11)

- The Evolution of Development Assistance Frameworks, Priorities and Approaches
  - A. Overview of Development Assistance Trends, Mainstream Actors, and Key Modalities
  - B. The Political Economy of Development Assistance: Opportunities and Challenges

PART II (February 25)

- The Changing Landscape of Development Assistance: New Actors and Frameworks

PART III (March 11)

- Responses to the New Landscape: The Paris, Busan, Addis, and 2030 Agendas and Beyond

Midterm Exam: Distributed March 9th and Due March 25th

PART IV (March 25)

- A Closer Look at the Aid Effectiveness Agenda: Evaluations, Results, and Performance

PART V: (April 8)

- Country Experiences in Context: Unpacking the Donor-Recipient Relationship

PART VI (April 22)

- Development Assistance Reform Options and Possibilities
  - A. Participant Presentations
  - B. Synthesis and Looking Forward

Final Papers due May 16
I: The Evolution of Development Assistance Frameworks, Priorities and Approaches (February 11)

A. Overview of Development Assistance Trends, Mainstream Actors, and Key Modalities


**United Nations. About the Sustainable Development Goals 2021. Browse the site as desired or watch the short video (we will talk more about the SDGs later in the course): [https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/)


* The readings are marked with an “*” if they are posted on NYU Classes, and “**” if they must be downloaded or accesses using the indicated link (to papers, blogs, podcasts or videos).
B. The Political Economy of Development Assistance: Opportunities and Challenges


*Peace Direct. *Time to Decolonize Aid.* (London and Washington DC: 2020) Read Executive Summary and in order of priority Chapters 3, 5, 6, and 7 (feel free to read the whole report).


III: Responses to the New Landscape: Paris, Busan, Addis, Post-2015 Agendas and Beyond (March 11)


*Sarah Cliffe, UN Reforms-A Major Step Forward, but Some Challenges Still to Overcome. (New York, NY: NYU Center on International Cooperation, 2019).

IV: A Closer Look at the Aid Effectiveness Agenda: Evaluations, Results, and Performance (March 25)


*Lawrence Camp and Amanda Fernandez, *Pay-for-Results in Development: A Primer for Practitioners* (USAID And Palladium, 2017).


See also *Lant Pritchett, “Using ‘Random’ Right: New Insights from IDInsight Team,”* Center for Global Development Blog (December 10, 2015)


Full interactive QuODA results are at [QuODA.CGDev.org](http://QuODA.CGDev.org).

*Samantha Custer et al* *Listening to Leaders 2021: A Report Card for Development Partners in an Era of Contested Cooperation* (Williamsburg, VA: AidData, June 2021) Read Executive Summary. Full report is also posted on NYU Classes for those interested.

V: Country Experiences in Context: Unpacking the Donor-Recipient Relationship (April 8)


Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments. *Towards the Localization of the SDGs.* (Barcelona: United Cities and Local Governments, 2021). **Read pp. 8-17 and skim as desired.**

**Background on Selected Cases (Information on focal readings will be provided in advance)**


VI: Synthesis and Looking Forward: Development Assistance Reform Options and Possibilities (April 22)

A. Participant Presentations

Materials on student presentations will be posted on NYU Classes prior to the class meeting.

B. The Future of Development Assistance

The following readings are not required, but most of them (except books) are posted on Brightspace and you may wish to browse some of them prior to the final class meeting or at another time.


*Jonathan Glennie,* *Global Public Investment: Five Paradigm Shifts for a New Era of Aid.* (Amsterdam: Joep Lange Institute, 2019).


*Andrew Rogerson. What if Development Aid were Truly Catalytic?* (London: Overseas Development Institute, 2011).

*Heiner Janus, Stephan Klingebiel, and Sebastian Paulo. "Beyond Aid" and Future Development Cooperation.* (Bonn: German Development Institute, 2014).
*Ben Ramalingan, Miguel Laric and John Primrose. *From Best Fit to Best Practice: Understanding and Navigating Wicked Problems in International Development*. (London: Overseas Development Institute, 2014).


**SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS AND RESOURCES**
I. General Development Assistance and Aid System Reform Readings


II. Development Assistance Modalities


*Leni Wild, David Booth and Craig Valters, Putting Theory into Practice: How DFID is Doing Development Differently,* ((London: Overseas Development Institute, 2017).

**III. Development Assistance Actors**

**A. Multilaterals: International Financial Institutions**

All of the major international finance institutions have websites. The following can be consulted for an overview of each agency:

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development: http://www.ebrd.com/
Inter-American Development Bank: http://www.iadb.org/en/
Islamic Development Bank: https://www.isdb.org


**D. Bilateral Development Agencies: DAC and Emerging**

Most bilateral development agencies have websites. A few key agencies include the following:

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC): [https://www.mcc.gov/](https://www.mcc.gov/)


E. NGOs, Foundations, and Peer-to-Peer Assistance

Many nongovernmental actors involved in development assistance have websites, including:

Gates Foundation: [http://www.gatesfoundation.org](http://www.gatesfoundation.org)

Bloomberg Philanthropies: [https://www.bloomberg.org/](https://www.bloomberg.org/)

Ford Foundation: [https://www.fordfoundation.org](https://www.fordfoundation.org)

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria: [http://www.theglobalfund.org](http://www.theglobalfund.org)


**IV. Political Economy**


**V. Defining and Measuring Aid Effectiveness**


Alison Evans and David Booth. DAC Evaluation Network: Follow-Up to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness -- Review of Literature. (London: Overseas Development Institute, 2006).


Javier Pereira and Carlos Villota. Hitting the Target: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Results-Based Approaches to Aid (Brussels: European Network on Debt and Development, 2012).


