Carnegie Mellon University  
H. John Heinz III College, School of Public Policy and Management

Policy Topic IV  
International Development Policy (90-897 W4)  
Spring 2009  
Mondays, 6:00 – 8:50 pm

Instructor  
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Course Description:
This course is taught from the point of view of the policy entrepreneur faced with developing policy on international development in an environment of competing priorities and paradigms, complex problems, diverse constituents, and multiple international stakeholders. The perspective of four different actors will be highlighted throughout the course: US Government; non-governmental organization; developing country; and multilateral institution. Students will learn analytic frameworks to hone their skill in two distinct components of policymaking: crafting sound policies and mastering the policy process. The course readings and guest lectures will provide insight and a realistic grounding in how to operate most effectively in the fluid and fast-paced global policy environment, and provide lessons on how to navigate and prevail in the highly contentious and charged policy debates surrounding international development. This course will not delve deeply into the equally challenging area of policy implementation, though suggested readings are provided. The course presumes no previous knowledge or experience in international development and does not attempt to provide a comprehensive review of the theoretical literature in the international development field.

Course Objectives:
The course will provide students with the following: (1) overview of the central debates in international development; (2) analytic tools for effective policy-making and; (3) survey of key policy challenges in international development.
Course Requirements:

Students are expected to actively participate in all class discussions and to complete all required readings before each class. Students will write a short conceptual paper (3-5 pp.) due March 30th on one of the contentious debates in international development, and one policy memo (1-2 pp.) due April 27th offering a policy solution to one of the development challenges covered during the course. For the final on May 4th, students will form two groups to brief the class, one will make policy recommendations to a new American administration on its global development policies and the second will make policy recommendations to a newly elected developing country government (selected by the group) on its development agenda.

Grades will be based on:

- Conceptual Paper 20% (due March 30th)
- Policy Memo 25% (due April 27th)
- Final Class Briefing 30% (on May 4th)
- Class Participation 25% (every class)

Office Hours:

Mondays, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Other times by appointment

Course Policies:

Students are expected to attend every class and to arrive on time. You should inform me before class if for some unavoidable reason you must miss class so that out of class work can be assigned to make up for class participation. Drinks are allowed. Use of computers, cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices are not permitted. Class lectures and discussions may not be recorded. The sessions with guest speakers are off the record. Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of professionalism and respect the Carnegie Mellon University’s code of ethics.

Required Readings:

- Other readings as assigned and will be posted on blackboard.

Recommended Readings on Implementation:

Course Outline:

Mon. March 16th:  Overview: Crafting Policy and the Policy Process

Students are asked to think of themselves as policy engineers who will learn a set of analytic tools to improve their skills crafting policy. Students will also learn a policy-making framework designed for highly fluid environments in which problems, policies, and politics are conceived as largely independent processes that require skillful policy entrepreneurs to bring together to successfully make and change public policy.

Mon. March 23rd:  The Debates: Paradigms of International Development

Students are exposed to the meta debates in international development captured by the Bandung versus Chicago paradigms and the Washington consensus versus Beijing consensus. Students will also be exposed to today’s major thinkers and advocates of international development, and the current debates around donor driven development versus local ownership; foreign aid versus entrepreneurship; poverty alleviation versus growth strategies; causes of poverty; and global coordination challenges for development.

Mon. March 30th:  The Players and Politics: Agenda Setting in Development

Students will examine how different players influence the development agenda at different phases of the national policy process and their relative power over shaping the global agenda. This session will help students begin to prepare for their final presentations designed to shape the U.S. government’s (USG) development agenda and the development agenda of a selected developing country. (First conceptual paper is due and students must select a developing country for the final presentation).

Mon. April 6th:  Financing Development: Donors and Multilaterals

Students will have an opportunity in this session to study in-depth how international debt policy was crafted and eventually successfully shepherded through the USG, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the Paris Club. The guest speaker will provide a firsthand account as the USG official that designed the U.S. debt relief proposal and was the lead negotiator of the Multilateral Debt Agreement that cancelled the debt of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC). He will also address the potential impact of the current international financial crisis on the debt deal and development.

Mon. April 13th:  From Relief to Development: NGOs and Aid Budgets

Students will examine the poverty-insecurity nexus and the challenges of development in a conflict environment. This session will offer an opportunity for detailed discussion of the politics and stakeholder interests surrounding humanitarian and development assistance. It will also provides students an opportunity to utilize knowledge gained in their Federal Budget
Policy course. The guest speaker is the current Senior Representative on Sudan at the U.S. State Department. He also worked at the World Food Program, National Security Council, and at the USAID in the areas of humanitarian relief, conflict response, and development in Rwanda and Ethiopia. He will provide a case study of relief in Darfur and post-conflict development assistance in southern Sudan.

**Mon. April 20th:** China: Emerging Economy and Global Power Player

China offers an important case study of a developing country that has achieved rapid economic growth as well as a new actor reshaping donor norms of foreign assistance. Students will revisit the discussions in session two on the meta debates on the Washington and Beijing consensus and revisit the conceptual frameworks on agenda transformation.

**Mon. April 27th:** Private Sector-led Growth: Global Trade and Development

There is a growing consensus that development efforts must increasingly focus on outputs rather than simply aid levels and that private sector-led growth is a key. This notion is challenged by questions of equitable development and fair rules of trade. Students in this session will be able to use their knowledge from the systems synthesis course taught by Professor Bridle to address intellectual property and branding by farmers in Africa. The guest speaker is the former Assistant Trade Representative for Africa at USTR and current CEO of The Whitaker Group. She will provide firsthand accounts of the complex issues of equitable trade practices, including the famous case of Ethiopian farmers and Starbucks, and the policy process leading to the U.S. first comprehensive trade policy toward Africa, the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). (Policy Memo Due)

**Mon. May 4th:** Final Presentations

Students will divide into two groups. One will develop and present an international development policy agenda and program of action to the Obama Administration. The second group will present the same to a developing country that will be selected by March 30th. A member of the Obama Administration and from the embassy of the selected developing country will be invited to hear and respond to the student presentations.
**Course Schedule and Readings:**

**Mon. March 16:**  
Overview: Crafting Policy and the Policy Process

**Required Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**


**Mon. March 23:**  
The Debates: Paradigms of International Development

**Required Reading:**


Mon. March 30: The Players and Politics: Agenda Setting in Development

Guest Speaker: Mr. John Simon, former US Ambassador to the African Union, Former V.P. for Africa, Overseas Private Investment Corp. and Special Assistant to the President for Resources, Stabilization, and Development, National Security Council (not yet confirmed)

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Mon. April 6: Financing Development: Donors and Multilateral

Guest Speaker: Mr. Bobby Pittman, former Special Assistant to the President, National Security Council, and Deputy Assistant Secretary Of Treasury for International Development, Finance & Debt

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:

Mon. April 13:  From Relief to Development: Budgets and NGOs

Guest Speaker:  Mr. Timothy Shortley, Special Representative for Sudan, Sudan Programs Group, State Department and former Program Chief for East & Central Africa, USAID

Required Reading:

Edward Miguel, “Poverty and Violence: An Overview of Recent Research and Implications for Foreign Aid,” in Too Poor for Peace?, Chpt. 3, pp. 50-59.

Mon. April 20:  China: Emerging Economy & Global Power Player

Required Reading:


Mon. April 27:  Private Sector-led Growth: Global Trade and Development

Guest Speaker:  Ms. Rosa Whitaker, CEO of the Whitaker Group and former Assistant US Trade Representative for Africa, USTR

Required Reading:  Readings to be assigned later.

Recommended Reading:


Mon. May 4: Final Presentations

Recommended Reading: