GOVT 290A- Foreign Aid
St. Lawrence University
Spring 2014
Hepburn 012

Dr. Kristin McKie
Email: kmckie@stlawu.edu
Office: Hepburn 206
Office phone: 315-229-5209
Office Hours: Mondays 9:30-11:00am
Fridays 2:00-4:00pm
or by appointment

Course Overview and Goals

Does foreign aid promote or hinder economic development and political liberalization in the developing world? Are humanitarian, economic or political concerns more important in determining how donors allocate aid and why aid flows to certain countries and not others? In this course we will explore these and other questions by examining the determinants of development aid allocation by donors countries and assessing the impact of this aid on recipient states in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Asia, Eastern Europe and other developing regions. Along the way, we’ll also take an in-depth look at how research is conducted in political science, with students learning how to identify a research question, design a research plan, use various forms of data as evidence and assess research findings. Students will put their research skills to use by completing a semester-long research project on question related to foreign aid.

Course Readings

Readings for each week of our course will be drawn from:

- Articles posted to our course Sakai site under the “Resources” tab

Assignments and Evaluation

The main assignments and evaluative elements of the course are as follows:

1. The two analysis papers, 3-5 pages in length in which you grapple further with themes raised in course readings and/or class discussion. Papers should analyze/critique the assigned readings for the week but also include at least one outside scholarly piece that speaks to the paper’s theme (that either confirms, refutes or takes a different approach to the issue). You may choose to write reaction papers for any weeks that you choose, though one of the two must be submitted before spring break. Papers are due to your Drop Box on Sakai by noon on Monday following the week in which we discussed the readings you are analyzing.


2. Before each class meeting, students will compose a **QAEs (Question, Answer, Evidence)** for each reading assigned for the day submit them in a Word document through the “Drop Box” on Sakai. Late QAE submissions will be accepted, but will only receive half credit.

4. Your course **research paper** and the corresponding **scaffolding assignments** leading up to the paper (research question proposal, annotated bibliography, literature review, research design, first draft, peer reviews, research presentations) will comprise the main component of your course grade. Instructions on each piece of the research paper assignment will be provided as we progress in the course.

5. Finally, I expect everyone to be **engaged in class** every course meeting (which includes contributing to class discussion, participating in any course activities) and in individual meetings with me. Since you can only be engaged if you come to class/meetings, if you have *more than two* unexcused absences, your class engagement grade will fall by 1% for each additional absence after your second missed class.

**Grading**

Your **final course grade** will be based on the following breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two Analysis Papers</td>
<td>25% (12.5% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QAE submissions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scaffolded Assignments (5)</td>
<td>25% (5% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Engagement</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The **grading scale** I will use to calculate final grades on SLU’s 4.0 scale is as follows:

- \( 4.0 = 100-94\% \) (A)
- \( 3.75 = 93-90\% \) (A–)
- \( 3.5 = 89-88\% \) (B+)
- \( 3.25 = 87-86\% \) (B+/B)
- \( 3.0 = 85-83\% \) (B)
- \( 2.75 = 82-80\% \) (B–)
- \( 2.5 = 79-78\% \) (C+)
- \( 2.25 = 77-76\% \) (C+/C)
- \( 2.0 = 75-73\% \) (C)
- \( 1.75 = 72-70\% \) (C–)
- \( 1.5 = 69-68\% \) (D+)
- \( 1.25 = 67-66\% \) (D+/D)
- \( 1.0 = 65-63\% \) (D)
- \( 0.75 = 62-60\% \) (D–)
- \( 0.0 = 59\% \) and below (F)

**Communication and Meeting with Professor McKie**

*Sakai*

Please check our course website on **Sakai** for course documents, announcements, assignments, your personal drop box and other resources. When I send emails to the entire class through Sakai, the message will go to your @stlawu.edu email address. Therefore, please regularly check that email account.
Office Hours and Appointments

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the small size of St. Lawrence courses to get individual guidance on course material and to get to know their professors. Coming to office hours or arranging to meet for lunch or coffee is a good way to do so. During office hours, you can just drop by Hepburn 206, but for appointments at other times please email me to arrange a time.

Laptops in the Classroom

I strongly prefer that students not bring laptops to class, as they present too much of a temptation for distraction (believe me, I know). However, if you must use a laptop for note taking in this class, please use Leechblock (on Firefox), StayFocusd (on Chrome), SelfControl (Macs only), Freedom (http://macfreedom.com/) or another program that blocks you from certain websites for a set time in order to help keep you focused during class.

St. Lawrence University Policies

In compliance with the St. Lawrence University policy and national civil rights laws, I will gladly comply with any appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities of any nature. Students who are eligible for accommodations are encouraged to register with the Office of Academic Services for Students with Special Needs to discuss their IEAP with Dr. McKie in order to work out a plan for accommodations in the course.

Academic Integrity:

All of the work that you submit in this course must have been written for this course and not another, and must originate solely with you in form and content with all sources fully and specifically cited. Any instances of academic dishonesty will result in a report of your name to the Dean of Academic Affairs and, per my discretion, either a 0 for the entire relevant portion of the final course grade or a referral to an Academic Honor Council hearing.

If you have a question about what constitutes academic dishonesty, what is considered plagiarism or how to cite sources properly, come talk to me, visit The WORD Studio in ODY, or refer to SLU’s info sheets on citations and plagiarism:

www.stlawu.edu/writing/plagiarismfaq.html       www.stlawu.edu/writing/usingsources.doc
COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change!)

SECTION I: What is “Foreign Aid”?

WEEK 1- Understanding Foreign Aid

1/21- Introduction to the course

1/23- Understanding the scope of foreign aid

  - Moyo, Dead Aid, p. xiii (preface) to p. 9

WEEK 2- Purpose, History and Morality of Aid

1/28- Driving “Development”- The purpose of aid

  - Baglione, Writing a Research Paper in Political Science, Chapter 1 p. 1-10

1/30- The history of aid, Morality of giving

  - Moyo, Dead Aid, p. 10-28

SECTION II: Why Do Donors Give Aid?

WEEK 3- Bilateral Donors

2/4- DAC Donors

2/6- “Emerging” Donors


WEEK 4- Multi-lateral and NGO Donors

2/11- Multi-lateral Donors


2/13- NGO and Private Donors


WEEK 5- Researching Foreign Aid I

2/18- Library session

- Baglione, *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science*, Chapter 3- Annotated Bibliography, p. 31-54
- Other reading TBD

2/20- Individual Meetings about Research Questions

- Sign up for a meeting time on Sakai under the “Sign-up” tab
SECTION III: Who are the Recipients of Aid? What Type of Aid do they Get?

WEEK 6- Recipients

2/25- Who gets aid for what?


2/27- Aid Projects


WEEK 7- Today’s Aid Focus

3/4- Millennium Development Goals


3/6- Debt Relief, Budget Support

- Baglione, Writing a Research Paper in Political Science, Chapter 4- Literature Review p. 57-71

3/7- Annotated Bibliography Due

Spring Break 3/8- 3/16
SECTION IV- How effective is aid?

WEEK 8- Is economic development aid effective?

3/18- Yes

- Case study TBD

3/20- No

- Moyo, *Dead Aid*, p. 29-68

WEEK 9- Is democracy and governance aid effective?

3/25- Mixed Results of Democracy Promotion and Civil Society Aid


3/27- No class, Work on literature review, due 3/28

WEEK 10- Is social aid effective? Other Critiques of Aid

4/1- Researching Aid II


4/3- Mixed Results Social Aid

- MDG results review- details TBD

4/6- Research Design Due
WEEK 11- Re-thinking the design of aid

4/8- Improving Design, Delivery and Use


4/10- Improving Monitoring and Evaluation

- Baglione, Writing a Research Paper in Political Science, Chapter 8- Analysis and Assessment, p. 131-151

WEEK 12- Alternatives to Aid?

4/15- Trade, Bond Markets

- Moyo, Dead Aid, p. 71-154
- Cast study- TBD

4/17- No class meeting.

- Work on First Draft. Dr. McKie available for office hour meetings. First drafts due to your Peer Review partners and Dr. McKie by 11:59pm on 4/20.

WEEK 13- Researching Foreign Aid III

4/22- Peer Review Meetings in class

- Compose your reviews of your partners’ research paper drafts and email them to both your partners and Dr. McKie before coming to class.

4/24- No class meetings. Individual meetings with Dr. McKie. Work on Research Paper.

WEEK 14- Research Presentations

4/29 - 5/1- Student presentations of research in class.

** Final Research Paper due by 5:00pm on Friday, May 9th.**