THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

GEOG 5700

Geography of Development (27329) Autumn 2026

Syllabus - Instructor Information

Joel Wainwright

Professional Qualifications
PhD (U Minnesota); 20+ years teaching experience; recipient of the Ohio State Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching

Syllabus - Required or Recommended Readings

- Our course has two assigned textbooks:

[1] E Sheppard, P Porter, D Faust, and R Nagar, A World of Difference Second edition (scarlet cover). 2009. New York: Guilford Press (ISBN 9781606232620). Link at OSU library (free unlimited access); at Guilford press; at amazon.com

[2] G Mann, Disassembly Required. 2013, Oakland: AK Press (ISBN 9781849351263). Link at AK press; link at amazon.com

- Both textbooks will be available in electronic edition through the course library website: https://guides.osu.edu/geog5700
- All other reading materials, as well as the course syllabus and occasional announcements, will be available at www.carmen.osu.edu

Syllabus - Course Schedule

day	date	topic
		Unit 1: Course introduction
Tuesday	25-Aug	Course introduction
Thursday	27-Aug	Development, inequality, and geographical differences—1
Tuesday	1-Sep	Development, inequality, and geographical differences—2
Thursday	3-Sep	Development, inequality, and geographical differences—3
		Unit 2: Foundations of critical political economy
Tuesday	8-Sep	Colonialism and development—1
Thursday	10-Sep	Colonialism and development—2
Tuesday	15-Sep	Critical political economy—1
Thursday	17-Sep	Critical political economy—2
Tuesday	22-Sep	Critical political economy—3
Thursday	24-Sep	Critical political economy—4
Tuesday	29-Sep	Exam 1 (in classroom): 3 questions, you answer 2

Thursday	1-Oct	Exam 1 review & introduction to de Janvry's model
Tuesday	6-Oct	Development theory—De Janvry’s synthesis 1
Thursday	8-Oct	Development theory—De Janvry’s synthesis 2
Tuesday	13-Oct	Development theory—De Janvry’s synthesis 3
Thursday	15-Oct	Fall break: no classes
Tuesday	20-Oct	de Janvry's synthesis 4 to political economy of food 1
Thursday	22-Oct	Film: Life & Debt
Tuesday	27-Oct	Student services visit, option A: debt & budgets 101
Thursday	29-Oct	Political economy of food, agriculture & hunger 2
Tuesday	3-Nov	Political economy of food, agriculture & hunger 3
Thursday	5-Nov	catch up, review for Exam 2
Tuesday	10-Nov	Exam 2 (in classroom): 3 questions, you answer 2
Thursday	12-Nov	Student services visit, option B: Life's tough but so are you
		Unit 3: Development practices and problems today

Tuesday	17-Nov	Exam 2 review & introduction to developmental state
Thursday	19-Nov	Decolonization & the developmentalist state: Botswana 1
Tuesday	24-Nov	Decolonization & the developmentalist state: Botswana 2
Thursday	26-Nov	Thanksgiving: no classes
Tuesday	1-Dec	China, global political economy, & development 1
Thursday	3-Dec	China, global political economy, & development 2
Tuesday	8-Dec	This will not be easy
Monday	14-Dec	Exam 3 (in classroom, noon-1:45pm); 4 qs, 3 essays

Syllabus - University Policies

Office of Undergraduate Education - Standard Syllabus Statements

- Academic Misconduct
- Religious Accommodations
- Accommodations for Disability and Illness
- Intellectual Diversity
- Grievances and Solving Problems
- Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct
- Copyrights
- Content Warnings

- Mental Health Support
- Resources for Military-Connected Students
- Campus-wide Class Cancellations