

Advanced Seminar in Economics
Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 pm

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30 to 6:30pm

SEMINAR OVERVIEW

In this seminar students will read, discuss, and write about topics which are related with the socio-economic problems and opportunities that Guatemala faces, the seminar will explore the dilemmas and lessons of social and economic change. The approach will be interdisciplinary, and it will include the evaluation of cases from other countries and regions of the world. Broadly speaking the seminar will cover three topics: culture and social change, micro-finance and social change, and violence and social change.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Participation in class	20%
Papers (3 essays, 8 – 10 pages each)	80%
At least two visits to office hours are <i>required</i>	

Participation in class

Since this class is designed as a **seminar**, we will use the Socratic Method. This means that I will not teach in the traditional way, students will read in advance and will bring comments and questions to the class. Our purpose is to explore ideas by discussing intensely the content of the readings. I will ask questions in class to motivate discussions. Students can have a clearer perspective of our class dynamic by reading this article about the Socratic method at the University of Chicago: [http://www.law.uchicago.edu/socrates/soc_article.html].

Each student must submit a *one-page* discussion guide based on one of the readings assigned to every day of classes. The submission of the discussion guide is a requirement to participate in the discussion of the day. This means that students who do not write their guides will not be allowed in class. The guide should be submitted at least one day before of the class.

The discussion guide must include the following:

- 1) A summary of an article assigned for that day.
- 2) The description of two references cited in the article. Students must explain how these references are related with the main argument of the article.
- 3) Explain two concepts mentioned in the article unknown by the student.

- 4) Find one article, not included in the references of the main article, and explain its relationship with the argument of the main article.
- 5) Three questions that the student would address to the author of the main article.

Students can see an example of a discussion guide in MiU [<https://miu.ufm.edu/ingreso2.asp>], the document is called “Guia de discussion seminario avanzado 2007”, this discussion guide is based in the article called “Is good policy unimplementable” which is also available in MiU.

Papers

Each paper must be 8 to 10 page-long, double spaced. Students are expected to supplement sources with at least 5 academic sources (journal articles or books), at least 2 from the reading list, and at least 2 books from the Ludwig Von Mises library. Students can write this paper in English if they feel comfortable doing so.

The three papers will be written on forthcoming topics to be discussed in class. They will be analytical in nature, rather than descriptive or historical. The purpose of the papers is to think through your ideas on the readings and to present reasoned arguments in favor, against, or undecided. The third paper will weigh 30% of your grade, more than the other two (each 25%), the third paper will be presented to the class.

Attendance to office hours

At least two visits to office hours are required, so that students have the chance to ask or discuss general issues of the class or specific questions about their papers.

Late work will not be accepted

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, falsifying identity or academic records, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Ignorance about what counts as plagiarism is not an acceptable excuse. Each student is required to maintain the standards of integrity set forth in the Francisco Marroquín handbook for academic excellence.

IMPORTANT DATES

July 31	First class (introduction)
We will not have a class on August 2.	
September 11	First paper is due
October 9	Second paper is due
November 26	Third paper is due

READING LIST. Each day we will discuss a paper or a chapter of a book. Readings with asterisk [*] will be available in Grafipronto; the others are available through **JSTOR**.

Culture and social change:

Week August 6 and 10 (culture and economic development)

Luigi Guiso & Paola Sapienza & Luigi Zingales, (2006) "Does Culture Affect Economic Outcomes?," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, American Economic Association, vol. 20(2), pages 23-48, Spring 2006. Available at [<http://www.nber.org/papers/w11999.pdf>]. Available also in MiU.

[*] Landes, David, (2000). "Culture makes almost all the difference." In: Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington *Culture matters*, pp. 2-13. New York: Basic Books.

[*] Porter, Michael, (2000). "Attitudes, values, beliefs, and the microeconomics of prosperity." In: Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington *Culture matters*, pp. 14-28. New York: Basic Books.

[*] Sachs, Jeffrey, (2000) "Notes on the new sociology of economic development. In: Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington *Culture matters*, pp. 29-43. New York: Basic Books.

[*] Grondona, Mariano, (2000) "A cultural topology of economic development." In: Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington *Culture matters*, pp. 44-55. New York: Basic Books.

Week August 13 and 17 (culture and economic development)

[*] Montaner, Alberto, (2000) "Culture and the behavior of elites in Latin America." In: Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington *Culture matters*, pp. 56-65. New York: Basic Books.

[*] Etounga-Manguelle, (2000) "Does Africa need a cultural adjustment program?." In: Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington *Culture matters*, pp. 65-79. New York: Basic Books.

[*] Glazer, Nathan, (2000) "Disaggregating culture." In: Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington *Culture matters*, pp. 219-231. New York: Basic Books.

[*] Pye, Lucian, (2000) "Asian values: From dynamos to dominoes?" In: Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington *Culture matters*, pp. 244-255. New York: Basic Books.

[*] Lindsay, Stace, (2000) "Culture, mental models, and national prosperity." In: Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington *Culture matters*, pp. 282-295. New York: Basic Books.

Week August 20 and 24 (economics and culture – social capital)

[*] Putnam, Robert et al. (1993) *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press. Chapter 5, pp. 121-162.

[*] Putnam, Robert et al. (1993) *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press. Chapter 6, pp. 163-186.

[*] Inglehart, Ronald, (2000) “Culture and Democracy.” In: Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington *Culture matters*, pp. 80-97. New York: Basic Books.

[*] Lipset, Seymour and Gabriel Lenz, (2000) “Corruption, culture, and markets” In: Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington *Culture matters*, pp. 112-125. New York: Basic Books.

[*] Marroquin, Andres, (2007) “Wayúu crafts: A dilemma of culture and development.” In: D. Wood (Ed.), *Research in Economic Anthropology* (REA), 25. Greenwich, Connecticut: Elsevier/JAI Press. Available also in MiU.

Week August 27 and 31 (culture and social and economic structures)

Granovetter, M. (1985) “Economic action and social structure: The problem of embeddedness,” *American Journal of Sociology*, 91(3): 481-510. [Available in JSTOR].

Greif, Avner, (1994), “Cultural Beliefs and the Organization of Society: A Historical and Theoretical Reflection on Collectivist and Individualist Societies,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 102(5): 912-50. [Available in JSTOR].

Guiso, Luigi, Paola Sapienza and Luigi Zingales (2003) “People's Opium? Religion and Economic Attitudes”, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 50(1), pp. 225-82. Available in MiU.

Guiso, Luigi, Paola Sapienza and Luigi Zingales (2004) “The Role of Social Capital in Financial Development,” *The American Economic Review*, 94(3), pp. 526-556. [Available in JSTOR].

[*] Polanyi, Karl (1969) “Ports and trade in early societies.” In George Dalton (ed), *Primitive, archaic and modern economies: Essays of Karl Polanyi*, pp. 238-260. Bacon Press.

Week September 3 and 7 (culture and social and economic structures)

Stulz, Rene M. and Williamson, Rohan, (2003), “Culture, openness, and finance,” *Journal of Financial Economics*, 70(3): 313-349. Available in MiU.

Schwartz, Shalom H. (1999, “Cultural Value Differences: Some Implications for Work,” 48, *Applied Psychology: An International Review* 23. Available at [<http://www.imese.gr/courses/Schwartzarticle.pdf>]

Botticini, M. and Eckstein, Z. 2005. “Jewish occupational selection: education, restrictions, or minorities?” *Journal of Economic History* 65, 922–48. Available in MiU

Bowles, S. 1998. “Endogenous preferences: the cultural consequences of markets and other economic institutions.” *Journal of Economic Literature* 36, 75–111. . [Available in JSTOR].

Elster, J. 1989. Social norms and economic theory. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 3(4), 99–117. [Available in JSTOR].

Week September 10 and 14 (economics and religion)

Arrow, Kenneth (1972), "Gifts and Exchanges", *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1: 343-362. [Available in JSTOR].

Almroth L, Elmusharaf S, El Hadi N, Obeid A, El Sheikh MA, Elfadil SM, Bergström S, (2005), "Primary infertility after genital mutilation in girlhood in Sudan: a case-control study" *The Lancet* - Vol. 366, Issue 9483, 30 July, Pages 385-391 [not required].

Bisin, A. and T. Verdier (2000), "Beyond the Melting Pot: Cultural Transmission, Marriage, and the Evolution of Ethnic and Religious Traits, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, CXV(3), 955-988, 2000 [not required]. [Available in JSTOR].

Akerlof, George and Rachel E. Kranton, (2000) "Economics and Identity," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* CXV(3): 715-733 [not required]. [Available in JSTOR].

Week September 17 and 21(economics development and religion)

[*] Weber, Max. (1958) The spirit of capitalism. In Max Weber *The protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. pp. 47-78.

[*] Weber, Max. (1958) Asceticism and the spirit of capitalism. In Max Weber *The protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. pp. 155-184.

Williams, Rhys. H. 1996. "Religion as Political Resource: Culture or Ideology?" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 35 (4): 368-378 [not required]. [Available in JSTOR].

Sherkat, Darren E. and Christopher G. Ellison. 1999. "Recent Developments and Current Controversies in the Sociology of Religion." *Annual Review of Sociology* 25: 363-394. [Available in JSTOR].

Week September 24 and 28 (economic development and religion – the case of Islam)

Barro, Robert J., McCleary, Rachel M., (2003) "Religion and Economic Growth," *American Sociological Review*. [Available in JSTOR].

[*] McCleary, Rachel and Robert Barro. 2006. "Religion and Economy." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20, 2 (Spring).

Lehrer, Evelyn. 2004. "Religion as a Determinant of Economic and Demographic Behavior in the United States." *Population and Development Review* 30, 4 (December): 707-726. [Available in JSTOR].

Inglehart, Ronald and Wayne Baker. 2000. "Modernization, Cultural Change, and the Persistence of Traditional Values." *American Sociological Review* 65, 1 (February): 19-51. [Available in JSTOR].

Week October 1 and 5

Moaddel, Mansoor. 2002. "The Study of Islamic Culture and Politics: An Overview and Assessment." *Annual Review of Sociology* (28): 359-386. Available in MiU.

Kuran, Timur. 2004. "Why the Middle East Is Economically Underdeveloped: Historical Mechanisms of Institutional Stagnation." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18 (3), pp. 71-90. [Available in JSTOR].

Fish, Steven. 2002. "Islam and Authoritarianism." *World Politics* 55 (October): 4-37. Available in MiU.

Daniels, Peters. 2005. "Economic systems and the Buddhist world view: the 21st century nexus." *Journal of Socio-Economics, The*, 34 (2), pp. 245-268. Available in MiU.

Kuran, Timur. 1997. "Islam and Underdevelopment: An Old Puzzle Revisited." *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics* (153):41-71, (not required).

Microfinance and social change

Week October 8 and 12

Dowla, A. "In credit we trust: Building social capital by Grameen Bank in Bangladesh." *The Journal of Socio-Economics*, 35 (1): 102-122. Available in MiU.

Hashemi, Syed and Ann Riley. 1996. "Rural credit programs and women's empowerment in Bangladesh." *World Development*, 24(4): 635-653. Available in MiU.

McGuire, Paul B. and John D. Conroy. 2000. "The microfinance phenomenon," *Asia-Pacific Review*, 7 (1). Available in MiU.

Empowering Women with Micro Finance: Evidence from Bangladesh

Mark M. Pitt / Shahidur R. Khandker / Jennifer Cartwright *economic development and cultural change* Volume 54, Number 4, July 2006

Symposium on Microcredit Policy Studies Journal:

Woller, Gary and Woodworth, Warner. 2001. "Microcredit and Third World Development Policy." Gary M. Woller and Warner Woodworth. *Policy Studies Journal* 29 (2): 265. Available in MiU.

Woller, Gary M. and Warner Woodworth. 2001. "Microcredit as a Grass-Roots Policy for International Development." *Policy Studies Journal*, 29 (2). **Available in MiU.**

Bhatta, Bambhir. 2001. "'Small Is Indeed Beautiful but ...': The Context of Microcredit Strategies in Nepal.(Statistical Data Included)." *Policy Studies Journal* 29(2): 283. **Available in MiU.**

Week October 15 and 19

Symposium on Microcredit Policy Studies Journal - cont:

Snow, Douglas and Terry Buss. 2001. "Development and the Role of Microcredit," *Policy Studies Journal*, 29 (2). **Available in MiU.**

Luoto, Jill, Craig McIntosh, and/ Bruce Wydick. 2007. "Credit Information Systems in Less Developed Countries: A Test with Microfinance in Guatemala." *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 55(2). **Available in MiU.**

Bhatt, N. & Tang, S. Y. 2001. "Delivering microfinance in developing countries: controversies and policy perspectives." *Policy Studies Journal*, 29(2), 319-334. **Available in MiU.**

Bamfo, Napoleon. 2001. "A Grassroots Developmental Strategy for Africa: Towns as Agents of Growth Through Financial Credit." *Policy Studies Journal* 29 (2): 308. **Available in MiU.**

Week October 22 and 26

Handy, Jim, (2004). "Chicken thieves, witches, and judges: Vigilance justice and law in Guatemala." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 36: 533-561. **Available in MiU.**

Sprinzak, Ehud. 2000. "Rational Fanatics." *Foreign Policy* 120 (September- October): 66-73. [Available in JSTOR].

Rapoport, David. 1991. "Some General Observations on Religion and Violence." *Journal of Terrorism and Political Violence* 3 (3): 118-139 (not required).

Hoffman, Bruce. 1995. "'Holy Terror': The Implications of Terrorism Motivated by a Religious Imperative." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* (18): 271-284 (not required).

Week October 29 November 2 (Thursday is holyday)

Lewis, Bernard. "The roots of Muslim rage." *Atlantic monthly*, September 1990. Available in MiU.

Atran. "Genesis of suicide terrorism." *Science*, March, 2003. Available in MiU.

Week November 5 and 9

Markowitz, S. (2005)

“utex.gmu.edu:2096/science?_ob=GatewayURL&_method=citationSearch&_urlVersion=4&_origIn=SDTOPTWOFIVE&_version=1&_piikey=S0144818805000207&md5=bf3cc196739c3e72fc52df49b572ff24" \t "_blank" |Alcohol, Drugs and Violent Crime.” *International Review of Law and Economics*, 25 (1): 20-44. Available in MiU.

Handy, Jim. 1994. “Demilitarizing Community in Guatemala.” *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, 19: 37–38 (1994), pp. 35–60 (not required).

Handy, Jim. ‘Democratizing What? : Some Reflections on Nation, State, Ethnicity, Modernity, W