Syllabus AY 2019-2020 (preliminary and subject to change)  
John F. Kennedy School of Government  
Harvard University

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: USING ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORKS FOR SMART POLICY DESIGN**  
**DEV 102**

Class: Tuesday & Thursday 1:15-2:30pm, L140

Review sessions: Friday 1:15-2:30pm & 2:45-4pm in R306

*First day of class is Tuesday, January 28th*

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Professor Asim I Khwaja  
Rubenstein 434

Office hours:  
Thursday 4:00-6:00pm  
(sign up via website)

Assistant: Olivia DaDalt  
Office: Rubenstein 321D  
Email: odadalt@hks.harvard.edu

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

This is a semester-long course that provides analytical frameworks to aid the design and implementation of development policy. The course will start by examining different diagnostic approaches for policy design and then provide a deep-dive analysis into diagnostics and policy design in a few specific areas such as education, finance, health, and governance.

**Teaching fellow:**
Niharika Singh  
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**Office Hours**
TBD

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TBD
Sarah Xu  
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TBD

*Please take the time to register (using your OFFICIAL Harvard email address) for our participation tracking program, Teachly, here: bit.ly/2tfEtfC*
COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The course grade will be based on the following components, with weights in parentheses:

- Ten short responses (30%)
- Group work – slides & presentation (25%)
- Spring final paper (45%)

At ten regularly spaced intervals during the semester students will be required to provide short responses to questions based on identified readings and lecture content. Responses will require students to think critically about the reading. The responses, group work, and final paper will provide students with complementary skills for evaluating development issues and designing policy responses. The final paper will be approximately four to five pages in length. Details on the format and content will provided during the semester.

Students are required to attend two lectures and one class section each week. These sections will review and provide materials that complement lectures and provide theory and econometric guidance for a better understanding of course material.

Students will be expected to have read the required readings before class. Lecture and class discussion will draw heavily on the key concepts and findings reported in these required readings. Students should come to class prepared.

READING LIST INFORMATION

The reading list below indicates the URLs for those papers that can be downloaded from the internet. The majority of the papers and articles for this course are available online and are easily accessible through these links. If the links become broken then you can find the articles by searching Harvard library’s E-Journals using the following link: http://sfx.hul.harvard.edu/sfx_local/az/, which can also be reached by the following steps: http://www.harvard.edu/ → “Resources & Offices” → “Library and Academic Resources” → “Find E-Journals”. Type in the journal name and select a database that has issues for the year of the article. Each database is set up differently, but the citation will have all the information necessary to obtain the article.

All further reading that is not available online will be placed on reserve in the HKS library and can be found in the “Course Reserves” file on Canvas. Please check the class page frequently for announcements and other information.

ELIGIBILITY

The class is a core requirement for students in the MPA/ID program. Students not in the MPA/ID program will be admitted only with the permission of the instructor.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are encouraged to work together and discuss class material and assignments. What is important is the eventual understanding of material achieved, and less about how that is achieved. Any exam, paper, or assignment you submit is presumed to be your own original work, so if you do – as you will – use words or ideas written by other people, please make sure to cite these appropriately, and to indicate other students with whom you have collaborated. More information about Harvard’s policies on academic integrity may be found in the Student Handbook.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Professor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>28-Jan</td>
<td>Course Overview</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>30-Jan</td>
<td>Becoming a Learning Organization</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>31-Jan</td>
<td><strong>No Review Session Response 1 due 8pm</strong></td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>4-Feb</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Policy: The challenge</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>6-Feb</td>
<td>Policy Design: The framework</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>7-Feb</td>
<td><strong>REVIEW Response 2 due 8pm</strong></td>
<td>Singh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>11-Feb</td>
<td>Education I: Setting up the problem</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>13-Feb</td>
<td>Education II: Applications</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>14-Feb</td>
<td><strong>No Review Session Response 3 due 8pm</strong></td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>18-Feb</td>
<td>Education III: Applications</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>Education IV: Applications</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>21-Feb</td>
<td><strong>REVIEW Response 4 due 8pm</strong></td>
<td>Singh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>25-Feb</td>
<td>SPDI Group Work I</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>27-Feb</td>
<td>SPDI Group Work II</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>28-Feb</td>
<td><strong>REVIEW Response 5 due 8pm</strong></td>
<td>Singh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3-Mar</td>
<td>SPDI Group Work III</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>5-Mar</td>
<td>SPDI Group Work IV</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>6-Mar</td>
<td><strong>No Review Session</strong></td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>10-Mar</td>
<td>No class (presentation prep)</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>12-Mar</td>
<td>No class (midterm week)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>13-Mar</td>
<td><strong>No Review (midterm week)</strong></td>
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<td>HOLIDAY: Spring Break</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>24-Mar</td>
<td>Finance I: Screening Entrepreneurs</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>26-Mar</td>
<td>Finance II: Screening Entrepreneurs</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>27-Mar</td>
<td><strong>No Review Session Response 6 due 8pm</strong></td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>31-Mar</td>
<td>SPDI Presentations I</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>2-Apr</td>
<td>SPDI Presentations II</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>3-Apr</td>
<td><strong>REVIEW Response 7 due 8pm</strong></td>
<td>Singh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon*</td>
<td>6-Apr</td>
<td>Guest: Michael Kremer (2019 Nobel Laureate) <strong>4:15-5:30 pm</strong> Nye ABC</td>
<td>Kremer</td>
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<td>(Taubman 5th Floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>7-Apr</td>
<td>Finance III: Investment Choice</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>9-Apr</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>10-Apr</td>
<td><strong>No Review Session Response 8 due 8pm</strong></td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>14-Apr</td>
<td>Political Economy: Accountability</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>16-Apr</td>
<td>Health I</td>
<td>Das</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri*</td>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>Health II 10:15 am-11:30 am (L140)</td>
<td>Das</td>
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<tr>
<td>R9</td>
<td>Fri*</td>
<td>Health III 11:45 am-1:00 pm (L140) <strong>Response 9 due 8pm</strong></td>
<td>Das</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>21-Apr</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>23-Apr</td>
<td>Governance: Bureaucratic Performance</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>R10</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>24-Apr <strong>REVIEW Response 10 due 8pm</strong></td>
<td>Singh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>28-Apr</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-24</td>
<td>Wed*</td>
<td>Wrap-Up (Combined w/ API-110 12:30-2:30 pm, location TBD)</td>
<td>Bai/Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>R11</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>1-May <strong>No Review Session</strong></td>
<td>Bai/Khwaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4-May</td>
<td><strong>Final paper due 10:10am</strong></td>
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COURSE OUTLINE AND TENTATIVE READINGS

Required readings are marked with an asterisk (*), recommended readings are not starred. Most readings are available online (by clicking on the title). Readings not available online can be found on reserve at the HKS library. See above description for more detailed instructions.

A. Course Overview (AK: January 28)

B. Evidence-Based Decision-making Framework (AK: Jan 30, Feb 4, 6)

- Becoming a Learning Organization (Jan 30)
- Evidence-Based Policy: The challenge (Feb 4)
  * HKS Case “Seeking Skills, Finding Barriers: Vocational Training in Punjab”
- Framework (Feb 6)
  * HKS Case: “Seeking Skills, Finding Barriers: Vocational Training in Punjab (Sequel)”

C. Education Policy (AK: Feb 11, 13, 18, 20)

- Setting up the problem (Feb 11, 13)
  * HKS Case. Primary Education in Pakistan: Show Me the Evidence
  * Andrabi, Tahir, Jishnu Das, Asim Khwaja, Tara Vishwanath, Tristan Zajonc & the LEAPS Team. 2007. Learning and Educational Achievements in Punjab Schools (LEAPS): Insights to Inform the Policy Debate, Executive Summary
- Applications (Feb 18, 20)


D. SPDI Group Work (AK: Feb 25, 27, Mar 3, 5)

- I: Problem Identification & Diagnosis (Feb 25)
- II: Designing Solutions (Feb 27)
III: Implementation Details (March 3)

IV: Testing & Refining (March 5)

*** No Class session March 10 (presentation prep)

*** No Class March 12

***SPRING BREAK

E. Finance (AK: March 24, 26)

- Framework & Application: Screening Entrepreneurs

March 24:


March 26:

*Klinger, Bailey, Asim Khwaja, & Joseph LaMonte. 2013. Improving Credit Risk Analysis with Psychometrics in Peru, IDB Technical Note.


F. Group Presentations (AK: Mar 31, April 2)

APRIL 6:
Guest Lecture : Michael Kremer – 2019 Nobel Laureate

Note class time & location: Monday 4:15 - 5:30 pm (Malkin Penthouse)

E. Finance (cont.) (AK: April 7)
Framework & Application: Investment Choice (April 7)


Field, Erica, Rohini Pande, John Papp, & Y. Jeanette Park. 2012. Repayment Flexibility Can Reduce Financial Stress: A Randomized Control Trial with Microfinance Clients in India, PLoS ONE 7(9):
*** No Class April 9

G. Political Economy (AK: April 14)

- **Framework & Application: Political Accountability**


H. Health (Jishnu Das: April 16, 17)

- **Health I (April 16): Defining the Problem**


- **Health II (April 17): Diagnosing the problem**

  **Note class time & location : Friday 10:15-11:30 (L140)**


- **Health III (April 17): Delivering Solutions**

  **Note class time & location: Friday 11:45-1:00 (L140)**


*** No Class April 21

I. Governance: Bureaucrat Performance (AK: April 23)


*** No Class April 28th

J. Final Wrap-Up (AK, JB: April 29)

Combined Lecture with API 110 (Prof. Jie Bai) Note class time & location: Wed 12:30-2:30pm (Location TBD)