ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: USING ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORKS FOR POLICY DESIGN
DEV 102

Class: Monday & Wednesday 10:15-11:30 am, L140
Review sessions: Friday 10:15-11:30 (L140) OR Friday 11:45-1:00 (L140)

First day of class is Monday, January 28th

Adnan Qadir Khan
Rubenstein 405
Office hours:
Wednesday 4-6 pm
(signup sheet on door)

Assistant: Ramie Jacobson
Office: Rubenstein 126
Email: Ramie_Jacobson@hks.harvard.edu

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, public finance, health, and governance.

This course will use the Smart Policy Design and Implementation (SPDI) framework to identify pressing policy problems, diagnose the underlying causes of these problems using rigorous data and evidence, and design, test, implement and refine policy innovations. There will be a lot of emphasis on diagnosing and dealing with the challenges of policy implementation and political authorization and the skill sets needed to address these challenges. The framework involves a continuous process of direct policy improvement as well as embedded capacity among all actors to engage in a more systematic problem-solving approach to policy design.

Teaching Fellow:
Asad Liaqat liaqat@g.harvard.edu
Office Hours TBD

Course Assistants:
Shreya Chatterjee shc280@student.hks.harvard.edu
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Office Hours TBD

First day of class is Monday, January 28th
**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

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

- Seven short reading responses (14%)
- Two assignments (20%)
- Group work – slides & presentation (20%)
- Spring final paper (46%)

At seven 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 and will be graded on a 0, check, check+ scale. The assignments, 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 five pages in length. Details on the format and content will be 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/](http://sfx.hul.harvard.edu/sfx_local/az/), which can also be reached by the following steps: [http://www.harvard.edu/](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. **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. DEV-101 is a prerequisite for DEV-102. Students not in the MPA/ID program who have done DEV-101 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*.

**Important Dates and Course Structure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Professor</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Course Overview</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Becoming a Learning Organization</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td><em>No Review Session</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Response 1 due 10:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Policy Design and Implementation Framework</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Education I: Setting up the problem</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<td></td>
<td>R1</td>
<td>Fri 08-Feb REVIEW Response 2 (Problem Statement) due 5:00pm</td>
<td>Liaqat</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Education II: Applications</td>
<td>Khwaja</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Evidence - Policy Cycle</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>R2</td>
<td>Fri 15-Feb REVIEW Response 3 due 5:00pm</td>
<td>Liaqat</td>
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<td>Mon 18-Feb</td>
<td>Presidents' Day 2018- NO CLASS</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Wed 20-Feb</td>
<td>SPDI Group Work I</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td>R3</td>
<td>Fri 22-Feb REVIEW</td>
<td>Liaqat</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mon 25-Feb</td>
<td>SPDI Group Work II</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>1st Problem Set joint with API-210</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Wed 27-Feb</td>
<td>Policy Implementation and Supportability Challenge</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td>R4</td>
<td>Fri 01-Mar REVIEW</td>
<td>Liaqat</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mon 04-Mar</td>
<td>SPDI Group Work III</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Wed 06-Mar</td>
<td>Political Economy of Policy Change</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td>R5</td>
<td>Fri 08-Mar REVIEW Response 4 due 5:00pm</td>
<td>Liaqat</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Mon 11-Mar</td>
<td>SPDI Group Work IV</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>No class (midterm week)</td>
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<td>Fri 15-Mar</td>
<td>No Review (midterm week)</td>
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<td>Mon 18-Mar</td>
<td>HOLIDAY: Spring Break</td>
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<td>Wed 20-Mar</td>
<td>HOLIDAY: Spring Break</td>
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<td>Fri 22-Mar</td>
<td>HOLIDAY: Spring Break</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Mon 25-Mar</td>
<td>SPDI Group Work Presentations I</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Wed 27-Mar</td>
<td>SPDI Group Work Presentations II</td>
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<td>Fri 29-Mar</td>
<td>No Review Session</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Mon 01-Apr</td>
<td>Governance I: Political Accountability</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Wed 03-Apr</td>
<td>Governance II: Bureaucratic Performance</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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<td>R6</td>
<td>Fri 05-Apr REVIEW Response 5 due 5:00pm</td>
<td>Liaqat</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Mon 08-Apr</td>
<td>Governance III: Bureaucratic Performance</td>
<td>Khan</td>
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COURSE OUTLINE AND TENTATIVE READINGS

A. Course Overview (AK: January 28)

HKS Case 1971.0. New York City Center for Economic Opportunity: An Evidence-Based Approach to Alleviate Poverty.

B. Evidence-Based Decision-making Framework (AK: Jan 30, Feb 4, Feb 13)

- Becoming a Learning Organization (Jan 30)
  
  *HKS Case 2054.0. Fighting Pollution with Data: Environment Audits and the Gujrat Pollution Control Board.

  HKS Case “Seeking Skills, Finding Barriers: Vocational Training”; Seeking Skills, Finding Barriers: Vocational Training (Sequel)


- Policy Design and Implementation Framework (February 4)


- Evidence- Policy Cycle (Feb 13)


Michael Callen, Adnan Khan, Asim I. Khwaja, Asad Liaqat and Emily Myers. 2017. “These 3 barriers make it hard for policymakers to use the evidence that development researchers produce”. The Monkey Cage at The Washington Post on 13.8.2017


C. Education Policy (Asim Khwaja: Feb 6, 11)

- Setting up the problem (Feb 6)

  HKS Case. Primary Education in Pakistan: Show Me the Evidence (On Course Website)

- Applications (Feb 11)


*** No Class February 18: Presidents’ Day

D. Evidence-Based Decision-making Framework (AK: Feb 27, March 6)

- Policy Implementation and Supportability Challenge (February 27)
• Political Economy of Policy Change (March 6)


E. SPDI Group Work (AK: February 20, 25; March 4, 11)
  • SPDI Group Work I: Problem Identification & Diagnosis (Feb 20)
  • SPDI Group Work II: Designing Solutions (Feb 25)
  • SPDI Group Work III: Process Monitoring & Impact Evaluation (March 4)
  • SPDI Group Work IV: Refine and Finalize Presentation (March 11)

*** No Class March 13

***SPRING BREAK (March 18, 20)

F. SPDI Presentations (March 25, 27)

G. Governance (April 1, 3, 8)
  • Framework & Application: Political Accountability (AK: April 1)


• Framework & Application: Bureaucrat Performance (AK: April 3, 8)


**H. Social Protection (April 10)**


**I. Public Finance (April 15, 17)**


- **Guest Lecture I: Anders Jensen (April 17)**


**J. Health (Jishnu Das: April 22, 24)**

- **Health I (April 22 regular session; 10.15 am in L140): Defining the Problem**


- **Health II (April 22 extra session; 2.45 pm in L230): Diagnosing the problem**


- Health III (April 24): Delivering Solutions


K. Final Wrap-Up (AK, JB: April 29, May 01)

- Final Wrap-Up (AK, April 29)

  *TBD.

- Joint Session with API-110 (Jie Bai and Adnan Khan, May 01) 1:15 – 2:30 pm at W436.

  There is no separate session for DEV-102 on May 1.