

Introduction to Planning Institutions and Processes in Developing Countries (11.701)

Assignment 5, due December 1, Monday

(Section X on the syllabus, covered in class on 11/25-12/4)

Section X, including the guest speaker, contains six articles¹ that address the evidence on the question of “synergy” between government and civil society—including the negative as well as positive side of synergy. Each reading analyzes quite different country experiences and historical periods, as well as using different analytical approaches. At the same time, they all ask a similar question: how do we explain positive experiences across the public-private divide, and what distinguishes them from less-positive or even negative outcomes? In reading these articles, pay attention to the circumstances, structure, characteristics of the activity and nature of the environment in which it is embedded, in order to form your own judgments of the lessons that you carry away as a planner.

Write a paper that lays out the questions you would ask—and why—if you had to design programs or projects in the “synergy” area, had to comment on and make suggestions for improving programs/projects presented for funding by others, and/or had to evaluate “synergy” initiatives already in existence for some time in order to discover which were working better than others and why. Say why it would be important to ask these particular questions. You don’t need to include all the lessons learned from each of these readings, as long as you refer to all of the readings by the end of the paper. The same lesson or generalization may in some cases arise from more than one paper—though perhaps occurring in a somewhat different form or guise in each one. You are encouraged to think *across* the papers while reading them.

The assignment should be no longer than 6 double-spaced pages or 1,500 words, ***whichever is shorter***. The papers can also be shorter, and should have at least ***one-inch margins*** for written feedback. Be sure to check your word count, as mentioned in class. The assignment is due by the ***end of the day on Monday, December 1***. Hard copies of the papers should be delivered to Prof. Tendler’s mail slot and to Teaching Assistant’s mailbox. For last-minute delivery ***only***, send electronic copies (with a request to print). Students who will be out of town on the due date of the paper should send it electronically. ***No late papers will be accepted, and students should not miss class in order to complete a paper.*** Late-paper grades will be automatically reduced.

Note that because the semester is coming to an end, and in order to free yourself for exams and other assignments that fall due in the following two weeks of December, it is particularly important that the paper be in on time. In addition, in order to get your class grades in on time at the end of the semester, it will be necessary for the paper to be handed in without delay.

¹ Please note that your syllabus mistakenly includes December 6, with two readings—by Skocpol and Krishna. December 6 is a Saturday (the “mistake” that I challenged you to find several weeks ago). I have therefore eliminated the Krishna reading on December 6, and moved the Skocpol reading to December 2 (note that there are no readings for the day of Patrick Heller’s South Africa case, which leaves space for the Skocpol reading and the additional reading by Heller for December 2): Patrick Heller (2001), “Moving the State: The Politics of Democratic Decentralization in Kerala, South Africa, and Porto Alegre,” *Politics & Society* 29 (1), 131-163. Joanna will be putting this article on Stellar, and will make hard copies available if you have trouble finding it.