

POSC 159 – The Politics of the Developing World

Professor: Dr. Jeffrey Drope
Semester: Fall 2007 (Section 1001)
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11-12:30, and by appointment

Theme: This course aims to introduce students to the *politics* of many of the most important issues framing life in the developing or “third” world. The major themes include, but are not limited to, colonialism, democracy, war, religion, ethnicity, environment, disease, gender, and political and economic development. We will not only explore the theoretical underpinnings of these concepts, but will address them through vivid examples drawn directly from developing nations. Finally, the overarching framework will emphasize the roles that agents (or “actors”) and mechanisms (or “institutions”) play in the politics of these countries.

Readings:

There are two required texts that are available at the bookstore and easily obtainable from online booksellers. The books are:

- 1) Jeffrey Sachs, *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time* (paperback from Penguin Books).
- 2) Martin Wolf, *Why Globalization Works* (paperback from Yale/Nota Bene Press).

Additionally, and very importantly, the preponderance of required readings will be posted on our electronic site on the D2L system (each denoted by an asterisk below). I prefer to use mostly seminal works and very current resources and today’s technology permits us easy access to most of them. It is a requirement of this course that you be able to download the documents (mostly .pdf and .doc files).

Requirements:

In terms of general learning “objectives,” the various assignments and activities described below will be used to assess: (1) your knowledge of the central concepts, theories, and methodologies in the study of the politics of developing nations; (2) your ability to apply these concepts, theories, and methodologies to real world situations; (3) your ability to write effectively about the various topics we explore; (4) your creative thinking skills and ability to understand and evaluate individual and social decision-making, and (5) the development of your views about how to improve society, both particular to developing nations and more broadly.

Midterm Examination (25%) – this exercise will be a series of short essays that will permit students to demonstrate their knowledge of the concepts that we explore in the first half of the semester.

Paper (35%) – First, in the first third of the semester, I ask that you start to identify a particular issue of “development” in the developing world that interests you. From there, the main essay exercise will be to develop an original argument about the actors and mechanisms that frame this issue. Additionally, as part of developing your project, you are expected not only to reference the pertinent scholarship, but also to utilize primary sources such as government documents, historical archives and statistical data. We will discuss the paper project in much further depth in class.

Final Examination (30%) – in this exercise, in the last class of the semester, students will be given a small set of broad but penetrating questions that will allow them to demonstrate their vast and deep knowledge of the developing world. The exam is due in my office on Wednesday, December 12th at 3pm.

Participation (10%) – I expect everyone to come to class, to read the assigned readings and to participate. I do not expect everyone to feel comfortable participating in the larger class setting, but most certainly encourage it. That said, I DO expect that everyone will participate when we break into smaller groups for discussions and exercises. I am pretty good with names, and if I don’t know your name by part way through the semester it either means you’re not coming to class or you’re not make a large enough effort to participate.

Class Schedule:

Weeks 1&2 – Landscapes and Critical Thinking

8/28 – Introduction to the class, expectations, introductions...

8/30 **No Class** – Professor at National Conference in Chicago

9/4 – Thinking about thinking... and Landscapes of Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean, Asia, and the Middle East

* Linda Elder and Richard Paul, excerpt from *Critical Thinking*

* The Economist, “Adíos to poverty, hola to consumption”

* The Economist, “The dark continent”

9/6 – More Landscapes

Sachs – *The End of Poverty* - Chapter 1

Week 3 – Historical Context (colonialism, post-colonialism and neo-colonialism)

9/11

*Niall Ferguson, “Empires with Expiration Dates” from *Foreign Policy* (September 2006)

9/13

*Mark Berger, "From nation-building to state-building: The geopolitics of development, the nation-state system and the changing global order" from *Third World Quarterly* (2006).

Week 4 – Traditional theoretical approaches including modernization and dependency theories

9/18

*Seymour Martin Lipset, "Some Social Requisites of Democracy..." from the *American Political Science Review* (1959)

*Cardoso and Faletto, excerpt from *Dependency and Development in Latin America* (1979)

9/20

*Erik Wibbels, "Dependency Revisited?" from *International Organization* (2006)

Week 5 – Democracy

9/25

*Larry Diamond, "Can the Whole World Become Democratic?" from *Current History* (December 2000).

*Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and George Downs, "Development and Democracy" from *Foreign Affairs* (2005)

9/27 –

*Robert Mattes, "South Africa: Democracy without the People" from *Journal of Democracy*.

*Susanne Rudolph and Lloyd Rudolph, "New Dimensions of Indian Democracy" from *Journal of Democracy* (January 2002).

Week 6 – War (interstate, civil (including genocide) and terrorism)

10/2 –

*Gregg Easterbrook, "The End of War?" from *The New Republic* (May 2005)

*Gérard Prunier, "The Politics of Death in Darfur" from *Current History* (May 2006)

10/4 –

*Philip Gourevitch, excerpt from *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families*.

*Timothy S. Shah and Monica D. Toft, "Why God is Winning" from *Foreign Policy* (July 2006)

Week 7 – Religion and Ethnicity

10/9 – **Midterm Exam**

10/11

*Samuel Huntington, "Clash of Civilizations?" from *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993)

*Edward Said, "The Clash of Ignorance" from *The Nation*

*Bernard Lewis, "Freedom and Justice in the Modern Middle East" from *Foreign Affairs*

Video presentation – *Ghosts of Rwanda*

Weeks 8&9 –Environment and Disease

10/16

*Laurie Garrett, "The Challenge of Global Health" from *Foreign Affairs*

Sachs – *The End of Poverty* – Chapter 10 (pp. 188-209)

10/18 – **FALL BREAK – NO CLASS!**

10/23 – **PAPER TOPICS DUE**

*Paul Farmer and Laurie Garrett, "'Marvelous Momentum' to Health Care for All: Success Is Possible With the Right Programs" from *Foreign Affairs* (July 2006)

*William Easterly, "The Healers: Triumph and Tragedy" (excerpt from *White Man's Burden*)

10/25

*Elizabeth Economy, "The Great Leap Backward" from *Foreign Affairs* (2007)

Week 10 - Gender

10/30

* Ruth Levine, "Educating Girls, Unlocking Development" from *Current History* (March 2006)

*Ole Danbolt Mjoes, Speech given at Nobel Prize ceremony for Muhammed Yunus and the Grameen Bank

11/1

*Swanee Hunt, "Let Women Rule" from *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2007)

* The Economist, "Ten Years' Hard Labour"

* The Economist, "In praise of usury" (August 2007)

Weeks 11-13 – Economic Development & Underdevelopment

11/6 – Poverty

Sachs – *The End of Poverty* – Chapters 2&3

*Joy Olson and Vicki Gass, "Trade is Not a Development Strategy" from *Perspective on the Americas* series

11/8 – Reinvesting in Human Capital

Wolf – *Why Globalization Works* – Chapters 1-3

*Carol Lancaster “Development in Africa: The good, the bad, and the ugly,” from *Current History* (May 2005)

Week 12 –

11/13 – Reform?

*John Williamson, “The Washington Consensus as Policy Prescription for Development” – lecture delivered to the World Bank (2004)

*Kenneth Scheve & Matthew Slaughter, “A New Deal for Globalization” from *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 2007)

11/15 – Paper Conference Day #1 – all afternoon
Please read Sachs, Chapters 4&12

Week 13 –

11/20 – Paper Conference Day #2 – all afternoon
Please read Wolf, Chapters 4&5

11/22 – NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Week 14 –What can the rest of the World Do? Aid and Institutions

11/27 – **PAPERS ARE DUE**

*Stephen Ellis, “How to rebuild Africa,” from *Foreign Affairs* (Sept/Oct 2005)

*Nancy Birdsall, Dani Rodrik, and Arvind Subramanian, “How to help poor countries,” from *Foreign Affairs* (July/Aug. 2005)

11/29

Sachs, Chapters 13-15

*Jessica Einhorn “Reforming the World Bank” from *Foreign Affairs*

Week 15 – Wrapping it all up...

12/4

Wolf, Chapters 9&10

12/6 – **Final exam questions distributed**

Sachs, Chapters 16-18

Final Exam Period – Wednesday, December 12th – 1-3pm

