Politics of Developing Countries
Political Science 320-001
Spring 2014

Instructor: Cássio Muniz
Office: Bolton, Room 658
Office Hours: Tue/Thu, 11 - 11:50 a.m.
E-mail: muniz@uwm.edu

Course Description
This comparative politics course will introduce students to politics in developing regions (Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East). We begin with a theoretical introduction and then examine central issues that aim to answer to the following questions: What is political and socio-economic development? Why are some countries in specific regions less developed? What are some of the major problems currently facing developing countries? What are some distinct features of developing countries political systems?

Learning Objectives
• To understand and critically appraise alternate conceptualizations of the “developing world” and “development” as prisms through which to understand a great variety of regional, national, and sub-national experiences in relevant parts of the world;
• To gain understanding of key institutions and processes shaping politics and development in the developing world;
• To master a range of theoretical perspectives on comparative politics and development in the developing world and apply them to key empirical issues, historical and current;
• To examine how global forces and systems —political, economic, and social— influence and are influenced by the developing world;
• The ability to read, comprehend, and critique professional writing.

Grades
Grades will be based on three quizzes (20%), one midterm (35%), one final exam (35%), and attendance and participation (10%). No make-up exams will be given without a medical excuse or an excused University absence. Students must also produce the appropriate documentation stating why they were not able to be in class at the exact time of the exam. If you have a problem or miss an exam, get in touch with me immediately (beforehand if possible). If you miss an exam without giving me prior notice, you MUST contact me within 24 hours of that exam or you will not be allowed to take a make-up exam under any circumstances.

The midterm will be given on **March 13, 2014**. The final exam will take place on **Thursday, May 15, 2014, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Students who need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this class should
contact me during the first two weeks of class. There are four quizzes on the assigned reading and on map identification. Your three highest quiz scores will count toward your grade (i.e. the lowest grade will be dropped). There is no make up for quizzes. If you miss a quiz, that quiz grade will become your lowest grade and will be discounted.

Letter Grade Breakdown
A (96-100); A- (90-95); B+ (86-89); B (83-85); B- (80-82); C+ (76-79); C (73-75); C- (70-72); D+ (66-69); D (63-65); D- (60-62); F (0-59)

Quiz Schedule (subject to change, in which case it will be announced in class):
   Quiz 1: Feb. 13 (Thu) – Content of Weeks 1-4 and Latin American Map
   Quiz 2: Mar. 6 (Thu) – Content of Weeks 5-7 and African Map
   Quiz 3: Apr. 3 (Thu) – Content of Weeks 8-11 and Asia and Middle Eastern Map
   Quiz 4: May. 1 (Thu) – Content of Weeks 12-15 – Eastern Europe Map

UWM Policies and Procedures
For additional information about UWM University policies see the Secretary of the University Web site at: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf. This web site contains a list of University policies regarding such issues as incompletes, grade appeal procedures, and University policy governing academic misconduct, among other things.

What I expect of you
Be involved! I assume you are taking this course because you are interested in this topic and not simply because it meets a graduation requirement. You have ample opportunity with in class discussions to share your interests and ideas. I expect that you will keep up with readings prior to classes each week. The amount of reading varies with each topic and article; some readings require in-depth study, while others can be read quickly. A general rule-of-thumb is spending 3 hours outside of class per credit. So, you should plan to spend about 9 hours per week taking notes on readings, doing assignments, exploring online resources and discussing the readings in preparation for weekly classes. The minimum time investment is 48 hours per credit, or 144 hours/semester for a 3-credit course.

Required Textbook and Readings
Other supplemental readings denoted below with “[ ]” are available via UWM Library E-reserve http://www4.uwm.edu/libraries/ereserve/muniz/POLSCI320.html
Schedule

Week 1 – Understanding Underdevelopment
Jan. 21: Introduction to the course
Jan. 23: The nature of underdevelopment
   ♠ Handelman, 2-17

Week 2 – Understanding Underdevelopment
Jan. 28: The causes of underdevelopment
   Readings:
   ♠ Handelman, 17-29;
Jan. 30: The causes of underdevelopment – modernization theory
   Readings:

Week 3 – Understanding Underdevelopment
Feb. 4: The causes of underdevelopment - cultural approach
Feb. 6: The causes of underdevelopment – dependency theory

Week 4 - Colonial Heritage
Feb. 11: Specific Regions
Feb. 13: European Legacy
   (QUIZ 1 & Latin American Map)
**Week 5 – The Wave of Democratic Change**

**Feb. 18: Democracy: definition, transition**
Handelman, 39-48;


**Feb. 20: Transitions**


**Week 6 – The Wave of Democratic Change**

**Feb. 25: Prerequisites**
*Handelman, 48-58;*


**Feb. 27: Performance**
*Handelman, 58-64;*


**Week 7 - Religion and Politics**

**Mar. 4: Great religions of LDC, religious fundamentalism**
*Handelman, 68-95*

**Mar. 6: Religion and regime type**

*Handelman 95-105*

(QUIZ 2 & African Map)

**Week 8 - Ethnic Conflict**

**Mar. 11: Defining ethnicity, types of divisions**
*Handelman, 106-125*

**Mar. 13: Mid-Term Exam**

**Week 9 – Spring Recess**

**Mar. 16-23**
Week 10 – Ethnic Conflict
Mar. 25: Origins of ethnic conflicts

Mar. 27: Levels of ethnic conflict, outcomes and resolutions
Handelman, 125-141

Week 11 – Women and Development
Apr. 1: Political and Socioeconomic Status of Women
Handelman, 143-173.

Apr. 3: Violence against women
Outlawed in Pakistan

(QUIZ 3 & Asian and Middle Eastern Map)

Week 12 – The Politics of the Rural and Urban Poor
Apr. 8: The Rural Poor
Handelman, 176-191;

Apr. 10: The Urban Poor
Handelman, 191-213;
City of God (part 1)

Week 13 – Revolutionary Change
Apr. 15: Defining Revolution
City of God (Movie - 2nd part)
Handelman, 218-221

Apr. 17: Underlying Causes of Revolution
Handelman, 222-243

Week 14 - Soldiers and Politics
Apr. 22: Causes of Military Intervention
Handelman, 245-270

Apr. 27: Military Withdrawal from Politics
Handelman, 271-277;
**Week 15 - The Political Economy of Developing Countries**

**Apr. 29 - Neoclassical and Dependency Perspectives**

- Handelman, 280-294;

**May. 1 - Explaining development strategies**

- Handelman, 295-299;

*(QUIZ 4 & Eastern European Map)*

**Week 16 - The Political Economy of Developing Countries**

**May. 6 - Export-Led Growth and Import Substitution Industrialization**


**May. 8 - Growth, Equity, and Sustainable Development**

- Handelman 299-318