

Politics of the Developing World (Fall 2016)

Professor: Miguel Carreras

Course meets: Tuesday & Thursday: 9:40 am - 11 am

Location: Bourns Hall (BRNHL B118)

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Office hours: Wednesday: 9 am - 11 am

Course Description

The developing world has undergone profound political transformations in the last three decades. Although many developing countries remain undemocratic, a large number of countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America democratized since the early 1980s. Yet, the result to date has disappointed those who expected a rapid transition from democratic outbreak to democratic consolidation. In this course, we will focus on the many difficult challenges faced by new and fragile democracies around the world in their path to democratic consolidation. The challenges analyzed in this course provide a good introduction to the politics of the imperfect democracies that resulted from the Third Wave of democratization.

After introducing the different regime types that are present around the developing world (authoritarian regimes, democratic regimes, and hybrid regimes), this course will analyze a series of institutional and structural problems that threaten the quality of governance in developing countries. We will first discuss the immediate challenges that follow democratization, such as the numerous institutional legacies from authoritarianism; and the need to provide mechanisms to ensure transitional justice. We will then analyze a series of long-term structural challenges faced by developing countries, such as a weak rule of law, corruption, and weak party systems. For every problem we analyze, we will also discuss possible solutions and assess what has worked and what has failed in previous attempts to deal with these challenges.

The last part of the class will be devoted to discussing the challenges of underdevelopment, poverty, and inequality in the global South. We will talk about the different social, economic, cultural, and political factors driving underdevelopment, and we will conclude by discussing what governments in the developing world can do to promote economic development.

Course Requirements

There will be two exams, held in week 5 and finals' week. The first exam will count for 35% of your grade and the final exam 45%. Exams will be comprised of short questions (definition of terms and brief explanation of concepts) and longer essay questions. The remaining portion of your grade (20%) will be based on your participation in section. That participation will be evaluated based on your attendance, contribution to the discussion and on quizzes or assignments to be determined by your TA. You will receive a separate syllabus for the section and you should first address any concerns you may have regarding the section with the TA.

Grading

Mid-term exam: 35%

Final exam: 45%

Participation in section: 20%

Grading Scale

A+ 100 – 97 / A 96.9 – 93 / A- 92.9 – 90

B+ 89.9 – 87 / B 86.9 – 83 / B- 82.9 – 80

C+ 79.9 – 77 / C 76.9 – 73 / C- 72.9 – 70

D+ 69.9 – 67 / D 66.9 – 63 / D- 62.9 – 60

F / Below 60

Readings

There are no books required for purchase as we will be reading articles and chapters from many different books, although you might consider making some of the titles part of your personal library. While the lectures are extremely important, it will be difficult to gain an adequate understanding or to do well on the exams without paying attention to the readings. *All the readings are available on iLearn.*

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend *every lecture, every week*. I do not consider class time to be a time simply to review the assigned readings. We will cover materials during class that are not in the readings (and we will not cover every single point from the readings in class). Class attendance is, therefore, imperative. You are responsible for all materials covered in class, whether you are physically present or not.

In addition to the lectures, students must participate in a weekly discussion section. Your attendance and active participation are vital to the success of these discussion sections. Different students participate in different ways. At a minimum, students should come to class on time having read and thought about the assigned readings for that class. I expect that all students will make a contribution to class discussions through comments, questions, criticisms, and analysis of the assigned readings. Your TA will provide more detailed information about the expectations regarding participation and assignments in the sections.

Every effort should be made to be present for the exams. Students who miss an exam will be given an alternate test at a mutually convenient time *only if the absence was excused*. Excused absences require official documentation and are at the discretion of the TA and the professor.

Students with Disabilities

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. Please contact me or your TA as early as possible in the course about your needs, and we will treat the matter confidentially and with the resources provided by Student Special Services.

Academic Integrity

Cheating in any form is a deeply serious offense. Students who attempt to cheat will be subject to disciplinary procedures. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with UCR's Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures and are *required to read the Academic Integrity Guidelines posted on iLearn*. More information on what constitutes cheating and other forms of academic misconduct is available at: <http://conduct.ucr.edu/learnpolicies/academicintegrity.html>

Phones, Laptops, and Other Electronic Devices

Silence or shut off your phone and stow it away before class begins. Absolutely no texting during class will be tolerated. Laptops and other devices are to be used for note-taking only; internet browsing and other distracting activities during class time are unacceptable. Failure to abide by these rules will result, at minimum, in a significant reduction of the participation grade.

Course Schedule and Readings

September 22

General Introduction

No readings.

September 27

What is the developing world?

Long, Dianne (2009). "The Other World" in Joseph Wetherby et al. (eds.) *The Other World: Issues and Politics of the Developing World*. eds.. New York: Longman, pp. 1-12.

September 29

Weak and failed states

Rotberg, Robert (2003). "The Failure and Collapse of Nation-States: Breakdown, Prevention, and Repair" in Robert Rotberg (ed.) *When States Fail: Causes and Consequences*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

October 4

Political regimes 1: Authoritarianism

Hague, Rod & Martin Harrop (2013). "Authoritarian rule" in *Comparative Government and Politics: an Introduction*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

- October 6** **Political regimes 2: Totalitarianism (the example of North Korea)**
- Kang Chol-hwan (2005). *The Aquariums of Pyongyang: Ten Years in the North Korean Gulag*. New York: Basic Books, chapters 1-8.
- October 11** **Political regimes 3: Democracy and democratization**
- Schmitter, Philippe & Terry Karl (2002). “What Democracy Is... And Is Not” *Journal of Democracy* 13 (2): 51-65.
- Dickovick, Tyler & Jonathan Eastwood (2013). “Democracy and Democratization” in *Comparative Politics: Integrating Theories, Methods, and Cases*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- October 13** **Political regimes 4: Hybrid regimes (competitive authoritarianism)**
- Levitsky, Steven & Lucan Way (2010). *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War*. New York: Cambridge University Press, chapter 1.
- October 18** **Dealing with the past: Transitional justice and the politics of memory**
- Hayner, Priscilla (2011). *Unspeakable Truths: Transitional Justice and the Challenge of Truth Commissions*. New York: Routledge, pp. 1-26.
- October 20** **Ethnic and nationalist conflicts in fragile democracies**
- Snyder, Jack (2000). *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict*. New York: Norton, chapters 2 & 6.
- October 25** **MIDTERM EXAM**
- October 27** **Political violence (continued): genocide, revolutions, and terrorism**
- Hoffman, Bruce (2006). *Inside Terrorism*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 20-41 & 257-295.
- November 1** **Managing differences in new democracies**
- Lijphart, Arend (1977). *Democracy in Plural Societies: A Comparative Exploration*. New Haven: Yale University Press, chapters 1-2.

- November 3** **Political and bureaucratic corruption**
- Smith, Daniel (2007). *A Culture of Corruption: Everyday Deception and Popular Discontent in Nigeria*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, chapters 2 & 4.
- November 8** **Electoral malpractices and clientelism**
- Auyero, Javier (2000). *Poor People's Politics: Peronist Survival Networks and the Legacy of Evita*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, introduction and chapter 3.
- November 10** **Weak and fluid party systems**
- Dietz, Henry & David Myers (2007). "From Thaw to Deluge: Party System Collapse in Venezuela and Peru," *Latin American Politics and Society*, 49(2): 59-86.
- November 15** **Social movements in developing countries**
- Silva, Eduardo (2009). *Challenging Neoliberalism in Latin America*. New York: Cambridge University Press, chapters 1 & 3.
- November 17** **Human development and underdevelopment**
- Baker, Andy (2014). "Human Development and Underdevelopment" in *Shaping the Developing World: The West, the South, and the Natural World*. CQ Press, pp. 29-52
- November 22** **What drives economic development?**
- Acemoglu, Daron & James Robinson (2012). *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. New York: Crown Publishers, chapters 2-3.
- [NOVEMBER 24 – THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS]
- November 29** **Socioeconomic inequality: a threat to democracy?**
- Pearce, Jenny (2014). "Inequality" in Peter Burnell et al. (eds) *Politics in the Developing World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 89-103.
- December 1** **Review / Wrap-up (FINAL EXAM: 12/08/2016 11:30 AM - 02:30 PM)**