

POSC 017-Politics of the Underdeveloped World (Spring 2022)

Professor: Miguel Carreras

Lectures: Lectures will be delivered via YuJa on Canvas

Weekly online session: Monday 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm (via zoom)

Email: miguel.carreras@ucr.edu

Office hours: Monday 9 am – 11 am (via zoom) or by appointment

Course Description and Overall Aims

The developing world has undergone profound political transformations in the last four 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.

Course Requirements

There will be two online take-home exams, held in week 5 and finals' week. The first exam will count for 35% of your grade and the final exam also 35%. In the exams, you will have to answer two essay questions. The remaining portion of your grade (30%) 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: 35%

Participation in section: 30%

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

Game Plan for a Successful Online Course

The COVID-19 situation appears to be much better than in previous quarters with a rapid decrease in cases in recent weeks. Still, I am aware that uncertainty remains and that some students' daily lives have been disrupted. This situation of course creates some challenges for instruction and requires a number of adjustments. The TAs and myself will try our best to be responsive and accommodating, but we also ask you to be a little bit patient if there are some delays or issues that cannot be resolved immediately.

I have tried to organize the course in a way that facilitates student learning and success despite the challenges of remote instruction. This section gives you all the information you need to do well in this online course.

1) Lectures

Some of you may not have reliable internet access at all times, so I have decided to pre-record the lectures and post them on Canvas (using YuJa). This way, you can watch the lectures on your computer, TV, or smartphone even if you have intermittent internet connection or you have other impediments. I will upload two lectures every week (1 on Monday and 1 on Wednesday).

2) Answering student questions

One drawback of following the asynchronous approach to online teaching (i.e. posting pre-recorded lectures) is that students cannot ask questions while I am lecturing. In order to provide an opportunity for students to ask questions about the lectures and the readings, I will connect every Monday from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm via Zoom. See details on how to connect to this weekly session on zoom below.

I will not lecture during the live session, but will use the time to discuss some key concepts from the lectures, talk about some examples (beyond those mentioned in the lectures), show you short videos illustrating a concept or political phenomenon, or engage in similar pedagogical activities.

Attendance to the live sessions is optional. However, these sessions will not be recorded so you are highly encouraged to attend these online discussions to take full advantage of the course material and to prepare for the exams.

In addition to this weekly Zoom session with me, you will also have a weekly discussion section with your TA which will also provide plenty of opportunities for you to ask questions about the material if something is not clear.

Zoom link live session: <https://ucr.zoom.us/j/95766352567?pwd=OFN0TldXbXQ1NnM3QitDMjQ1cXp6QT09>

3) Office hours

The office hours will be held online via zoom. I will be connected on a zoom session every Monday from 9 to 11 am and I will be available to meet with students. There is a waiting room feature in Zoom so I will chat with students one by one (and of course other students will not be able to listen to these conversations). If there are many students waiting, I will set a 10-minutes limit per meeting so I can talk to as many students as possible.

Zoom link office hours: <https://ucr.zoom.us/j/97403738368?pwd=NHY0QVNsemDKVFdhcFg1L0l2VWp6UT09>

If Monday 9-11 am does not work for you, please send me an email and we can try to schedule a meeting at a different time.

4) Readings

There are no required textbooks for this course. We will be reading articles and book chapters from different sources every week. I will upload electronic or scanned copies of *all the readings* on Canvas. See below for more information on the readings.

5) Online take-home exams

Another challenge of online courses is the administration of online exams. I have opted for a “low-tech” option. You will receive the exams by email on the day the exam is scheduled at 9 am and you will have three days to complete the exam. The exam will be open book, which means you can consult your lecture notes as well as the readings.

The format will be exactly the same for the midterm and for the final exam. You will have to answer two essay questions. The essay questions will not be about narrow details in the readings or lectures. They will be broad and will require a good understanding of the main concepts and historical periods covered in the course. Each answer should be around 4 pages (double spaced). I will give you more details on how to prepare for the exams when we approach the exam date.

6) Accommodating students' needs in challenging times

We will try our best to accommodate any special needs you may have during the quarter. But, if something comes up that is affecting your ability to do well in the course, we ask you to please communicate with me or your TAs via email in a timely fashion so we can try to help you.

Attendance and Participation

Being engaged and participating in course meetings and discussions is important. Since the lectures are pre-recorded, you can watch them at a time that works for you. But it is essential that you watch the lectures, take notes, and write down questions in a timely manner. You are required to virtually attend the lectures

and do the readings associated with that lecture during the week in which those lectures are scheduled and before the discussion sections in which those readings/lectures are discussed.

My lectures do not simply review the assigned readings. I will cover materials during class that are not in the readings (and I will not cover every single point from the readings in the lectures that will be posted online). “Virtual” attendance is, therefore, imperative. You are responsible for all materials covered in class.

The participation in the weekly session will not be recorded, but you are highly encouraged to attend and prepare questions in advance. Attending these sessions will allow you to clarify things that are not clear in the readings or in the lectures.

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. Attendance in those discussion sections will be recorded. Your TA will provide more detailed information about the expectations regarding participation and assignments in the sections.

Tips for Success:

- Take notes on the readings and during lecture.
- Keep up with the weekly reading assignments and attend the weekly online session and the discussion section ready to discuss the readings.
- Attend my online office hours. This is a two-hour window when I will be available to talk with you on a one-to-one basis. You should feel free to bring questions, discuss assignments, or just stop by (virtually) to talk about contemporary political issues (related to the course).

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 Disability Resource Center (SDRC).

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 available here: <https://conduct.ucr.edu/policies/academic-integrity-policies-and-procedures>

How to Connect to Office Hours?

Time: Monday 9-11 AM (starting on April 4)

Link: <https://ucr.zoom.us/j/97403738368?pwd=NHY0QVNsemDKVFdhcFg1L0l2VWp6UT09>

How to Connect to Weekly Sessions?

Time: Monday 3:30-4:30 PM

Link: <https://ucr.zoom.us/j/95766352567?pwd=OFN0TldXbXQ1NnM3QitDMjQ1cXp6QT09>

Course Schedule and Readings

- March 28** **General Introduction**
- Live session #1 (syllabus presentation).
- No readings.
- March 30** **What is the developing world?**
- [Watch Lecture 1: What is the developing world? on YuJa]
- 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.
- April 4** **State weakness in the developing world (definition and explanation)**
- Live session #2.
- [Watch Lecture 2: State weakness (definition and explanation) on YuJa]
- 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.
- April 6** **State weakness in the developing world (consequences and possible solutions)**
- [Watch Lecture 3: State weakness (consequences and solutions) on YuJa]
- Yashar, Deborah J. (2018). *Homicidal Ecologies and Complicit States in Latin America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press (chapters 1 and 4).
- April 11** **Political regimes 1: Authoritarianism**
- Live session #3.
- [Watch Lecture 4: Authoritarianism on YuJa]
- Hague, Rod & Martin Harrop (2013). “Authoritarian rule” in *Comparative Government and Politics: an Introduction*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- April 13** **Political regimes 2: Totalitarianism (the example of North Korea)**
- [Watch Lecture 5: Totalitarianism on YuJa]
- Kang Chol-hwan (2005). *The Aquariums of Pyongyang: Ten Years in the North Korean Gulag*. New York: Basic Books, chapters 1-8.

- April 18** **Political regimes 3: Democracy and democratization**
- Live session #4.
- [Watch Lecture 6: Democracy and Democratization on YuJa]
- 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.
- April 20** **Political regimes 4: Democratic Consolidation**
- [Watch Lecture 7: Democratic Consolidation on YuJa]
- Linz, Juan and Alfred Stepan. 1996. "Toward Consolidated Democracies." *Journal of Democracy*, 7 (2): 14-33.
- April 25** **Political regimes 5: Hybrid regimes (competitive authoritarianism)**
- Live session #5.
- [Watch Lecture 8: Competitive Authoritarianism on YuJa]
- Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2002. "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy*, 13(2), 51-65.
- April 27** **Take-Home Midterm Exam distributed (no class)**
- Exam distributed at 9 AM on April 27. Exam due on Friday April 29 at 10 PM**
- May 2** **Dealing with the past: Transitional justice and the politics of memory**
- Live session #6.
- [Watch Lecture 9: Transitional Justice on YuJa]
- Hayner, Priscilla (2011). *Unspeakable Truths: Transitional Justice and the Challenge of Truth Commissions*. New York: Routledge, pp. 1-26.
- May 4** **Political violence 1: civil wars**
- [Watch Lecture 10: Civil Wars on YuJa]

Hoeffler, Anke (2006). “‘Greed’ versus ‘Grievance’: A Useful Conceptual Distinction in the Study of Civil War?” *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*, 11(2): 274-284.

May 9

Political violence 2: genocide, revolutions, and terrorism

Live session #7.

[Watch Lecture 11: Political Violence on YuJa]

Hoffman, Bruce (2006). *Inside Terrorism*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 20-41 & 257-295.

May 11

Managing differences in new democracies

[Watch Lecture 12: Power-Sharing on YuJa]

Lijphart, Arend (1977). *Democracy in Plural Societies: A Comparative Exploration*. New Haven: Yale University Press, chapters 1-2.

May 16

Political and bureaucratic corruption

Live session #8.

[Watch Lecture 13: Corruption on YuJa]

Smith, Daniel (2007). *A Culture of Corruption: Everyday Deception and Popular Discontent in Nigeria*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, chapters 2 & 4.

May 18

Anti-Corruption Strategies

[Watch Lecture 14: Anti-Corruption Strategies on YuJa]

Collier, Paul. 2000. ‘How to Reduce Corruption’, *African Development Review*, 12 (2) 191-205.

May 23

Electoral irregularities 1

Live session #9.

[Watch Lecture 15: Electoral Irregularities on YuJa]

Lehoucq, Fabrice. 2003. “Electoral Fraud: Causes, Types, and Consequences.” *Annual Review of Political Science*, 6: 233-56.

May 25

Electoral irregularities 2 (clientelism)

[Watch Lecture 16: Clientelism on YuJa]

Brusco, Valeria, Marcelo Nazareno and Susan Stokes. 2004. “Vote Buying in Argentina.” *Latin American Research Review*, 39 (2): 66-88.

Auyero, Javier. 2000. "The Logic of Clientelism in Argentina: An Ethnographic Account." *Latin American Research Review*, 35 (3): 55-82.

May 30 **Memorial day (no lecture uploaded, no live session)**

June 1 **Bureaucratic inefficiency and patronage**

Live session #10 (review for final).

[Watch Lecture 17: Bureaucracies and Patronage on YuJa]

Oliveros, Virginia. 2016. "Making it Personal Clientelism, Favors, and the Personalization of Public Administration in Argentina." *Comparative Politics*, 48 (3): 373-391.

June 3 **Take-Home Final Exam distributed at 9 am**

Exam due on Sunday June 5 at 10 PM