San Diego State University, Department of Political Science

POLS 361: Governments and Politics of Developing Areas
Fall 2013

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00–3:15 pm
Montezuma Classrooms North 109
Schedule #22482

Instructor: Dr. James Samstad
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Office Hours: Monday 1:00–1:50 pm
Thursday 11:00–11:50 am
AH 4234

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A highly diverse area, encompassing some 80 percent of the world’s population, the developing world has, in recent years, seen substantial growth in trade and an increase in the number of democratic regimes. However substantial problems of poverty, inequality, and authoritarianism remain in much of this part of the world.

This course will survey many of the most important political and economic issues affecting the developing world, with a particular focus on the countries of Brazil, China, India, Iran, Nigeria, and South Africa. It will begin with an overview of the region, examining different definitions of development and underdevelopment. Next it will turn to an historical overview of the global “South,” analyzing various past and current theoretical approaches attempting to explain underdevelopment and the impact of colonization and de-colonization. Later it will examine what has been termed the current era of “globalization,” and its implications for the Third World. In this context, the course will then turn towards questions of internal political structures and political change, including questions of democratization, revolution, and the rise of civil society. Finally, the course will examine a number of current issues affecting the six countries we are focusing upon.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should:

1) Have a clear understanding of various distinct ways of defining development and underdevelopment, as well as the implication of these alternate conceptions;

2) Understand and be able to evaluate the key theories of modernization and development;

3) Be able to explain the main approaches to foreign aid and the controversies associated with them;

4) Have a clear conception of the nature and scope of globalization and economic reform in the developing world;

5) Be able to articulate the primary long-term consequences of colonialism on present-day developing countries;

6) Be familiar with the structures and problems associated with authoritarianism and democratization;
7) Define and understand the process of globalization and economic reform in the developing world;

8) Be able to identify the key leaders, historical events, and political structures of Brazil, China, India, Iran, Nigeria, and South Africa.

**GOALS FOR GE COURSES IN THE SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

This course meets the General Education (GE) requirements for the social and behavioral sciences at SDSU, and is designed to meet the following goals:

- **Goal 1**: Explore and recognize basic terms, concepts, and domains of the social and behavioral sciences.
- **Goal 2**: Comprehend diverse theories and methods of the social and behavioral sciences.
- **Goal 3**: Identify human behavioral patterns across space and time and discuss their interrelatedness and distinctiveness.
- **Goal 4**: Enhance understanding of the social world through the application of conceptual frameworks from the social and behavioral sciences to first-hand engagement with contemporary issues.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

Students are required to attend class regularly and participate in discussions, take an in-class midterm, participate in a current events project, and complete a final exam. Grades are based on a 1,000 point scale, weighed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Events Group</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Events Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Events Write-up</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>350</td>
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Final grades will be given in accordance with the number of points received:

- 930–1,000 points            A
- 900–929 points             A–
- 870–899 points            B+
- 830–869 points            B
- 800–829 points            B–
- 770–799 points            C+
- 730–769 points            C
- 700–729 points            C–
- 670–699 points            D+
- 630–669 points            D
- 600–629 points            D–
- Below 600 points            F
**Attendance:** An attendance sheet will be distributed for each regular class session (excluding the days of the midterm and final). Those not attending will need to have a valid and documented excuse to not be docked for missing that day. At the instructor’s discretion, those arriving after roll has been taken may be given half credit for attendance if they talk to the instructor immediately after class.

Up to fifty points for attendance will be allocated in proportion to the number of sessions attended. For example, an 80% attendance rate will earn 40 points for attendance. Excused absences will neither be counted as present nor absent in calculating this percentage (that is, as if there had been no class session that day in that student’s case).

Note that any student caught signing in for a fellow student not in attendance will be considered to be cheating on an assignment and will be disciplined accordingly.

**Participation:** Students are expected not only to attend class regularly, but participate in class discussions. Each student will be graded according to the degree to which he or she has participated in discussions regularly and in an informed manner. For average levels of participation, this portion of the grade will roughly match that for attendance, but it will be adjusted upwards or downwards for greater and lesser participation levels.

**Current Events Presentation and Summary:** At the end of the first section of the course, students will sign up to be part of a group presentations that will be held during class as part of the third and final section of the course.

These presentations will summarize the current political situation and key issues facing each of the six countries focused upon in this course (Brazil, China, India, Iran, Nigeria, and South Africa), with each group covering a particular country on a particular pre-assigned day. Students should cover only current issues affecting these countries, and not review general information already covered in class regarding the countries’ histories and political structures (except to the degree that they are directly relevant to the current issue you are covering).

Note that you will be asked for a summary and synthesis of information in your own words, rather than merely reading paragraphs from news articles. Those listening to the presentations, in turn, will be responsible for the key information discussed in the presentations during the final exam, and are encouraged to ask relevant questions of the presenters.

Each presentation should last approximately 5-10 minutes, with the overall group presentation (including questions and answers from the class) lasting no more than the 75 minute class period. Grading will reflect not only each student’s individual contribution, but also how well that presentation is coordinated with the rest of the group. Thus, every effort should be made to coordinate with others presenting that day, particularly to avoid overlapping themes.

At the time of their presentation, students must submit to the instructor a hard copy of an approximately three-page summary of the presentation, and are to post an electronic copy to Turnitin via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. that day. The PowerPoint of the group presentation should also be sent to the instructor by e-mail <jsamstad@mail.sdsu.edu>, and it will be posted on Blackboard to share with the rest of the class. Up to 150 points will be given for these written summaries, another 100 point for the student’s individual oral presentation, and 50 points will be assigned collectively as a group grade.
Midterm: The midterm will be held during the regular class session listed below and will be based on the readings, lectures, and discussions of Sections I and II of the course. At least one week prior to the midterm, a study guide will be distributed giving more details as to its structure and content.

Final Exam: The final exam will be held during the university scheduled time as listed below in the regular class room. It will be comprehensive in nature, but will emphasize the readings and lectures since the midterm, as well as key information that was discussed during the current events presentations. As with the midterm, at least one week prior to the final a study guide will be distributed giving more details as to its structure and content.

**Required Readings**

The two books listed below are required and may be purchased from the campus bookstore:


In addition, an article available on JSTOR will be required for the second week’s reading. If possible, it will be posted as a PDF on Blackboard. Students are expected to complete the required readings for each topic by the date of that lecture and be prepared to discuss and ask questions about them.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Cheating on papers and exams will result in an automatic failing grade for the course and the reporting of the student to university authorities for disciplinary action, including possible expulsion.

In writing, remember that credit by means of a footnote or endnote must be given for every direct quotation, for paraphrased or summarized text, and for information that is not common knowledge. *Ignorance as to what constitutes plagiarism will not be accepted as an excuse.* Students who have questions about the definition of plagiarism should consult the university’s official statement on Academic Dishonesty <http://csrr.sdsu.edu/academics1.html>, or ask the instructor.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with federal law, individualized accommodations, such as additional time for test taking, will be made for students with disabilities. However, requests for such accommodations must be made by the end of the second full week of instruction and may require approval and certification from Student Disability Services (SDS), Calpulli Center, Suite 3101 <dsstest@mail.sdsu.edu> [619-594-6473].
COURSE SCHEDULE  
*(Subject to change)*

I) **INTRODUCTION TO THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD**

*Introduction to Course and Review of Syllabus (August 26)*

**Defining Development and Underdevelopment (August 28–September 4)**


*September 2: Labor Day Holiday*

**Rival Perspectives on Colonialism and Development (September 9–18)**


→ Thursday, September 18, PRESENTATION SIGN-UP

II) **CONSOLIDATING THE NATION-STATE**

*From Colonialism to Imperfect Democracy: Brazil and India (September 23–October 2)*


Ethnic Divisions in Post-Colonial Societies: Nigeria and South Africa (October 7–14)

Revolution and the Search for Independence: China and Iran (October 16–23)
Theda Skocpol, “France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions” in O’Neil and Rogowski 2013, pp. 316–333.
Kesselman, Krieger, and Joseph. 2013, pp. 286-300 and 342-357.

→ Monday, October 28: MIDTERM

III) DEMOCRACY AND THE CHALLENGE OF GLOBALIZATION

Globalizing Economically: Brazil and China (October 30–November 13)


**November 11: Veteran’s Day Holiday**

**Deepening Democracy: India and South Africa (November 18–27)**


**The High Price of Oil Wealth: Nigeria and Iran (December 2–11)**


→ Monday, December 16, 1:00–3:00 pm: **FINAL EXAM**