

Politics of the Developing World, PLSC 311, CRN 10039

Fall 2018

Eastern Michigan University

T/Th 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., 422 Pray-Harrold

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Course content and objectives: The so-called Third World—a term used after WWII to refer to former colonies—now includes more than 120 countries, so it might be more accurately called the “two-thirds world.” Yet this large and diverse group of nation-states in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East are too often overlooked, or their politics oversimplified by stereotypes.

This course will examine political patterns and contrasts in the developing world (also sometimes referred to as the global South, less-developed countries, or the periphery). The approach will be thematic, highlighting dimensions of comparative political analysis that are particularly relevant to this grouping of countries, with cases selected to illustrate the broader themes. By taking this course, you will learn to apply the concepts and methods of comparative politics to any group of states, and to analyze the patterns of politics found in a variety of regime types. You will also learn about the historical developments that affected the shape of different countries’ politics and their place in the international political system, with particular attention to the causes and consequences of unequal levels of economic development.

Part I will critically examine the logic and terminology behind the classification “developing world.” We will pay special attention to the assumptions and theoretical constructs surrounding such terms as poverty, development, and underdevelopment. **Part II** will focus on the formation of nation-states and other political identities, and the historical processes that shaped them. Important themes include the legacies of colonization and independence struggles, religious and ethnic conflict, gender and development, and nationalism. **Part III** takes a comparative approach to exploring patterns in the politics of developing countries, including: social polarization (in both rural and urban populations) and the revolutionary responses that sometimes result; the role of the military in politics; and issues of human rights and democratization. **Part IV** examines issues that have taken on new importance in the politics of developing countries. These include changing interactions of states and markets in an era of globalization, and the altered international context in the aftermath of the Cold War.

The study of politics in the developing world will help develop and sharpen conceptual frameworks for doing comparative political analysis. It will also broaden perspectives on the experience of most of the world’s population, often ignored in the wealthier corners of the globe.

Requirements, grading, and other policies:

1) Be prepared and participate: Students are expected to do the assigned reading **before** each class, and come to all classes prepared to participate in discussion. Students are also required to

follow current political developments in the developing world. Sources of international news in English include the U.S. dailies *The New York Times* (<https://www.nytimes.com>), *Washington Post* (<http://www.washingtonpost.com>), or *Christian Science Monitor* (<http://www.csmonitor.com>); British dailies *The Times* (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk>), *The Guardian/The Observer* (<http://www.guardian.co.uk>), or *The Independent* (<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world>); and weekly periodicals such as *The Economist* (<http://www.economist.com>), or *The Nation* (<http://www.thenation.com>). Radio news with international coverage can be found on the BBC (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world>, broadcast on WUOM, 91.7 FM, 9:00-10:00 am Mon.-Fri.); Democracy Now! (<http://www.democracynow.org>); or National Public Radio (<http://news.npr.org/world.html>, broadcast on the hour at WEMU, 89.1 FM). Other useful sources include the periodicals *Third World Quarterly* and *Current History* (available in Halle Library), and Web sites such as the following:

Focus on the Global South

<http://focusweb.org>

One World News Service, up-to-date news by country/region and issue

<http://us.oneworld.net/>

Global Post

<http://www.globalpost.com/>

Malaysia-based Third World Network, analysis from a Third World perspective

<http://www.twn.my/>

Washington, DC-based Development Group for Alternative Policies

<http://www.developmentgap.org>

Gapminder, statistics focusing on the North-South gap

<http://www.gapminder.org/>

United Nations Development Program

<http://www.undp.org>

Italy-based resource on politics around the world, by country

<http://www.politicalresources.net>

Africa Studies Center, Univ. of Pennsylvania, links on Africa by country

http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Home_Page/Country.html

Asia News Network

<https://asianews.network/>

Asia Times online

<http://www.atimes.com/>

Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC), University of Texas-Austin

<http://www.lanic.utexas.edu/>

Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP)

<http://www.merip.org>

Al Jazeera English edition, news on Middle East

<http://english.aljazeera.net/>

Center for International Programs/Americas Program (Latin American current issues)

<https://www.ciponline.org/programs/americas-program>

Upside Down World (activism and politics in Latin America)

<http://upsidedownworld.org/>

North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)

<http://www.nacla.org>

2) Exams and grading:

Grades: Each student will write two 5-page papers on topics related to themes covered in Parts II, III, and IV, and give a class presentation on that topic during the corresponding week of the course. The **2 papers** and **class presentations** will be based on additional readings about an issue in a specific country or countries, linking the selected case(s) to the topic being discussed that week. There will be a sign-up sheet for presentation dates, and papers are due one week after the presentation. There will also be a **midterm** and a **final exam**. There may be surprise quizzes or other short class assignments.

Exams and quizzes will cover material from the readings **and** class. Grades will be calculated as follows:

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|--|-------|
| Two papers (5 pp. each) and presentations, | |
| 20% each x 2 | = 40% |
| Midterm exam | = 20% |
| Final exam | = 20% |
| Class participation, | |
| including quizzes & class assignments | = 20% |
| | 100% |

3) Other class requirements & policies:

a) Attendance: You are expected to come to class on time, having previously done the assigned reading for that day and prepared to discuss it.

b) Occasional class assignments may include presentations, quizzes, or short written assignments (which may count as part of your class participation grade).

c) Late work will be reduced one letter grade per day, and missed exams or quizzes will receive a zero, unless there is a legitimate documented excuse.

d) Communications:

You are responsible for regularly **checking your email** account at <http://my.emich.edu>, where you may occasionally receive announcements and materials relevant to the class. (If you prefer to use another email address, you should set up your “my.emich” account to automatically forward to the other address.)

e) Electronics:

Please turn off cell phones and pagers during class. **Sending or receiving text messages during class is rude and distracting, and you may be asked to leave the classroom. Looking at your cell phone during class will negatively affect your participation grade.** You may use laptops for taking notes, however other uses (such as games, email or Facebook) are inappropriate during class and will negatively affect your class participation grade.

4) **Other campus resources** you should be aware of:

*University Writing Center, 115 Halle Library and 211 Pray-Harrold,
<http://www.emich.edu/english/writing-center/>
 Available to help you with your academic writing needs

*Holman Success Center, G04 Halle Library, <http://www.emich.edu/hsc>
 Peer tutoring and other study skills support

*Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), 313 Snow Health Center,
<http://www.emich.edu/caps>
 Confidential help with personal difficulties and life coping skills

*Department of Public Safety, 1200 Oakwood St. (former Hoyt Conference Center),
<http://www.emich.edu/publicsafety/>

University policies (The stuff their lawyers wrote):

a) Special Needs Accommodations

"If you wish to be accommodated for your disability, EMU Board of Regents Policy 8.3 requires that you first register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in 246 EMU Student Center. You may contact the DRC by telephone (734.487.2470). Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the DRC promptly as you will only be accommodated from the date you register with them forward. No retroactive accommodations are possible. The Disability Resource Center, 246 EMU Student Center, or at www.emich.edu/disabilities can provide you with detailed guidance."

b) Student and Exchange VISitor Statement (SEVIS)

"The Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) requires F and J students to report the following to the Office for International Students & Scholars, 240 EMU Student Center within ten (10) days of the event:

- *Changes in your name, local address, major field of study, or source of funding;*
- *Changes in your degree-completion date;*
- *Changes in your degree-level (ex Bachelors to Masters)*
- *Intent to transfer to another school.*

Prior permission from OISS is needed for the following:

- *Dropping ALL courses as well as carrying or dropping BELOW minimum credit hours;*
- *Employment on or off-campus;*
- *Registering for more than one ONLINE course per term (F visa only)*
- *Endorsing I-20 or DS-2019 for re-entry into the USA.*

Failure to report may result in the termination of your SEVIS record and even arrest and deportation. If you have questions or concerns, contact the Office for International Students & Scholars at 734.487.3116, not the course instructor." <https://www.emich.edu/oiss/>

c) Academic dishonesty

"Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating, falsification, and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this course. Penalties for an act of academic dishonesty may range from

receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment to receiving a failing grade for the entire course. In addition, you may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct, Community Standards & Wellness for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The *Code of Community Responsibility* contains detailed definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty but if you are not sure about whether something you are doing would be considered academic dishonesty, consult with the course instructor.” You may access the *Code* online at: <https://www.emich.edu/policies/index.php?p=8.1>

For more detailed information on what is plagiarism and how to avoid it, see: <http://guides.emich.edu/c.php?g=611337&p=4935583>

d) Religious holidays

University Policy 6.2.5: “Current University policy recognizes the rights of students to observe religious holidays without penalty to the student. Students will provide advance notice to the instructor in order to make up work, including examinations, they miss as a result of their absence from class due to observance of religious holidays. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the instructor, the student may appeal to the school director or head(s) of department(s) in which the course(s) is / are offered.”

e) Classroom Management Issues

“Students are expected to abide by the *Code of Community Responsibility* and assist in creating an environment that is conducive to learning and protects the rights of all members of the University Community. Incivility and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and may result in a request to leave class and referral to the Office of Student Conduct, Community Standards & Wellness for discipline. Examples of inappropriate classroom conduct include repeatedly arriving late to class, using a mobile/cellular phone while in the class session, or talking while others are speaking.”

You may access the *Code* online at: <https://www.emich.edu/policies/index.php?p=8.1>

Course readings are contained in the following books, available at any of the bookstores that serve the EMU campus or from online booksellers (such as amazon.com or half.com):

Achebe, Chinua. *A Man of the People* (N.Y.: Anchor Books, 1988), ISBN 9780385086165.

Argueta, Manlio. *One Day of Life* (N.Y.: Random House/Vintage, 1991), ISBN 9780679732433.

Baker, Andy. *Shaping the Developing World: The West, the South, and the Natural World* (Los Angeles: Sage/CQ Press, 2014), ISBN 9781608718559. This book is also available for rental through Amazon. Note: The publishers have provided a companion website with study guides and other supplementary material to accompany each chapter:

<https://study.sagepub.com/baker/student-resources>

Handelman, Howard. *Challenges of the Developing World*, 8th ed. (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017), ISBN 9781442256880. This book is also available for rental through Amazon. Companion website for Handelman text: <http://textbooks.rowman.com/handelman8e>

PART I: WHAT IS THE DEVELOPING WORLD?

INTRODUCTION

Th Sept. 6

COMPARING "WORLDS": POVERTY AND DEVELOPMENT

T Sept. 11 Baker, pp. 3-26

Argueta, pp. 3-18

Th Sept. 13 Handelman, pp. 1-18

CONTENDING THEORIES OF ECONOMIC & POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

T Sept. 18 Baker, pp. 29-52

Th Sept. 20 Handelman, pp. 18-34

Baker, pp. 55-76

PART II: NATION-STATES AND IDENTITY IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

IMPERIALISM, NATIONAL LIBERATION, AND NEOCOLONIALISM

T Sept. 25 Baker, pp. 79-101

Achebe, pp. 1-26

Th Sept. 27 Baker, pp. 103-56

Achebe, pp. 27-56

THE POLITICS OF RELIGION

T Oct. 2 Handelman, pp. 68-98

Th Oct. 4 Argueta, pp. 19-36

ETHNICITY AND NATIONALISMS

T Oct. 9 Baker, pp. 159-81

Th Oct. 11 Handelman, pp. 99-135

WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

T Oct. 16 Handelman, pp. 136-64

Achebe, pp. 57-75

Th Oct. 18 Baker, 283-307

**** MIDTERM EXAM - in class Thurs., Oct. 18 ****

PART III: POLITICAL PATTERNS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

SOCIAL POLARIZATION AND POLITICAL CONFLICT:

-THE RURAL SECTOR-

T Oct. 23 Handelman, pp. 165-78

Argueta, pp. 37-59

-URBANIZATION AND URBAN ISSUES-

Th Oct. 25 Handelman, pp. 178-204

Baker, pp. 211-32

Achebe, pp. 76-95

REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE AND STATE FAILURE

- T Oct. 30 Handelsman, pp. 205-36
 Baker, pp. 263-81
 Th Nov. 1 Argueta, pp. 37-89

THE MILITARY, AUTHORITARIANISM, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- T Nov. 6 Handelsman, pp. 237-64
 Argueta, pp. 90-135
 Th Nov. 8 Baker, pp. 235-61
 Argueta, pp. 136-89

TRANSITIONS FROM AUTHORITARIAN RULE

- T Nov. 13 Handelsman, pp. 35-67
 Th Nov. 15 Handelsman, pp. 264-74
 Argueta, pp. 190-215

CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRACY

- T Nov. 20 Achebe, pp. 96-120

[Thanksgiving recess]

- T Nov. 27 Achebe, pp. 121-34
 Th Nov. 29 Achebe, pp. 135-50

PART IV: RETHINKING POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT MODELS

STATES, MARKETS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND GLOBALIZATION

- T Dec. 4 Handelsman, pp. 275-316
 Th Dec. 6 Baker, pp. 309-29

TOWARD THE FUTURE: CHALLENGES AND POSSIBILITIES

- T Dec. 11 Baker, pp. 331-52

**** FINAL EXAM - Thurs. Dec. 13, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ****