Issues in Third World Development

Course Description and Objectives

This course surveys important topics in the politics of developing countries. The course begins conceptually with a closer look at the idea of “development” and the classification of cases along such lines. We then examine the historical foundations of political systems in the developing world. We briefly explore the constraints of geography before turning to aspects of colonialism, the rise of nationalism, the movements for independence, and transitions to and from democratic rule. The second part of the course then investigates particular demographic challenges to (and policy solutions for) governance in the developing world, including the problem of population, urban migration, and agrarian reform. In the third part, we turn to sources of political change and upheaval in these societies, including globalization, ethnic violence, and the role of women in politics.

Professor

Zachary Elkins
4.120 Batts Hall
Office hours: WF 1:30-3:00
zelkins@uiuc.edu

Teaching Assistant

Mathew Rhodes-Purdy
1.118 Batts Hall
Office Hours: TTh 11:00-12:30
matthewpurdy123@gmail.com

Required Materials

The following materials are available for purchase at the UT. You will also find them online.

2. I-clicker remote.

All other readings are available on the course website.

Online Materials

Information for this course will be posted on the class Blackboard site. There you will find updates to this syllabus, electronic copies of selected readings, instructions for uploading assignments, and regular announcements.
If you have any problems with your password or accessing Blackboard, contact ITS. If you can access Blackboard, but cannot access any material from this course, please contact the T.A., Mathew Rhodes-Purdy, by email.

**Requirements and Grading**

The assignments in this course are designed to assess your understanding of the readings on a regular basis. The expectation is that you complete the reading before each lecture. Your grade will be based on the following components.

1. **Geography Tests (15%)**. To help contextualize the topics, you will be responsible for learning the location of the various countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, as well as their capital cities and several major geographical features. There will be three geography tests, one for each region. More details are posted on the course website.

2. **Three Exams (75%)**. These will be in-class, non-cumulative exams with three components: multiple choice, concept identification, and essay. The multiple choice questions are designed to test your understanding of the readings and lectures. You should expect at least two questions based on each reading or lecture. The essay questions and concept identifications, which will be distributed prior to the exams, test your command of major concepts, themes, and arguments.

3. **Participation (10%)**. This is simply the number of lectures that you attend, as a percentage of all lectures minus two [i.e., lectures attended/(all lectures - 2)]. So, you can miss two lectures (or forget your i-clicker) and still receive a perfect score. You can also score over 100% on this component.

Grading Scale. Grades will be assigned on a (+/-) basis according to the following scale: 97-100 = A+; 94-96 = A; 90-93 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 84-86 = B; etc.

**I-Clicker**

This semester we will be using the I-clicker system. This is a remote that allows in-class polling. Analysis shows that it increases the clarity of the lecture and allows for anonymous student-instructor interaction, which can be interesting and helpful. I will use it primarily to clarify difficult concepts and to poll the class regarding policy issues that we discuss. You must bring your i-clicker to class every day. A few notes about the use of the i-clicker follow below.

**Registration.** Once you have purchased your clicker, you must register your device so that we can connect you with your clicker. Please go to the “Tools” folder of our Blackboard site and click the link, “Register your iclicker remote.” Simply enter the serial number of your i-clicker and you will be registered.

**What to do if you lose your i-clicker?** Purchase a new clicker at the UT Coop or online from Amazon or other vendors. Then register your new device, as described above.

**Policy for Missed Exams and Tests**

The assignments in this course are intended to monitor your progress on a regular basis and missing exams or tests will put you behind. Of course, if you have a valid reason to miss an exam or test, we will accommodate you. However, in order to earn full credit on any of the
makeup exams you must produce a letter verifying your excuse from the emergency dean (http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/) and make arrangements to retake the exam within two weeks of its administration. No exceptions will be made. Moreover, following University rules, we reserve the right to deny requests for makeup exams even with a letter from the emergency dean if we determine that the excuse is not valid.

Procedure for missed exams and tests.

(1) If you miss an exam or test and have a valid excuse, you should visit the emergency dean in order to obtain a letter as soon as you are able. Then, contact your T.A. and make arrangements to retake the exam or test. You must take the exam within two weeks of the missed assignment. Be sure to bring your letter from the emergency dean when you arrive to retake the exam or test.

(2) If you miss the exam or test, but do not have a valid excuse (e.g., you overslept), you may retake it but your grade will be deducted 25%. Like the above, you have only two weeks after the date of the missed assignment in which to take the makeup.

How to Prepare for Class

In order to prepare for this course, I recommend that you read all assigned material prior to each lecture, attend all lectures and screenings, and contact the professors or TA with any questions you have concerning the same. Preparing for examinations in small study groups is often useful, as this allows you to pool your knowledge.

Appealing Grades

Should you find an error in the grading of your exam or test, please bring it to the attention of your TA as soon as possible. If you believe that the TA has erred in his or her interpretation of your response, you may request that the TA reevaluate the exam or test. In such a case, however, the TA will review the entire exam and may adjust the grade up or down accordingly. The result of this second review is your final grade. Should you have any concerns about this process or feel that you have not been treated fairly, you should contact Professor Elkins.

Accomodations

Disabilities. Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/

Religious Observance. By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Academic Integrity

Students who violate University regulations on academic honesty will receive a failing grade for the course, in addition to University penalties, which can include expulsion from the University.
Schedule of Topics and Readings

August 26   Introduction

August 31   Where is the “Developing World?”
   Handelman, pp. 1-15.

September 2   TBA

September 7   Is Geography Destiny?
   Sachs, Jeffrey, Andrew Mellinger, and John Gallup. 2001. “The Geography of
   Power and Wealth.” Scientific American 284 (3).

September 9   Colonialism and its Legacy
   Clapham, Christopher. 1986. Third World Politics. Madison, WI: University of
   Wisconsin Press. 12-25

September 14   Colonialism and its Legacy
   66-86.
   [Geography Test 1 (Latin America)]

September 16   Independence and Nationalism
   Clapham, 25-38

September 21   Independence and Nationalism
   [Geography Test 2 (Africa)]

September 23   Democracy and Democratization
   Handelman, Chapter 2

September 28   Democracy and Democratization
   Vol. 2, No. 2
   [Geography Test 3 (Asia)]

September 30   Democracy and Democratization
   1996. Journal of Democracy 7: 2. 52-63
October 5  Authoritarianism
Handelman, Chapter 9

October 7  Authoritarianism (cont’d)/Review

October 12  Exam I

October 14  Overpopulation?

October 19  Migration

October 21  Urban Politics
Handelman, Chapter 7

October 26  Urban Politics
Gilbert and Gugler, Chapter 5.

October 28  Rural Politics
Handelman, Chapter 6

November 2  Rural Politics

November 4  Review and Discussion

November 9  Exam II

November 11  Theories of Underdevelopment
Handelman, p. 15-27.
November 16 Globalization
Handelman, Chapter 10

November 18 Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict
Handelman, Chapter 4

November 23 Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict

November 25 Thanksgiving

November 30 Women and Politics
Handelman, Chapter 5

December 2 Women and Politics

December 11 Exam III
2:00 PM