

Political Science 3070 Developmental Politics

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Office: McGraw Hall #236A
Office Hours: M.&W., 3:40-4:30pm (or by appointment)

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Course Objective: The objective of this course is to help you learn the factors that contribute to, or hamper, the political and economic development in developing countries (LDCs). By learning the challenges LDCs are faced with, as well as their implications to the rest of the world, you will be guided to think of the possible solutions for their problems. You are to grapple with important issues and move toward a better understanding of key issues while raising critical and original questions.

This course is designed to introduce you to the politics of developing countries. The old expression of the Third World is now abandoned by most scholars because of the disappearance of the Second World. Even the more recently adopted term, the LDCs – Less Developed Countries – is sometimes difficult to use because the diversities among the so-called LDCs have made it difficult to put all developing countries into one group that shares the same characteristics. The differences in the size of their economy alone would necessitate us to divide them into several distinct groups. This course looks at such diversities among, as well as the problems commonly faced by, many developing countries.

Learning Outcome: As a result of taking this course, successful students will 1) understand the fundamental issues and problems plaguing developing countries, 2) demonstrate understanding of the leading theories, literature, and approaches to the problems of developing countries, and 3) demonstrate competence in formulating effective argumentation on issues of developing countries in writing and presentation.

Required Textbooks:

- * Development and Underdevelopment: The Political Economy of Global Inequality, 4th ed., edited by Seligson, Mitchell A. and John T. Passe-Smith: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder, CO. (2008)
- * Opposing Viewpoints Series – The Third World, by Haugen, David M.,: Greenhaven Press, Inc., San Diego, CA. (2006)
- * Annual Editions: Developing World 10/11, (20th edition) edited by Griffiths, Robert J.: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, Guilford, CT. (2010)

Projects:

a) There are four formal **debates** in this course. Every student is to take a side on the topics (see the course schedule below). You are expected to work with the rest of your team so that your team will be able to present stronger arguments than your opponents. Whether you win or not, as well as how well you present your arguments, will determine your grade. Although these are group activities, each of you in the group may get a different grade

depending on the quality of “your” performance in the debate. You will also be tested on the content of the debates later in the exams.

b) You are also required to write a **research paper** on some aspect(s) of developmental politics. You need to come up with your original research question and hypothesis—which is your answer to your own research question—and objectively test your hypothesis by using empirical data. Your topic(s) and research question(s) are due in class on Tuesday, 2/2. The draft of your paper—including your preliminary literature review and hypothesis—is due in class on Thursday, 3/4. Your final product is due on Tuesday, 4/6. The details of the projects will be explained in class.

Grading: Your course grade will be determined according to the following scheme:

Examinations	40 (20% x 2)
Research Paper	20
Debates	20
Participation	20

Total	100%

Notice that 40% of your course grade depends on your active ‘participation’ (not attendance). Take participation seriously. **If you miss two classes without a legitimate excuse,—i.e., sickness (which the campus health center would be able to verify) or an accident that prevents you from coming to class (for which you would need to provide some proof),—your course grade will go down by one letter grade. That is, after you skipped the class once without any legitimate excuse, the second time you skip the class (again without a legitimate excuse), your course grade will automatically go down by one letter grade. If you are late for class twice, that will be an equivalent of one un-excused absence.**

Schedule:

1/12 Introduction:

Video: “Governments Caring for People” (29 minutes)

1/14 The Developing World:

Articles: “Is There a Third World?” (on Angel)

“Development as Poison: Rethinking the Western Model of Modernity,”
Griffiths (Annual Editions: Developing World 10/11), pp.25-29,

“The Rising Inequality of World Income Distribution” Seligson &
Passe-Smith (S&P), pp.31-37, and

“Empirics of World Income Inequality,” S&P, pp.39-51.

- 1/19 Understanding the Gap:
 Articles: “The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective,” S&P, pp.75-80,
 “Why Did Human History Unfold Differently on Different Continents
 for the Last 13,000 Years?” S&P, 83-89, and
 “Institutions Rule: The Primacy of Institutions over Geography and
 Integration in Economic Development,” S&P, pp.91-96.
- 1/21 Income Inequality:
 Articles: “Economic Growth and Income Inequality,” S&P, pp.135-147,
 “Inequality and Insurgency,” S&P, pp.155-169, and
 “The New Face of Development,” Griffiths, pp.2-5.
- 1/26 **Debate #1: Does Globalization Help Nations Develop?**
 Opposing Viewpoints Series, pp.69-81.
 * [Discussion on Term Paper (draft, etc.)]
- 1/28 **No Class (I will be out of town for a Model U.N. conference.)**
- 2/2 Understanding the Gap (Convergence or Divergence?):
 Articles: “The Five Stages of Growth,” S&P, pp.173-180,
 “Productivity Growth, Convergence, and Welfare: What the Long-Run
 Data Show,” S&P, pp.181-194, and
 “Productivity Growth, Convergence, and Welfare: Comment,” S&P,
 pp.195-205.
 * **Your topics and research questions (at least two each) are due!!**
- 2/4 Development and Trade:
 Articles: “The Ideology of Development,” Griffiths, pp.12-14,
 “Social Justice and Global Trade,” Griffiths, pp.42-44, and
 “The Politics of Hunger,” Griffiths, pp.49-54.
- 2/9 **Debate #2: “Does Globalization Increase Human Rights?”**
 Opposing Viewpoints Series, pp.82-94.
- 2/11 **MID-TERM EXAM.**
- 2/16&18 **No Class (I will be out of town for a professional conference.)**
- 2/23&25 **Mid-Term Break**

- 3/2 Democracy:
 Articles: “How Development Leads to Democracy: What We Know about Modernization,” Griffiths, pp.6-11,
 “Asia’s Democracy Backlash,” Griffiths, pp.122-126, and
 “Who Will Speak for Islam?” Griffiths, pp. 134-139.
- 3/4 Economic Aid and Development:
 Articles: “Africa’s Village of Dreams,” Griffiths, pp.15-19, and
 “The Poor Man’s Burden,” Griffiths, pp.39-41.
**** Draft of Research Paper (including ‘topic of interest,’ ‘research question,’ and ‘preliminary literacy review’) is Due!!**
- 3/9 Culture, Modernization, and Development:
 Articles: “The Achievement Motive in Economic Growth,” S&P, pp.209-225,
 “The Confucian Ethic and Economic Growth,” S&P, pp.237-239, and
 “The Effect of Cultural Values on Economic Development: Theory, Hypotheses, and Some Empirical Tests,” S&P. pp.241-252.
- 3/11 Conflict and Instability:
 Articles: “Fixing a Broken World,” Griffiths, pp.81-83,
 “The Roots of Failure in Afghanistan,” Griffiths, pp.84-89, and
 “Call in the Blue Helmets,” Griffiths, pp.118-120.
- 3/16 Women in Developing Countries:
 Articles: “Women’s Rights as Human Rights: The Promotion of Human Rights as a Counter-Culture,” Griffiths, pp.199-203,
 “Educating Girls, Unlocking Development,” Griffiths, pp.204-207, and
 “Education: It’s Not Just about the Boys. Get Girls into School,” Griffiths, pp.208-209.
- 3/18 **Debate #3: “Is Democracy Succeeding in Africa?”**
 Opposing Viewpoints Series, pp.117-130.
- 3/23 Population, Resources, Environment, and Health:
 Articles: “Booms, Busts, and Echoes,” Griffiths, pp.163-167,
 “Population, Human Resources, Health, and the Environment: Getting the Balance Right,” Griffiths, pp.177-185, and
 “Reversal of Fortune: Why Preventing Poverty Beats Curing It,” Griffiths, pp.194-195.

- 3/25 Dependency and World-System Theory:
Articles: “The Development of Underdevelopment,” S&P, pp.257-267,
“American Penetration and Canadian Development: A Case Study of
Mature Dependency,” S&P, pp.269-280, and
“The Irish Case of Dependency: An Exception to the Exception?” S&P,
pp.283-299.
- 3/30 The State, Growth, and Inequality:
Articles: “Big Bills Left on the Sidewalk: Why Some Nations Are Rich, and
Others Poor,” S&P, pp.317-337,
“Urban Bias and Inequality,” S&P, pp.345-350,
“Political Regimes and Economic Growth” S&P, pp.351-359, and
“Inequality as a Constraint on Growth in Latin America,” S&P, pp.363-
369.
- 4/1 **No Class (I will be out of town for a professional conference.)**
- 4/6 The Impact of Globalization:
Articles: “Globalization,” S&P, pp.373-376,
“Globalization and Inequality,” S&P, pp.377-388, and
“Inequality in a Global Perspective: Directions for Further Research,”
S&P, pp.405-417.
- ** Your research paper is due in class!**
- 4/8 **Debate #4: “Does the United States Promote Democracy in Developing
Countries?”**
Opposing Viewpoints Series, pp.179-196.

Final Exam. will be during the exam. week.