I. Course Overview

This course examines various approaches to governance and development in the developing countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. We will explore the distinctive characteristics of developing countries and the opportunities and challenges of national development in the Twenty-first Century. The divergent processes of state-formation in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and the consequences for state-society and state-economy relations will be examined. We will be concerned with the validity of competing development theories and ideologies such as democracy, authoritarianism, capitalism, socialism, as well as various hybrids such as bureaucratic authoritarianism, authoritarian capitalism, and no-party democracy. The sometimes conflicting role of disparate actors such as minorities, military, civil society, and bureaucracies in engendering or retarding development will be evaluated. Finally, we will explore the intertwined issues of identity and citizenship, political and economic liberalization, resource competition, violent conflict, and economic globalization, and their implications for governance and economic development. At the end of the course, students will have a greater understanding of the concepts and theories which explain economic and political development in the developing world, and should be able to critically examine and comprehend the impacts of global economic structure, historical contexts, and institutions on national development efforts.  

II. Course Requirements

1. Complete a well-written comparative essay analyzing the implications of one of the concepts examined in the course (e.g., bureaucratic authoritarianism, globalization, cultural pluralism, democratization, civil society, military dictatorship, dependent development, etc.) in two countries selected from two different continents. Your essay should be typed, double-spaced, approximately 5 pages in length. It must draw on a mix of sources, such as books, journals, magazines, newspapers and electronic media. You must consult with the instructor no later than October 12 on your chosen topic by submitting a one-paragraph proposal and a list of 5 potential sources for your paper. You will receive further instruction for this project in class.

2. Actively/positively participate in class discussion of assigned readings.

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1 This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor based on the needs of the class.
3. Observe required attendance rule and meet all standards of academic integrity as set forth by the University. Please refer to the Undergraduate Bulletin for pertinent information: http://www.albany.edu/undergraduateeducation/policy_reminders.html.

4. Take three quizzes.

5. Take a mid-term examination.

6. Take a final examination.

III. Course Materials

Required Texts:


Additional reading materials are on reserve at the University library under RPOS 353.

Helpful resources

You are encouraged to keep up with global current events. Useful resources include, but are not limited to the following: Newspapers & Magazines: The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Christian Science Monitor, Newsweek, and The Economist. Academic Journals: Nations and Nationalism, Journal of Modern African Studies, African Affairs, Africa Today, Foreign Affairs, Comparative Politics, International Studies Quarterly, International Organization, Third World Quarterly, and Journal of Third World Studies. You may also find the following Internet/electronic sources useful for background and up-to-date information on specific countries and for preparing your written assignments:

Institutional Resources

University of Pennsylvania: http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/AS.html
Columbia University: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/indiv/area/Africa/
The Carter Center: http://www.cartercenter.org/homepage.html
Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance Democracy Links: http://www.idea.int
Inter Parliamentary Union: http://www.ipu.org/
USIP: http://www.usip.org/
IV. Course Evaluation

Final grade for the course will be based on the following components:
3 Quizzes: 30%
Final examination: 20%
Comparative Paper: 15%
Mid-term: 20%
Participation/Attendance: 15%

You are required to complete all of the above elements. I generally will not give an incomplete grade. If you have any problems/concerns, see me during my office hours to discuss. In addition, please note that attendance is required and unexcused absences will negatively impact your final grade. Please refer to the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education website for pertinent information: http://www.albany.edu/undergraduateeducation/policy_reminders.html

Important Dates*

- Quizzes (3): TBA
- Mid-term Exam: October 19.
- Paper proposal due: On or before October 12.
- Paper due: December 7 in class.
- Final Exam: TBA.

*Turn in your work by the deadline. Late assignments will be assessed half a letter grade penalty per day!

V. Lecture/Discussion Topics and Reading Assignments

Week 1 (Aug. 31): COURSE INTRODUCTION
- Course syllabus

Week 1 (Sept. 2): OVERVIEW OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD
Week 2 (Sept. 7): **IMPERIALISM/colonialism**

Week 2 (Sept. 9): **(No Class)**

Week 3 (Sept. 14): **Independence and statehood in Latin America**  
**Cases:** The State, Mexico, Brazil, Cuba  

Week 3 (Sept. 16): **Independence and statehood in Africa**  
**Case:** South Africa, Nigeria, Zimbabwe  

Week 4 (Sept. 21): **Independence and statehood in Asia**  
**Case:** India, China, South Korea, Central Asia  

Week 4 (Sept. 23): **Political culture and cleavage systems**  
**Cases:** Latin America, Asia – religious and racial conflicts  

Week 5 (Sept. 28): **Political culture and cleavage systems (2)**  
**Cases:** Africa- religious, regional, racial and ethnic conflicts  

Week 5 (Sept. 30): **State and society**  
**Case:** Regime types: Military dictatorship, one-party/personalistic dictatorship and hybrid regimes  

Week 6 (Oct. 5): **State and society (2)**  
**Case:** Regime types and civil society  

Week 6 (Oct. 7): **Global economy and national development**  
**Cases:** Development strategies

**Week 7 (Oct. 12):**  GLOBAL ECONOMY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (2)
Cases: Development strategies
• Robert Griffith, *The Developing World*: Unit 1, Articles 1, 2 & 3.

**Week 7 (Oct. 14):**  NATURE OF PUBLIC POLICY
Cases: Women and Development,

**Week 8 (Oct. 19):**  MID-TERM EXAM

**Week 8 (Oct. 21):**  NATURE OF PUBLIC POLICY (2)
Cases: Urbanization, Revolutionary change – Nigeria, Columbia, Venezuela
• Robert Griffith, *The Developing World*, Unit 3, Articles 26; Unit 4, Article 35.
• Video: Welcome to Lagos

**Week 9 (Oct. 26 - 28):**  GLOBALIZATION
• Robert Griffith, *The Developing World*, Unit 2, Articles 7, 8, 9, & 10, pp. 30-44

**Week 10 (Nov. 2):**  GLOBALIZATION (2)
Cases: Poverty, global food crisis
• Robert Griffith, *The Developing World*, Unit 2, Articles 11-17, pp. 45-73.

**Week 10 (Nov. 4):**  DEMOCRACY/DEMOCRATIZATION
Team Assignment (TBD)
• Brendan Howe, Vesselin Popovski, Mark Notaras, ed. *Democracy in the South: Participation, the State and the People*, Ch.1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, & 11.

**Week 11 (Nov. 9):**  DEMOCRACY/DEMOCRATIZATION
• Robert Griffith, *The Developing World*, Unit 3, Article 24, pp. 105-110; Unit 4, Articles 28-30, pp. 122-133.

**Week 11 (Nov. 11):**  GLOBAL TERRORISM
Cases: Asia, Africa, Latin America
• Robert Griffith, *The Developing World*, Unit 3, Articles 20 -21, pp. 84-90.
Week 12 (Nov. 16): **POLITICS OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Blood Diamond, Blood Oil - Team Assignment**
- Sweet Crude: A Film About the Niger Delta

Week 12 (Nov. 18): **POLITICS OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Conflict Diamond, Blood Oil - Team Assignment**

Week 13 (Nov. 23): **ENVIRONMENTAL/RESOURCE SCARCITY**

Week 13 (Nov. 25): **(NO CLASS)**

Week 14 (Nov. 30): **HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC**

Week 14 (Dec. 2): **HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC (2)**
- Film: *The Age of Aids* (PBS);
- Presentation of research

Week 15 (Dec. 7): **WRAP UP**
- Presentation of research