

POLITICS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD

POLS 1510

Fall 2018
Tues/Thurs: 12:45pm-2:00pm
McDonnell Douglas Hall 1076

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Office hours- Tuesday (2:00-3:00pm) and Wednesday (12:00-1:00pm) or by appointment.
*I am in my office quite a bit, so it shouldn't be difficult to find me outside of my office hours.
The easiest way to make an appointment is via email.

Course Description and Objectives:

Welcome! I hope this is a fun and interesting class. This course explores the political process at work in non-Western countries. We ask questions about why certain countries experience revolution, economic development, religious fundamentalism, stable democracy, ethnic conflict, famine, or effective judicial systems, among many topics. At an intuitive (and biological) level we know that there is something that makes the human inhabitants of the planet remarkably similar to one another. But at second glance, we are also incredibly diverse. In this class we will ponder this basic question of similarity and difference, and ask the following question: how do these similarities and differences impact the ways societies are governed?

As the previous paragraph implies, this is an enormous area of study to try to cover in one semester. In order to narrow it down to something more manageable I have structured the course around the three Ds- democracy, dictatorship, and development. Many of the most pressing issues of our time fit into one, two, or all three of these categories. The questions and problems we will be discussing in the course are both empirical (i.e., How is country X governed? Why is the US rich and Cambodia poor?) and normative (i.e., What is a just social order? Should human rights or environmental concerns take precedence over concerns about sovereignty and/or economic development?) My hope is that you leave this course with a solid grounding in the major concepts and theories that we use to understand politics in the developing world, a greater understanding of the various countries and political systems that we will study throughout the course of the semester, and an ability to interact with the world beyond the US's borders in an informed and responsible manner.

Welcome!

Required texts:

All required texts are available for purchase at the Saint Louis University Bookstore in the Busch Student Center. There are a small number of readings that are not in any of the assigned books. I will send these to you via email during the first week of the semester.

The required books for the course are:

Alan Draper and Ansil Ramsay. 2015. *The Good Society: An Introduction to Comparative Politics*, 3rd edition. New York: Pearson Longman.

*NOTE: This book is available in on-line format for half the price of the paper version which is in the bookstore. The two versions are identical. The on-line version is available at <http://www.coursesmart.com/students>. From this webpage you can enter the name of the book or the authors and purchase the on-line version.

Radelet, Steven. 2015. *The Great Surge: The Ascent of the Developing World*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Malek, Alia. 2017. *The Home that was our Country: A Memoir of Syria*. New York: Nation Books.

Course requirements and grading:

Mid-term exam: 30% of final grade

This exam will be given in class on October 18th and will consist of short answer and essay questions.

Final exam: 30% of final grade

This exam will be similar in format to the mid-term exam and cover material primarily from the 2nd half of the semester. It will be given on the last day of regular classes (Thursday, December 6th).

Policy paper (3-4 pages): 30% of final grade

These papers are an opportunity to use the concepts and skills developed in the course to analyze important current political and/or economic issues in the developing world. Students should have their topics approved by the professor in advance. I will email all students guidelines for this assignment during the 2nd week of class. A short proposal (1 page or less) will be due on Tuesday, November 6th, and will count for 5% of your final grade. The full paper is due on December 12th, and will count for 25% of your final grade.

Class participation: 10% of final grade

Your attendance and active participation are vital to the success of this course. Different students participate in different ways. At a minimum, students should come to class on time having read and thought about the assigned readings for that class. I expect that all students will make a

contribution to class discussions through comments, questions, criticisms, and analysis of the assigned readings. In assigning grades, quality of participation will take precedence over quantity of participation (hence, students who participate frequently but without giving much thought to their comments/questions are not at an advantage compared to the student who offers occasional but insightful analysis and questions).

Final letter grades will be assigned that correspond to the following numeric scale:

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D	60-70
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	F	below 60
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72		

Additional resources:

In addition to the required readings, there is a wealth of additional material that you may wish to consult throughout the semester (for your research paper, for example) or in the future. Below is a partial list of resources that you may find useful. Most (if not all) of these can be accessed through the library's e-journals website. I have broken them down by region for convenience.

*US/UK Newspapers and magazines with generally good coverage of the developing world:

New York Times
Washington Post
The Economist
Foreign Policy
Foreign Affairs

*Political Science journals and news magazines that regularly cover the developing world:

Comparative Politics
Current History
Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy
Journal of Democracy
World Politics

*Latin America:

Bulletin of Latin American Research
Journal of Latin American Studies
Latin American Politics and Society
Latin American Research Review
NACLA Report on the Americas

*Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union:

Post-Soviet Politics
Europe-Asia Studies

Slavic Review
Demokratizatsiya

*Africa:

Journal of Modern African Studies
Journal of Asian and African Politics
Journal of African Economics
Africa Today
Africa Confidential

*Middle East:

Middle East Journal
Middle East Policy
British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies
International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies
Harvard Middle Eastern and Islamic Review

*Asia:

Asian Survey
Journal of Asian Studies
Pacific Affairs
China Quarterly

Attendance and participation:

I do not consider class time to be a time simply to review the assigned readings. We will cover materials during class that are not in the readings (and we will not cover every single point from the readings in class). Class attendance is, therefore, imperative. If you must miss class for an approved reason (e.g.; illness, death or medical emergency in the immediate family, University-sponsored activities), please let me know via email as soon as possible. You are responsible for all materials covered in class, whether you are physically present or not. Make-up exams will be given only under the most extraordinary of circumstances.

Classroom courtesy:

Out of respect for all of those in class, all cell phones, pagers, and any other noisemaking devices must be turned OFF during the entire class period and during exams. Laptop computers may be used in class provided they do not make noise that disturbs those around you. I reserve the right to ask you to turn off and put away your computer if it is creating a disruption.

Students with disabilities:

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Student Success Center (BSC 331) or by going to www.slu.edu/success.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at [314-977-8885](tel:314-977-8885) or visit the Student Success Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Academic integrity:

The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity. Academic integrity is violated by any dishonesty such as soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of work submitted toward academic credit. While not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, examples include copying from another student, copying from a book or class notes during a closed book exam, submitting materials authored by or revised by another person as the student's own work, copying a passage or text directly from a published source without appropriately citing or recognizing that source, taking a test or doing an assignment or other academic work for another student, securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination or quiz without the knowledge or consent of the instructor, sharing or receiving the questions from an on-line quiz with another student, taking an on-line quiz with the help of another student, and colluding with another student or students to engage in academic dishonesty.

All clear violations of academic integrity will be met with appropriate sanctions. In this course, academic dishonesty on an assignment will result in *an automatic grade of 0 for that assignment* and a report of academic dishonesty sent to the Academic Honesty Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences. In the case of Class B violations, the Academic Honesty Committee may impose a larger sanction including, but not limited to, assigning a failing grade in the course, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University.

Students should refer to the following SLU website for more information about Class A and B violations and the procedures following a report of academic dishonesty:
<http://www.slu.edu/x12657.xml>

Class schedule: (Note: Students should have completed all assigned readings by the date noted on the syllabus)

August 28th - Introduction and syllabus

August 30th - The big questions: What is a good society?
**Good Society*, Ch. 1

September 4th - The things we take for granted: States and state-building in history and theory.
**Good Society*, Ch. 2

September 6th - Linking people to politics: Building effective political institutions.
**Good Society*, Ch. 3

September 11th - Kenya Isn't Kansas- The role of ethnicity, religion, political culture.
**Good Society*, Ch. 4

September 13th - You can't eat politics, so we'd better think about the economy, too.
**Good Society*, Ch. 5

September 18th - Case studies in contemporary political economy
*Williamson, John. 1993. "Democracy and the 'Washington Consensus'," *World Development*, Vol. 21, No. 8, pp. 1329-1336.
*Additional reading TBA

September 20th - Rethinking "good" economic policy
*Grindle, Merilee. 2007. "Good Enough Governance Revisted," *Development Policy Review*, Vol. 25, No. 5, pp. 553-574.
*Additional reading TBA

September 25th - Dictatorships- They're not all the same
**Good Society*, Ch. 6

September 27th - Democracy: What is it?
**Good Society*, Ch. 7

October 2nd- Development and human well-being
**Good Society*, Ch. 8

October 4th- Case studies in contemporary economic development
**Good Society*, Ch. 10

October 9th- Mixing politics, economic development, and culture: Swaziland
*Film: *Without the King*

October 11th- Finish film and discuss
*Review for midterm exam

October 16th- No class

October 18th- **Midterm exam**

October 25th- 30 years of (mostly) progress: The big picture of policy successes
**Great Surge*, Ch. 1-5

October 30th- Catalysts of democracy and development
**Great Surge*, Ch. 6-9

November 1st- The future of progress?
**Great Surge*, Ch. 10-13

November 6th- Policy challenges in developing countries
***Policy paper outline due**

November 8th- Building to crisis: The historical roots of modern Syria
**The Home that was our Country*, Ch. 1-5

November 13th- The “Arab Spring” meets the Assad regime
* *The Home that was our Country*, Ch. 6-8

November 15th- No class

* *The Home that was our Country*, Ch. 9-13

November 20th- Everything falls apart: Syria today

* *The Home that was our Country*, Ch. 14-19 and Epilogue

November 27th- Communism and post-communism: Comparing Russia and China

**Good Society*, Ch. 11

November 29th- Communism and post-communism: Comparing Russia and China

**Good Society*, Ch. 11

December 4th- Review for exam

December 6th- **Final exam**

December 12th- **Final policy paper due**