Politics of Development – PSC 355, Fall '05
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Office Hours: W 1-3:30, Ulman 339D
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Course Description:
This class addresses socioeconomic and political problems of developing countries (also known as “the South,” World,” and "LDCs" -- Less Developed Countries).

The exams will cover not only readings and lectures, but also the material that each student presents on his/her country. In class, you will present the results of your independent research assignments on the politics of your country to the class.

Readings: Much of the course reading may be found on the Internet, and is linked to the course web page.

Required text:

Research Books: (Each student picks one, and no two students may select the same book. If more than one student wants to read the same book, it will be awarded on the basis of seniority. Texts with a star are those that Sterne Library owns. Online books are marked as such).

Walking Ghosts: Murder and Guerrilla Politics in Colombia*
From the Household to the Factory: Sex Discrimination in the Guatemalan Labor Force (online)
Llamas, Weavings, and Organic Chocolate: Multicultural Grassroots Development in the Andes and Amazon of Bolivia
Mexico's Politics and Society in Transition by Tulchin and Selee
To See with Two Eyes: Peasant Activism & Indian Autonomy in Chiapas* Indians, Oil, and Politics: A Recent History of Ecuador
Silencing the Guns – Haiti
Politics in a Half-Made Society (Trinidad and Tobago)
Causes of Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon*
Chile: Political Economy of Urban Development*
Venezuela in the Chavez Era*
The Press and Political Culture in Ghana
A History of the Sudan
The Underneath of Things - Sierra Leone
Liberian Women Peacemakers
People, Power and Democracy - Nigeria
The Battle for Zimbabwe: The Final Countdown
Wildlife and Communities at the Crossroads. (Zimbabwe)
On Becoming a Democracy (South Africa)
Composers, Conductors, and Players (South African foreign policy)
Liberalization Against Democracy: The Local Politics of Economic Reform in Tunisia
Transforming Mozambique: The Politics of Privatization
Economic Reforms in Ghana
Morocco Since 1830
The Root Causes of Sudan’s Civil Wars
Asbestos Blues (labor in South Africa)
The Changing Turkey - Online at Brookings
Crescent and Star --Turkey
Political Parties in Turkey
Post-Communist Romania: Coming to Terms with Transition (edited volume)*
Roundtable Talks of 1989: The Genesis of Hungarian Democracy*
Imagining the Nation: History, Modernity, and Revolution in Latvia*
Between Dictatorship and Democracy: Russian Post-Communist Political Reform*
Human Rights in Iran: The Abuse of Cultural Relativism*
Political Ecology and the Role of Water: Environment, Society, and Ecology in Northern Yemen
Women and the Politics of Military Confrontation (Palestine)
The Great North Korean Famine *
Renovating Politics in Contemporary Vietnam*
Made in Indonesia: Indonesian Workers Since Suharto*
Malaysian Politics Under Mahathir*
Malaysia: State and Civil Society in Transition
India: Emerging Power*
Gender in the Hindu Nation (women Hindu nationalists in India)
India and the Knowledge Economy: Leveraging Strengths and Opportunities (World Bank)
Pakistan (by Mary Anne Weaver)
Tajikistan: Disintegration or Reconciliation

Grading:
Exam I 15%
Exam II 25%
Exam III 35%
Paper 25%

Reading Schedule:
I. The Development of Underdevelopment
8/18 Introduction

8/23 What is poverty?

Ch. 2, “The Definitions of Poverty,” in “Can Anyone Hear Us?” (World Bank)

8/25 What does “development” mean?

Ch. 1, Handelman

II. Culture and Religion

8/30 What is, and what should be, the role of religion in Third World politics?

Ch. 3, Handelman

HAVE SELECTED YOUR BOOK BY TODAY!

9/1 What does ethnicity have to do with development?

Handelman, Ch. 4

Survival

9/6 What does terrorism have to do with development?

Terrorism defined

Development and Terrorism

Terrorism-Poverty Myth

Vandana Shiva on terrorism

9/8 What is IPE?

Handelman, Ch. 10, pp. 259-284

III. Political Economy

9/13 What are the Millennium Development Goals?

UNDP on MDGs Please read this page and click on the link to read the attached page for each of the ten goals.

Terry McKinley on MDGs
9/15  Exam I (on sections I & II only)

9/20 What are the psychosocial effects of underdevelopment?

Crying Out for Change, Ch. 2

Can Anyone Hear Us?  Ch. 6

IV. Population and Ecology

9/22 How has development in the Third World affected women?

Handelman, Ch. 5

The Indian Numbers Game and India's Vanishing Girls

9/27 Why are Third World peasants so poor?

Ch. 6, Handelman

9/29 Why are Third World cities so poor?

Ch. 7, Handelman.

Defining squatter settlements

Sanitation for All!  Please read the "about us" page and examine the gallery.

10/4 Can a country develop economically without destroying its environment?

Encyclopedia of Sustainable Development -- Please read all subtopics under "principles."

Disposable Planet  Please read all six sections, from "Population" to "Energy." Skip the audio presentations, but the charts and graphs, please.

10/6 What are environmental side-effects of industrialization?

Hidden Tragedy:  Pollution

10/11 Exam II - on Sections III & IV.

V. Regimes and Regime Change

10/13 Why is corruption an all-too-common hallmark of the LDC government?

Global Corruption Report, by Transparency Intl.  "Introduction to Political Corruption."
Vote Buying

Can Anyone Hear Us?  Ch. 3

10/18 What is a revolution, and why is it becoming less common in the Third World?

Ch. 8, Handelman.

Any Which Way

10/20 Why does the military so often take over the Third World state?

Ch. 9, Handelman, pp. 230 -250.

10/25 Does democracy bring peace and prosperity?

Ch. 2, Handelman.

10/27 What is civil society, and how does it affect development?

Can Anyone Hear Us?  Ch. 4

11/1 Are human rights really universal?

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Please read the full text, but consult the unofficial document if you need clarification.

ICCPR

Mazrui “Pretender to Universalism”

VI. Policy Issues in Development

11/3 Why must children work?

Short video on child labor

"Helping Hands"  Please read the Executive Summary and Chapter II.

Child Labor in Agriculture

Rights of the Child Please read the “full text,” but consult the summary for clarification if necessary.

11/8 Why must children fight?

Children as Weapons of War
UNHCHR on Children Please read all of the items under "Features" except the last.

11/10 Why do the babies starve?

Lullaby for the Hungry

SOFI 2004 – State of Food Insecurity in the World Please read the entire document, skimming the tables.

11/15 Does biotechnology help or hurt development?

FAO report on agricultural biotech. Please read sections A - C.

Terrorism, Agriculture, & U.S.-India Cooperation

11/17 How does HIV affect people in the developing world?

“Having AIDS is Macho”

AIDS Global Factsheet

Women and AIDS Please read through Chapter IV.

11/22 How does public health affect poverty, and how does poverty affect public health?

Dying for Change

11/29 -- Student Presentations of Papers

12/1 -- Student Presentations of Papers, continued.

12/8 – Exam III –On Sections V and VI – 1:30-4 PM

Useful resource:

BBC's Guide to Development-Speak defines much of the development jargon.