PSCI 4670: Culture and Politics of the Third World

Semester: Spring 2018  
Instructor: Lee D. Walker  
University of North Texas  
Department of Political Science  
Meeting Time: Monday and Wednesday 2:00 PM-3:20 PM  
Location: 060 Business Leadership Building  
My Office: 157 Wooten Hall  
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 11:00AM to 12:00PM; Friday 10:00AM to 11AM; and by appointment  
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Course Overview
This course is designed to provide students a general introduction to the comparative study of politics in developing countries. This course examines cultural, political, and economic development. The focus is not primarily on area or country-specific studies but rather on concepts and theories that are useful for understanding why domestic politics varies across different countries and different geographic regions. The course is designed to provide students a basic understanding of perspectives, approaches, and frameworks that are used in more advanced undergraduate courses in comparative politics. It is hoped that students will come to understand why the nature of important political issues and processes to resolve conflicts often differ in developing nations.

Course Description
Course Organization: The course is organized in four sections. First, we examine some general concepts of comparative politics and explore the characteristics of underdevelopment. Second, we examine democratic development and regime transition. We give particular attention to the roles of women and the military in the processes of political transition. Third, we explore some of the political cleavages that influence the type of politics that exists in various countries. These cleavages include social class, religion, and ethnicity. Fourth, we turn our attention to political economy. Here we are interested in the role that economic development or the lack of such development plays in the formation of the state. We are also interested in the role that the state plays in the process of economic development.

Learning Objectives
After completing the course, students should be able to:

- Explain theoretical approaches to comparative politics.
- Explain how these various theoretical approaches have been applied to the study of developing countries.
- Explain how political culture and economic development patterns have affected political development.
- Explain the role of ethnic plurality in political and social development.
- Explain the role that the military has played in the political and social development.
- Explain the how the Third Wave of democracy has affected developing countries.
- Explain the role of political institutions in developing countries.
- Write a coherent and concise term paper on a topic of interest as it relate to political development.
Required Materials: Books


Required Materials: Articles


Code of Conduct

- The University of North Texas has established a standard of conduct to foster a safe environment that is conducive to learning and development. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for the rights and property of others and that upholds the integrity of the university community. The standards of conduct are outlined in Policies of the University of North Texas document 18.1.11 University of North Texas Code of Student Conduct.
Academic Integrity

- The University of North Texas promotes the integrity of the learning process by establishing and enforcing academic standards. Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines scholarship. Cheating, Collusion, and Plagiarism will result in a grade of zero and could lead to a failing grade in the class. Each student must complete all work alone. Students are not to collude, that is, rely on each other to complete individually assigned work. Students are not to plagiarize, that is, use material written by someone else without proper acknowledgement or documentation. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in a failing grade and/or dismissal from the class or both. Student standards for academic integrity are given in the Policies of UNT document 18.1.16.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities

- If you need a reasonable accommodation because of a disability to participate fully in this course, please contact Dr. Lee D. Walker, Associate Professor of Political Science, at 940-565-4233. Please make the request as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to arrange the reasonable accommodation.

Course Requirements

- **Course grade** will be based on two response papers (10%), leadership of class discussion (15%), a 7-10 page research paper (20%) and three examinations (15%, 15% and 20%), attendance and participation (5%).

- **Attendance and Participation** (5%): You are expected to attend every class session. You should be prepared to discuss knowledgeably the issues, concepts, and cases that are the topics of the daily sessions. This requirement mandates that you read the material before class.

- **Response Paper** (10%): This is your response to one of the fourteen readings that we will read for the semester. Think of the “critical response paper” as a summary: 1st part, first paragraph should include author’s thesis, author, source, what evidence does scholar use, what is the scholar’s conclusion; 2nd part, discussion of evidence in some detail with examples from article/essay by using brief quotes or paraphrasing from piece; and 3rd part, your thoughts on the effectiveness of the argument and evidence. The response papers are due the class immediately after the reading was presented in class.

- **Discussion Leader** (15%) Students will be asked to lead the class discussion in one of the weeks of the course. I will lead the discussion for the majority of the classes. Each student (in conjunction with two of her/his colleagues) will signup to lead the discussions for one of the classes in which we discuss one of the 14 scholarly articles that have been assigned as course readings. The team of two students should divide the paper in some logical manner as to present completely the reading. For example, you may divide the paper in the following manner: 1) Research question and literature review; 2) theory and research design; 3) research findings and discussion. Each class leader should distribute an outline of her/his work to all other class participates. Preferably, this summary should be in outline form. Everyone is expected to participate in class discussions. I will do the first paper to give you an example of how you may want to structure your presentation.

- **Research Paper** (20%) You are required to prepare a short research paper (7 to 10 typed pages) that will be due on April 25. You may take several approaches to the question or questions that are of interest to you. First and foremost, your paper must make an argument. For example, this is a good argument. “Non-ethnic political parties have a positive effect on democratization in multi-ethnic societies.” You may choose to write about any of the themes of the class, including but not limited to diversity and political development; formal institutional development (presidency, legislature, judiciary, political parties) and political stability; political culture and economic and political development; voting and elections in developing countries; gender and politics in developing societies; revolution and civil conflict.
in developing countries; religion and politics in developing countries; and social movements in developing societies. You should be sure to detail the political implications of the aspect that you choose to examine. Please see me if you have a problem in selecting a project or countries for comparison. I will provide further suggestions for the research paper as the semester progresses.

Your paper should be at least seven pages and no more than ten typed pages long. You should use either APA (American Psychological Association) or MLA (Modern Language Association) style sheets (I prefer parenthetical citations, but footnotes are endnotes are also acceptable forms). For those using Word or Word Perfect, please use Times New Roman font at size 11 or 12, Arial font at size 10 or 11, or Courier New font at 10 or 11. Your paper should include at least six non-web-based sources. Once you have meant this source requirement minimum, you may use web-based sources to support your argument. You may use the course textbook as sources provided that you cite it properly.

- Examinations:
  1. Examination 1 (15%): covers material from the first third of the course. The examination will be given February 19 and will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and short-answer questions.
  2. Examination 2 (15%): covers material from the first third of the course. The examination will be given March 28 and will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and short-answer questions.
  3. Final Examination (20%): covers material from the first third of the course. The examination will be given May 7, 2018, from 1:30 to 3:30 and will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and short-answer questions.

Grades
- Final Grades: A = 90+ and above; B = 80-89.5; C = 70-79.5; D = 60-69.5; F = 59 and below.
- Graded examinations and written assignments will be given letter grades. Although minuses and pluses are not utilized in the final grades, a full range of minus and plus grades will be awarded on written assignments: A = 93+; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 73-76, C- = 70 72, D+ = 67 69, D = 63 66, D= 60 62, E = 59 and below.
- Late assignments will be reduced by one full letter grade for each day that the assignment is late.
- All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the due date assigned and in the assigned format.
- Written assignments should be typed on 8 1/2” x 11” white, smooth-edged paper, double-spaced with 1” margins on all sides, and reproduced mechanically (word processing, typed, etc.). Written assignments will not be accepted if sent by email. For those using “Word” or “Word Perfect,” please use Arial font at size 10 or 11, or Times New Roman font at size 11 or 12.

Course Outline
1. January 17: Introduction to Class
2. January 19: Concepts and Theories of Comparative Politics: Conceptual Frameworks
   Reading: Mayer, pages 7-17 in Blackboard
   Reading: Mayer, pages 17-24
4. January 24: Underdevelopment
   Reading: Handelman, Chapter 1

5. January 29: Underdevelopment and the Third World
   Readings: Randall “Using and Abusing the Concept of the Third World” Blackboard

6. January 31: Democratic Development Political Development
   Reading: Handelman, Chapter 2

7. February 5: Democracy and Underdevelopment
   Reading: Khan “Markets, States and Democracy,” in Blackboard

8. February 7: Democracy and Underdevelopment
   Reading: Croissant “From Transition to Defective Democracy,” in Blackboard

9. February 12: Examination 1

10. February 14: Military and Politics
    Reading: Handelman, Chapter 8

11. February 19: Military and Politics
    Reading: Ukoha Ukiwo: “Politics, Ethno-Conflicts and Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria” in Blackboard

12. February 21: Military and Politics
    Reading: Svolik “Contracting on Violence: The Moral Hazard in Authoritarian Repression and Military Intervention in Politics” in Blackboard

13. February 23 is last day to drop course with W

14. February 26: Women and Political Development
    Reading: Handelman, Chapter 5

15. February 28: Women and Development
    Reading: Geisler “A Second Liberation: Lobbying for Women’s Political Representation in Zambia, Botswana and Namibia” in Blackboard

16. March 5: Women and Development
    Reading: Lind “Gender and Neoliberal States: Feminists Remake the Nation in Ecuador” in Blackboard

17. March 7: Women and Development
    Reading: Harris “Water Rich, Resource Poor: Intersections of Gender, Poverty, and Vulnerability in Newly Irrigated Areas of Southeastern Turkey” in Blackboard

18. Spring Break: March 12-16

19. March 19: Religion and Politics
    Reading: Handelman, Chapter 3

20. March 21: Religion and Politics

21. March 26: Examination 2

22. March 28: Cultural Pluralism and Ethnic Conflict
    Reading: Handelman, Chapter 4

23. April 2: Cultural Pluralism and Ethnic Conflict
    Reading: Hohnsten “Do Ethnic Parties Exclude Women” in Blackboard

24. April 4: No Class
25. April 9: Revolution and Social Change  
Reading: Handelman, Chapter 7

26. April 11: Change, Revolution and Social Movements  
Reading: Rasler “Concessions, Repression, and Political Protest in the Iranian Revolution,” in Blackboard

27. April 16: Change, Revolution and Social Movements  
Reading: Romano “From Protest to Proposal: The Contentious Politics of the Nicaraguan Anti-Water Privatisation Social Movement,” in Blackboard

28. April 18: Political Economy of the Developing World  
Reading: Handelman, Chapter 9

29. April 23: Political Economy of the Developing World  
Reading: Jensen and Wantchenkon “Resource Wealth and Political Regimes in Africa,” in Blackboard

30. April 25: The Politics of Rural and Urban Poor  
Reading: Handelman, Chapter 6  
Research Paper due

31. April 30: The Politics of Rural and Urban Poor  
Reading: Roces “Prostitution, women’s movements and the victim narrative in the Philippines,” in Blackboard

32. May 1: Final Examination Review

33. May 7: Final Examination: 1:30-3:30PM