

INTL 5580/SOCS 5030.05: Politics of Development: Third World Countries

INSTRUCTOR: Bindu K. Gangadharan
TERM: Fall II 2002 (Wednesday, 5:30-9:30)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course explores various aspects of political, economic, social development and underdevelopment in the broad array of countries that make up the Third World. It identifies the major challenges faced by developing countries and the strategies adopted to address them. The **objective of this course** is to develop a solid comparative perspective on the political and economic systems of the Third World and a good understanding of some of the main issues these societies confront today. A historical overview of the evolution of the Third World countries in the context of world politics and trends of globalization will help in understanding problems and policies of sustainable development and environmental issues.

Competency of Student Expected by Instructor:

Ability to do graduate level work. Attendance is very important. Class participation and discussion are strongly encouraged, and are a crucial component of the course and final grade. All students must come to class having read the assigned readings and prepared to summarize the readings and discuss them. Students are encouraged to read newspapers and use the Internet on a daily basis to be informed on current events in these countries, which will facilitate class participation and understanding of the course material.

CLASS FORMAT:

This course is organized around lectures and discussion sessions. These will be structured as class presentations on issues in Third World followed by question and answer period. The length of these presentations will be decided on the size of the class. A written version of the presentation is required.

GRADING PROCEDURE:

	% of Grade
Attendance, Class Participation and completing all assigned readings	10%
Current Controversies – papers and presentations	20%
Weekly Reaction paper (total 4)	40%
Class Presentation of Research paper	10%
Research paper	20%
TOTAL	100%

REQUIRED TEXT BOOKS:

Handelman, Howard. The Challenge of Third World Development, 3rd edition WI: Prentice Hall, 2003.
Isbister, John. Promises not Kept, 6th edition CT: Kumarian Press Inc, 2003.
Miller, Berna and James D. Torr eds. Developing Nations: Current Controversies, MI: Greenhaven press, 2003.

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1: Introduction to class. Defining Third World. Perspectives of understanding Third World

Isbister, John, ch 1 “Introduction”
Isbister, John, ch 2 “A World of Poverty”

WEEK 2: Theories of Development and Underdevelopment

Handelman, Howard, ch 1 “Understanding Underdevelopment”.
Handelman, Howard, ch 10, “The Political Economy of Third World Development”.
Isbister, John, ch 3 “Explanations of Underdevelopment”

WEEK 3: Historical Context of the Third World

Isbister, John, ch 4 “Imperialism”
Isbister, John, ch 5 “Nationalism and Independence”
Miller et al, ch 1 “Poverty is a serious problem in Developing Nation”
Miller et al, ch 1 “Hunger is a serious problem in Developing Nation”
Miller et al, ch 1 “Obesity is a growing problem in Developing Nation”
Miller et al, ch 1 “Abusive child labor is a problem in Developing Nation”

WEEK 4: Political Development – Conflict and Instability

Handelman, Howard, ch 3, “Religion and Politics”.
Handelman, Howard, ch 4, “The Politics of Cultural Pluralism and Ethnic Conflict”.

WEEK 5: Economic Development and Globalization

Isbister, John, ch 6 “Economic Development”
Isbister, John, ch 8 “The Future: Justice in an age of Globalization”
Miller et al, ch 2 “Globalization harms Developing Nations’ economies”
Miller et al, ch 2 “Globalization benefits Developing Nations’ economies”
Miller et al, ch 2 “Globalization harms Developing Nations’ cultures”
Miller et al, ch 2 “Globalization benefits Developing Nations’ cultures”

WEEK 6: Political Change in the Developing World - Democracy

Handelman, Howard, ch 2, Democratic Change and the Change to Democracy.
Miller et al, ch 4 “Democracy can succeed in Developing Nation”
Miller et al, ch 4 “Some Developing Nations do not have cultures that support democracy”
Miller et al, ch 4 “Democracy can succeed in the Arab world”
Miller et al, ch 4 “There are serious obstacles to freedom in the Arab world”
Miller et al, ch 4 “The US should promote democracy in Developing Nations”
Miller et al, ch 4 “International efforts to promote democracy in Developing Nations are counterproductive”

WEEK 7: Domestic and International Political Issues – Political Violence, Dictatorship, Issues of Human Rights

Handelman, Howard, ch 8, “Revolutionary Change”.
Handelman, Howard, ch 9, “Soldiers and Politics”.
Isbister, John, ch 7 “Foreign Policy”
Miller et al, ch 3 “The US should increase its efforts to aid Developing Nations”
Miller et al, ch 3 “The US should not increase its efforts to aid Developing Nations”
Miller et al, ch 3 “Foreign aid benefits Developing Nations”
Miller et al, ch 3 “Debt relief will not help Developing Nations overcome poverty”

WEEK 8: Social Issues – Gender, Health, Disease, Environmental, Population, rural change and urbanization

Handelman, Howard, ch 5, “Women and Development”.
Handelman, Howard, ch 6, “Agrarian Reform and the Politics of Rural Change”.
Handelman, Howard, ch 7, “Rapid Urbanization and the Politics of the Urban Poor”.
Miller et al, ch 1 “Air Pollution is a serious problem in Developing Nation”
Miller et al, ch 1 “Infectious disease is a serious problem in Developing Nation”
Miller et al, ch 3 “The US should support family planning services in Developing Nations”
Miller et al, ch 3 “The US should not support family planning services in Developing Nations”

WEEK 9: Class Presentations

Wrap-up and Conclusion- Current issues and developments.