POLSCI 742 - POLITICS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
POLSCI 742
Term 1, Fall 2019

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Email: gallegui@mcmaster.ca
Seminar: Thursdays, 11:30am-2:20pm
Classroom: KTH 709

Office: KTH 542
Office Hours: Thursday 3:00 – 5:00 pm

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Course Description
This seminar examines current political processes (i.e. democratic transition and consolidation) in Africa, Latin America, and other regions in the developing world from a comparative perspective. It assesses whether these processes, shaped as they are by the economic and political changes brought about by the end of the Cold War and the Western-inspired globalization paradigm, can conform to the common sense view that capitalist economic development and Western-style democracy are the path to democratic and stable politics for Third World countries. The course assesses the relevance of still dominant development strategies, such as Modernization theories and its current neoliberal economic and political correlates, the Dependency school as an untested challenge to modernization theories, and the current and popular post-colonial approach. The discussion around these issues is complemented with an equally critical evaluation of the challenges that gender gains, the decline of analytical categories such as social class and political ideologies, the emergence of religion as an expression of civil society dynamism, and the military establishment’s pervasive political influence present to democratic transition processes in the developing world.

Course Objectives
By the end of the course students should be able to develop a comprehensive, systematic, and critical perspective on the strengths and weaknesses of the democratic transition processes taking place in the developing world. Specifically, it is expected that students will overcome and replace ‘common sense’ (i.e. stereotypical) views with rational, logical, and scientific understanding of Third World countries’ ‘realities.’

Required Materials and Texts
Required readings are available both in KTH 502 reserve readings folders and online through the use of the McMaster Library and Avenue to Learn. Readings in KTH 502 should not be taken away for more than 2 hours; their prompt return makes possible for other students to access them. Students should also make available to their peers the additional readings that they want to discuss in the class presentations.

Class Format
The course meets once a week, for a 3-hour long seminar. In addition to discussions led by the instructor, there will class presentations by students. Relevant films will be shown during the term.

Course Evaluation – Overview
1. Class participation worth 10 % of the course grade. Only one absence will not be considered in the determination of the grade for this assignment.
2. Class presentation worth 20 % of the course grade. Schedule of presentation will be finalized by the second week of classes.
3. A research paper worth 40% of the course grade. Paper is due on Thursday November 21, 2019.

4. A take-home end-of-term examination worth 30% of the course grade. Exam will be delivered on Thursday November 28, and is due the next day, Friday November 29, by 5:00 pm at KTH 542.

**Course Evaluation – Details**

**Seminar Participation (10%)**
It will be determined by attendance and active involvement in class discussions and feedback given to other students’ class presentations. Only one absence will not be considered in the determination of the grade for this assignment.

**Seminar Presentation (20%)**
Students will take responsibility for the introduction and discussion of one of the weekly topics listed in the course outline, with the instructor’s approval. Presentations include (a) making additional readings, as required; (2) summarizing the main points from the corresponding readings; (3) raising questions/issues for discussion; (4) relating the readings to the course’s objectives, and (5) answering students’ questions. Presentations should be brief, pointed, should not regurgitate readings, and leave enough time for discussion. Presentations by students will start from week 4; the instructor will lead the first 3 weeks of classes.

**Research paper (40%), due Thursday, November 21, 2019**
It involves (a) submitting a research question (problem statement, hypothesis, thesis, etc.) as well as an outline of the research (3-4 pages) for the instructor’s approval by Thursday October 3, 2019, and (b) submitting a 20-25 page-long final version of the paper by Thursday November 21, 2019, in class, along with the original outline approved by the instructor. In addition to a hard copy an electronic copy of these assignments must also be sent to the instructor (gallegui@mcmaster.ca) on the due dates. Each submission must include as well as statement that no plagiarism has been committed in the preparation and delivery of the assignment.

**End-of-term Examination (30%), due Friday, November 29, 2019 by 5:00 pm**
Answers must include all required readings, and class discussions (both from instructor and student presenters). Exam will be delivered in class on Thursday 28, 2019 and must be returned to the instructor by 5:00 pm, next day, November 29, 2019 at KTH 542.
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1: September 5 / Course introduction

Required readings:


Week 2: September 12 / Development Studies.

The failure/success of development strategies. The resilience of Modernization Theories.

Required readings:

Huntington, Samuel, “The Goals of Development,” in his Understanding Political Development. (on reserve)

Huntington, Samuel, “The Clash of Civilizations,” in Foreign Affairs, 72, 3, 1993. (on reserve)


Week 3: September 19 / Development and Underdevelopment
Topic: The Dependency School of Development and Underdevelopment: contributions, limitations, and resilience.

Required readings:

Frank, Andre G. “The development of underdevelopment,” (available online; on reserve as well)


Week 4: September 26 / Colonial Experience
Topic: The Colonial experience: a denial of development. The post-colonial debate: decolonizing anyone?

Required readings:

Fanon, Frank. 1967. “On Violence”, from his *The Wretched of the Earth* (available online at zeroanthropology.net)


Liazu, Claude, “At War with France’s Past,” in *Le Monde Diplomatique*, June 2005. (on reserve and available online)


Chibber, Vivek. 2014. “Capitalism, class and universalism: Escaping the cul-de-sac of postcolonial theory,” in *Socialist Register 2014: Registering Class*, vol. 50 (available online)

**Week 5: October 3 / Class Analysis**

Topic: Is a class analysis valid in the explanation of politics and society today? Bringing back class analysis.

**Required readings:**


**Note: Outline of research paper due today.**

**Week 6: October 10 / Recurrent Political Crisis**


**Required readings:**


Gramsci, Antonio. 1971. *Selections from the Prison Notebooks* (5-14; 170-185; 206-209; 238-239; 242-247; and 257-264), (on reserve)

Morera, Esteve, “History and Politics,” in his *Gramsci’s Historicism. A Realist Interpretation*. (on reserve)


**Week 7: October 17 / Mid-term recess. No class held this week**

**Week 8: October 24 / Military Intervention**


**Required readings:**


Week 9: October 31 / Democratic Transition
Topic: The democratic transition: causes, strengths, weaknesses, consolidation, viability.

Required readings:


Week 10: November 7 / Gender, Politics & Development
Topic: Gender, politics, and development: Making a Difference? Performance, democratization, legacy.

Required readings:


**Week 11: November 14 / Indigenous Peoples**

Topic: Indigenous peoples and the struggle for political inclusion. Performance. Legacy

Required readings:


**Week 12: November 21 / Middle East**

Topic: Politics, Religion, Development, and Democratization in the Middle East.

Required readings:


Clarke, Killian. 2014. “Unexpected Brokers of Mobilization Contingency and Networks in the 2011 Egyptian Uprising,” in *Comparative Politics*, July. (available online)


**Note:** Research paper is due today. Include research outline and statement on plagiarism. Send an electronic copy to gallegui@mcmaster.ca as well.
Week 13: November 28 / State of the Art in Comp Politics

Required readings:

Mahoney, James. 2007. “Qualitative Methodology and Comparative Politics,” in Comparative Political Studies, Volume 40, Number 2, February 2007, pp. 122-144. (available online)


Course Policies

Privacy Protection
In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class;
2. Return of materials to students during office hours;
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

Submission of Assignments
Assignments should be delivered in hard copy on the due dates; at the same time an electronic copy of the assignment should be sent to gallegui@mcmaster.ca

Grades
Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARK</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-90</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MARK | GRADE
--- | ---
77-79 | B+
73-76 | B
70-72 | B-
69-0 | F

Late Assignments
A full-grade mark will be deducted for late papers, up to a one week of delay, unless a legitimate reason is furnished by the student. Medical notes will be verified by the instructor for authenticity.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness
Only one absence will not count for the allocation of the participation mark. More than one absence will lead to a deduction for the participation mark. Failure to deliver on the class presentation will be penalized with a Zero grade for this assignment.

Avenue to Learn
In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor or UTS (University Technological Services).

Turnitin.com
In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement
Students are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials students earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Each assignment must include a statement that no plagiarism has been committed in the preparation and submission of the research outline and final version of the research paper.
Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is the student’s responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities
Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy
Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification
The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Religious Accommodations
Students who require academic accommodation due to religious reasons, indigenous, and spiritual observances need to familiarize themselves with the University Policy on Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous, and Spiritual Observations. Students must inform the Instructor about these accommodations in advance.