

Political Science 290
Politics of the Non-Western World
Fall 2016
Prof. Griffiths

“Try to imagine at least once a day that you are not an American. Go even further: try to imagine at least once a day that you belong to the vast, the overwhelming majority of people on this planet who don’t have passports, don’t live in dwellings equipped with both refrigerators and telephones, who have never even once flown in a plane.”

Susan Sontag, author & social critic

“Every morning, our newspapers could report ‘More than 20,000 people perished yesterday of extreme poverty.’ “

Jeffrey Sachs, *The End of Poverty*

The purpose of this class is to acquaint students with the challenges associated with modernization and development in the non-western world. The focus of the class is on the countries of Africa, Asia(excluding China), the Middle East, and Latin America. The goal of the course is to make students more aware of the conditions that characterize the developing world, especially the world’s poorest countries, and provide a better understanding of the complex nature of the political environment in the non-western world.

After taking this course students will be able to do the following:

- recognize the formidable challenges that face the developing world
- understand the origins and scope of the problems confronting developing countries
- comprehend the complexity of the factors that create these problems
- realize the global implications of lagging and uneven development
- identify the differences in perspective between industrialized and developing countries
- assess prospects for political, economic, and social progress in developing countries

Contact Information and Office Hours: My office is in 322 Curry Building. My regular office hours are 11-12 MWF and by appointment. My office phone is 256-0518 and my email address is rjgriffi@uncg.edu.

Texts: *Politics & Culture in the Developing World*, 5th edition by Richard J. Payne & Jamal R. Nassar. There will be additional readings posted on Canvas. Students are also required to keep up with current events by reading *The Economist* or *The New York Times* and monitoring broadcast or internet news sources such as National Public Radio, the BBC or Al Jazeera on a regular basis.

Requirements: There will be a mid-term exam and a final, as well as short quizzes that will deal with current events and assigned readings. Students will also participate in a group project in which they will compile a 12-15 page profile of a developing country. Details of this assignment will be posted on Canvas. Electronic submissions of written assignments are **not** allowed without prior permission. Late assignments will be penalized two points per day and will not be accepted after the last regular day of class. Grade weights as follows: Quizzes 10%, mid-term 30%, Profile 25%, final exam 35%.

Class Format and Expectations: Classes will consist of lecture and discussion. Attendance is **essential** if you expect to do well in the class. I also expect you to arrive on time, remain awake, and stay for the duration of class. Leaving class should only occur in extenuating circumstances. Wandering in and out is distracting. Class participation is encouraged and can help your final grade. Class discussion should always be governed by the recognition of and respect for different interpretations and viewpoints.

Policy on Electronic Devices: The use of electronic devices is strictly prohibited in class. This includes laptop computers. All phones and computers must be turned off and put away before class. Any use of your phone or computer in class will cost you five points off your final grade for the first infraction, double that for the second.

Reading Assignments: Dates are approximate.

8/24-8/26- Introduction. Payne & Nassar, ch. 1.

8/29-8/31- Global Inequality. Payne & Nassar, chapter 5.

9/2-9/7- Interdependence. Payne & Nassar, chapter 2.

9/9-9/16- Colonialism. Payne & Nassar, chapter 4.

9/19-9/26- Theories and Challenges of Development. Payne and Nassar, chapter 6.

9/28- Costs of Development. Payne & Nassar, chapter 7(pgs. 125-131).

9/30-10/5-International Political Economy. Readings to be posted on Canvas.

10/7- Exam (tentative date)

10/10-10/19-Conflict and Instability. Payne & Nassar, chapter 11.

10/21-10/28- Political Organization, Democratization, and Human Rights. Payne & Nassar, chapter 10, 9;

10/31-11/4- Women and Development. Payne & Nassar, chapter 8.

11/7-11/11 Religion and Development. Payne & Nassar, chapter 3.

11/14-11/21- Population and Environment. Payne & Nassar, chapter 7(pgs. 142-147);

11/28-11/30- The Developing World and Foreign Relations. Payne & Nassar, chapter 13.

Final Exam- Monday, 12/7/16, Noon-3:00PM.