

Political Science 290  
Politics of the Non-Western World  
Fall 2008  
Prof. Griffiths

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“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 processes and problems 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 challenges facing the developing world, especially the world’s poorest countries, and provide a better understanding of the complex nature of those challenges.

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

**Texts:** *Annual Editions: Developing World 08/09; Politics & Culture in the Developing World*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition by Richard J. Payne & Jamal R. Nassar. Students are also required to read *The New York Times* or *The Economist* 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 the assigned reading, especially the *Annual Editions* articles. Students will also be responsible for a 5-6 page profile of a developing country. Details on the profile will be provided in a separate hand-out. The due date will be toward the end of the semester. Finally, students must also submit an 8-10 page research paper on a topic of their choice. The research paper and the profile may not be on the same topic. Research topics **must** be discussed with me before beginning the research. This should take place no later than 9/5/08. A one-page draft of your paper introduction and thesis with a preliminary bibliography is due 9/10/08. Failure to meet this deadline will result in a five-point penalty on your final grade. The paper will be due 10/27/08. Late papers will be penalized 2 points per day. Electronic submissions of assignments are **not** allowed without prior permission. Late assignments will not be accepted after the last day of class. Class participation is encouraged and may help your final grade. Attendance is **essential** if you expect to do well in the class. I also expect you to arrive on time and stay for the duration of class. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic distractions prior to the beginning of class. Use of computers for purposes other than note-taking will prompt me to ban them from class.

**Reading Assignments:** Dates are approximate.

Weeks of

8/25-9/1- Introduction and Dimensions of Development Challenges. Payne & Nassar, ch. 1,2,5;  
*Annual Editions*, #1-4.

9/8- Colonialism and Independence. Payne & Nassar, ch. 4.

9/15- Development Perspectives. Payne & Nassar, ch. 6, ch. 7; pgs. 136-152; *Annual Editions*, #5.

9/22-9/29- International Political Economy. *Annual Editions*, #7-19.

10/6-10/13- Population, Resources, Environment & Health. Payne & Nassar, ch. 7 pgs. 153-159;  
*Annual Editions*, #40-45.

10/20-10/27- Women and Development. Payne & Nassar, ch. 8; *Annual Editions*, #46-49.

11/3- The Role of Religion. Payne & Nassar, ch. 3; *Annual Editions*, #6.

11/10-11/17- Conflict and Instability. Payne & Nassar, ch. 12; *Annual Editions*, #20-30.

11/24-12/1- Political Change. Payne & Nassar, ch. 10, 9; *Annual Editions*, #31-39.