

Political Science 290
Politics of the Non-Western World
Spring 2010
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 10/11; Politics & Culture in the Developing World*, 4th edition by Richard J. Payne & Jamal R. Nassar. Students are also required to keep up with current events by reading *The Economist* or *The New York Times* and listening to National Public Radio on a regular basis.

Requirements: There will be two exams and a final, as well as short quizzes that will deal with current events and the assigned reading, especially the *Annual Editions* articles. There will also be a 5-page writing assignment on a developing country of your choice. Details will be provided on a separate handout. Electronic submissions of written assignments are **not** allowed without prior permission. Late assignments will be penalized and will not be accepted after the last day of class.

Class Format and Expectations: Classes will consist of lecture and discussion. 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.

Policy on electronic devices: The use of all electronic devices is strictly prohibited in class. This includes laptop computers, unless you can provide documentation from the Office of Disability Services that you need a computer for note taking. All phones must be turned off and put away before class. Any use of your phone in class will cost you five points off your final grade for the first infraction, ten for the second, etc.

Reading Assignments: Dates are approximate.

- 1/22-1/25- Introduction. Payne & Nassar, ch. 1; *Annual Editions* #1.
1/27-2/1- Global inequality. Payne & Nassar, chapter 5.
2/3- Interdependence. Payne & Nassar, chapter 2.
2/5-2/10- Colonialism. Payne & Nassar, chapter 4.
2/12-2/19- Theory, Challenges, and Costs of Development.
Payne & Nassar, chapter 6, 7(pgs. 131-142); *Annual Editions*, #2-6.
2/22-3/1- International Political Economy.
Emerging markets, *Annual Editions* #7
Trade, *Annual Editions* #10-11.
Aid, *Annual Editions* #14-15.
Investment, *Annual Editions*, #16-17.
Impact of financial crisis, *Annual Editions* # 8,9,12,13.
3/3- Exam #1
3/5-3/19- Conflict and Instability. Payne & Nassar, chapter 11; *Annual Editions*, #18-27.
3/22-3/26-Political Leadership. Payne & Nassar, chapter 10.
3/29-4/5- Population, Environment, & Health. Payne & Nassar, chapter 7(pgs. 142-147);
Annual Editions, #36-42.
4/7-4/12- Women and Development. Payne & Nassar, chapter 8; *Annual Editions*, 43-48.
4/14-4/19- Religion and Development. Payne & Nassar, chapter 3.
4/21-4/30- Political Change and Democratization. Payne & Nassar, chapter 9;
Annual Editions, #28-35.
5/3-5/4- Wrap-up and conclusions.