

# **Comparative Politics of Developing Nations**

Fall 2012

Course #50:790:328:01

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-2:50pm

Rutgers University-Camden

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## **Overview:**

In this course we will explore the politics of developing nations across the globe. Questions we will discuss include: What accounts for economic development? Why have some countries transitioned to democracy while others remain under authoritarian rule? What is the connection between development and democracy? In addition, we will review a number of political issues within developing countries, including the roles of religion, ethnicity and gender. As the developing world becomes increasingly urbanized, we will also discuss urban politics and the tension between rural and urban development. Throughout the course we will use case studies to illustrate broader political themes. Specifically, we will review the cases of China, India, Rwanda, and Brazil. The readings will reflect the most recent developments in comparative politics of developing nations in order to reinforce the reality and dynamism of the world in which we are currently living.

## **Required Readings:**

The following books are available for purchase at the University bookstore or through online booksellers:

Howard Handelman, *The Challenge of Third World Development*, Edition No. 7 (Pearson 2013).

Katherine Boo, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* (Random House 2012).

Peter Hessler, *Country Driving: A Chinese Road Trip (P.S.)* (Harper Perennial 2011).

Articles required for the course will be posted on the course's Sakai site.

### **Grading and Assignments:**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Due date</b>	<b>Percentage of Final Grade</b>
Participation	On-going	20%
Quiz 1	October 4	15%
Quiz 2	October 30	15%
Quiz 3	November 29	15%
Reading Responses	4, dates selected by student	2.5% each = 10% of grade
Final Exam	December 17	25%

#### **Participation**

Your participation grade will be based on your daily involvement in class discussions. Please note that there is not a written attendance policy for this course. However, clearly you cannot participate in class if you are not present. Your participation grade depends on your preparation for the class and the quality of your contribution to discussions. The following provides general guidelines for my expectations for each grade range:

A = speaks often in class, asks thoughtful questions, clearly engaged, always prepared

B = occasionally contributes to class discussion, not clear that the student has done all of the readings, may appear attentive in class

C = only participates in class discussions a few times during the semester, does not appear to be prepared, does not exhibit interest in the material

D = rarely attends class, seems not to be prepared or engaged in the material, does not ask questions or provide comments

F = never attends class

#### **Quizzes:**

We will have three quizzes spread throughout the semester. Each of the quizzes will contain several short answer questions to test the students' understanding of the readings and lectures. The quizzes will not be cumulative, but will focus on the course material leading up to the quiz.

#### **Reading Responses:**

Each student will submit four reading responses during the semester. Reading responses should be approximately a page or two in length and contain the following elements: a brief summary, strengths and weaknesses of the reading, and questions that arise as a result of the reading. These short papers should be submitted through the course dropbox on Sakai. Students should submit their papers by 10pm the night before class. All four submissions must be completed by December 11.

**Final Exam**

There will be a final exam in this course with both short answer and longer essay questions. Expectations for the exams will be discussed in a review session prior to the test. The final exam will be cumulative.

**Policies:**

**Disabilities:** Please advise me as soon as possible of any disability that may affect your performance in this course. I will make all necessary accommodations so that your learning, writing, and testing needs may be appropriately met. You are required by the University to provide documentation of the disability to the Student Life Office, Rutgers Learning Center, or Graduate School Dean.

**Academic Integrity:** All students of Rutgers-Camden are required to adhere to the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Violations of the Policy include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. Should you have any questions regarding behavior that may be defined as a violation of the University's Policy, please do not hesitate to discuss the matter with me. Please see the following link for further information: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>.

**Schedule:****Week 1:**

September 4 – Introduction to the Course, Characteristics of developing countries

September 6 – Theories of Development: Modernization and Dependency Theories

Reading: Chapter 1, "Understanding Underdevelopment" in Handelman

**Week 2**

September 11 – Why are some countries rich and others poor?

Reading: Chapters 1 and 2 from *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*, by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, 2010 (SAKAI)

September 13 – Democracy in Developing Countries

Reading: Chapter 2, "The Explosion of Third World Democracy" in Handelman

Inglehart and Welzel, "How Development Leads to Democracy" [SAKAI]

### **Week 3**

September 18 – Religion and Politics

Reading: Chapter 3, "Religion and Politics" in Handelman

September 20 – The Case of Iran

Reading:

Council on Foreign Relations, Religion and Politics in Iran: Backgrounder:

<http://www.cfr.org/iran/religion-politics-iran/p16599>

Ganji, "The Latter-Day Sultan: Power and Politics in Iran" [SAKAI]

Atlantic Monthly, "The Latest Thing You Can't Do in Iran"

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/07/the-latest-things-you-cant-do-in-iran-go-to-coffee-shops-eat-chicken-on-tv/259962/>

### **Week 4**

September 25 – Ethnic Conflict

Reading: Chapter 4, "The Politics of Cultural Pluralism and Ethnic Conflict" in Handelman

September 27 – The Case of Rwanda

Reading: Hintjens, "Explaining the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda" [SAKAI]

### **Week 5**

October 2 – Film on Rwanda

October 4 – **First Quiz**

### **Week 6**

October 9 – Women and Development

Reading: Chapter 5, “Woman and Development” in Handelman

October 11 – Do Women in Power Make a Difference?

Nicholas Kristof blog post: Do Women Leaders Matter?

<http://kristof.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/08/do-women-leaders-matter/>

Goetz, “Political Cleaners: Women as the New Anti-Corruption Force” [SAKAI]

Miranda (UN), “Impact of Women’s Participation and Leadership on Outcomes” [SAKAI]

### **Week 7**

October 16 – Introduction to Urban and Rural Development

Reading: Chapter 6, “The Politics of the Rural and Urban Poor” in Handelman  
and Part One in *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*

October 18 – The Case of India

Reading: Part Two in *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*

### **Week 8**

October 23 – The Case of India

Reading: Part Three in *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*

October 25 – Film on India

Reading: Part Four in *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*

### **Week 9**

October 30 – **Quiz 2**

November 1 – Revolutions

Reading: Chapter 7, “Revolutionary Change” in Handelman

## **Week 10**

November 6 – The Arab Spring

Reading: Ajami, “The Arab Spring at One” [SAKAI]

November 8 – The Role of the Military

Reading: Chapter 8, “Soldiers and Politics” in Handelman

## **Week 11**

November 13 – Political Economy

Reading: Chapter 9, “The Political Economy of Third World Development” in Handelman

November 15 – The Case of China

Reading: Book 1 in *Country Driving*

## **Week 12**

November 20 – China

Reading: Book 2 in *Country Driving*

November 22- Thanksgiving Holiday

## **Week 13**

November 27 – China

Reading: Book 3 in *Country Driving*

November 29 – **Quiz 3**

## **Week 14**

December 4 – Environmental politics in developing nations

Reading: Andersson et al. "The Politics of Decentralized Natural Resource Governance"

December 6 – The case of Brazil

Reading:  
The Economist, "Fiddling While the Amazon Burns"  
<http://www.economist.com/node/21541033>

**Week 15**

December 11 – Exam Review

**Final Exam: December 17, 12-3pm**