

INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall 2009

T/TH 11:00-12:15 (MLC 267)

Instructor: Dr. Stacey Mitchell (gs12smg@uga.edu)

Office Hours: **T/TH 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm**

Office: Candler 318

Welcome to INTL 3300—Introduction to Comparative Politics. This course is designed to prepare International Affairs majors and minors for further course work in the department, and to introduce students to the field of comparative politics. Comparative politics is the study and explanation of similarities and differences between political systems. This semester, students will examine the governments and politics of a number of countries. Rather than focus on developed democracies, this course specifically examines countries of the developing world. For instance, students will acquire greater knowledge about the influence that colonial rule had on patterns of economic and political development in the “Third World,” as well as the various political, social and economic problems that continue to plague developing countries in the 21st century. We will finish the semester with a focused comparison of several developing democracies, including South Africa, Brazil and Iraq.

Grading and Course Requirements

Grading in this course will be based upon these components:

- Class participation: 10%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Midterm: 30%
- Final exam: 40%

Grades will be scaled as follows:

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 60-69%
- F: 59% and below

Exams

The midterm and final exams will consist of 30 multiple choice questions. The final exam is **not** comprehensive.

Quizzes

A quiz will be given once a week. The purpose of the quizzes is both to encourage your attendance and to make sure you are doing the readings for class. **There are no make-up quizzes.** If you miss a quiz and have an excused absence, the quiz will be dropped from your overall quiz average. If you miss a quiz **without** an excused absence you will receive a **zero**. **If you leave class after taking a quiz you will receive a zero.**

Required Readings

All reading assignments are available through the UGA Library's electronic reserve system. To access the system go to <http://www.libs.uga.edu>, hit "search course reserves"; under "instructor" scroll down to "Mitchell"; under "course" scroll to "INTL 3300." A password is required. The password for this course is "sgm3300." **Most of the readings are available for download for a specific time period only. Please make note of these dates. I will also leave 2-3 copies of each article in the box outside of my office for copy.**

Ground Rules

First and most importantly, this course will require a great deal of reading and analysis, as well as participation in class. If you are not prepared to work hard, this may not be the course for you. Your remaining in this course will be understood to be an acceptance of the following ground rules:

- Please **turn off all cell phones** before you come to class.
- If you miss a class, and therefore miss an attendance grade, your absence will only be excused with official documentation: I accept doctor's notes, copies of court subpoenas, jury subpoenas and other official court documentation, as well as funeral notices and notices for school-sponsored events. Any documentation you present to me must be presented in a **timely** manner and **must include** the date or dates you missed class—otherwise your absence will not be excused.
 - I **do not accept** as a valid excuse the following: weddings, vacations, birthdays, other family events including births (unless of course it is you who is giving birth) and missing class because you have to work on something for another class or you have to take an entrance exam for grad school, law school, med school or bartending school.
 - More than 3 unexcused absences will be taken by me as a sign that a student has a lack of interest in the course and will count negatively against that student's final average.
 - For the rules regarding quizzes see above.
 - **If you miss an exam without a valid excuse no makeup test will be given. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
 - **The makeup exam for the midterm will be given during the final exam.**
- In terms of your final grade, **I DO NOT NEGOTIATE.** I will explain your grade to you. I will not change your final grade.

Block One: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS (Aug 18-25)

- Aug 18-20: Introduction to the course
- Aug 25: Sodaro, "Major Topics of Comparative Politics" (**available week of 8/17**)

Block Two: THE "THIRD WORLD" AND ISSUES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Aug 27-Oct 1)

- **August 27-September 8: Overview: What is the Third World?**
 - Aug 27: Lewellen, "Does the Third World Exist?" (**available week of 8/24**)
 - Sep 1: Lewellen, "The Creation of the Third World" (**available week of 8/31**).
 - Sep 3-8: Film: *White King, Red Rubber, Black Death*, (2003)
- **September 10-22: Economic Development**
 - Sep 10-15: Lewellen, "Modernization and Dependency" (**available week of 9/7**)
 - Sep 17-22: Lewellen, "Import Substitution, Basic Needs" (**week of available 9/14**)
- **September 24-October 1: Debt and Foreign Aid**
 - Sep 24-29: Lewellen, "Between Debt and the Deep Blue Sea" (**available week of 9/21**)
 - Oct 1: Birdsall, "How to Help Poor Countries," pp. 3-9
Heller, "Making Aid Work," pp. 46-52

Radlett, "Aid and Growth," pp. 53-57

- **REVIEW FOR MIDTERM: October 6-8, 2009**
- **MIDTERM: October 13, 2009**

- October 15-20: *Syriana*, (2005) 129 minutes

Block Three: POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND DEMOCRATIZATION (Oct 22-Nov 19)

- **October 22-27: What do we mean by the "state"?**
 - Oct 22: Sodaro, "The State and its Institutions," (**available week of 10/12**).
 - Oct 27: Sodaro, "States and Nations," (**available week of 10/19**).
- **October 29-November 19: Third Wave Transitions to Democracy**
 - Oct 29-Nov 3: Sodaro, "Democracy: What does it Take?" (**available week of 10/26**)
 - Nov 5: Sodaro, "Conditions for Democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq" (**available week of 11/2**)
 - Nov 10-12: Sisk, "Nigeria and South Africa" (**available week of 11/9**).
 - Nov 17-19: Klesner, "Mexico and Brazil" (**available week of 11/16**).
 - Nov 23-27: *Thanksgiving holiday*

- **LAST DAY OF CLASS/REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM: December 1-3, 2009**
- **NOTE: there is no class scheduled for December 8th. Classes are operating that day on a Friday schedule.**
- **READING DAY: December 9th**
- **FINAL EXAM: Exam: Fri., Dec. 11, 2009, 12:00 - 3:00 pm, SLC 267**

This is a tentative working syllabus. Any information in this syllabus is subject to change. Students are responsible for these changes.