

INTL 3300: Introduction to Comparative Politics
Spring 2009

MWF 11:15-12:05 (SLC 267)
Instructor: Dr. Stacey Mitchell (gs12smg@uga.edu)
Office Hours: T/TH 11:00 am to 1:00 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 be introduced to some of the theoretical perspectives used in comparative politics, as well as various aspects of comparative methodology. In this class we will also 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.

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 exam will consist of 30 multiple choice questions. The final exam will consist of 25 multiple choice questions and one essay question. 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.

Required Readings

The following textbook is required for this course and is available at the UGA bookstore:

- Joseph, William A., Joel Krieger and Mark Kesselman. 2007. *Introduction to Politics of the Developing World: Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*, 4th ed. Boston; New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

All other reading assignments are available through the UGA Library's electronic reserve system. To access the system go to <http://gil.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 "mitc3300."

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:

- 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.
- If you miss a quiz, **no makeup quiz will be given**. However, the quiz grade will be dropped from your overall quiz average if you present me with a valid excuse for your absence.
- If you miss an exam without a valid excuse no makeup test will be given. **NO EXCEPTIONS**.
- Please **turn off all cell phones** before you come to class.

Block One: Introduction to the Study of Comparative Politics (Jan. 9-12)

- Jan. 9: Introduction to the course
- Jan. 12: Joseph et al. chapter 1

Block Two: The "Third World" and Issues of Economic Development (Jan. 14-Feb. 18)

- **January 14-28: Overview: What is the Third World?**
 - Jan. 14-16: Lewellen, "Does the Third World Exist?"
 - Jan. 19: NO CLASS; MLK HOLIDAY
 - Jan. 21-23: Lewellen, "The Creation of the Third World"
 - Jan. 26-28: Film: *White King, Red Rubber, Black Death*, (2003) 84 minutes
- **January 30-February 9: Economic Development**
 - Jan. 30-Feb. 2: Lewellen, "Modernization and Dependency"
 - Feb. 4-9: Lewellen, "Import Substitution, Basic Needs"
- **February 11-18: Debt and Foreign Aid**
 - Feb. 11-13: Lewellen, "Between Debt and the Deep Blue Sea"
 - Feb. 16-18: 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: February 20, 2009**

- **MIDTERM: February 23, 2009**
- February 25-March 2: *The Constant Gardner*, (2005) 129 minutes

Block Three: Political Systems and Democratization (Mar. 4-Mar. 30)

- **March 4-13: Overview: Single-Party Regimes and Authoritarian Rule**
 - Mar. 4-6: Lewellen, "Dictatorship and Democracy"
 - Mar. 9-13: SPRING BREAK
- **March 16-30: Third Wave Transitions to Democracy**
 - Mar. 16: Walker, "The Democratic Mosaic," pp. 101-104
Piano, "The 2005 Freedom House Survey," 111-114
 - Mar. 18-20: Diamond, "Iraq and Democracy: The Lessons Learned," pp. 124-128
Herzog, "Can Hamas be tamed?" pp. 129-133
Castaneda, Jorge G. "Latin America's Left Turn," pp. 144-149
 - Mar. 23-25: Diamond, "Promoting Real Reform in Africa," 263-292
Widner, Jennifer. "Africa's Democratization," pp. 139-143
 - Mar. 27-30: *Devil Came on Horseback*, (2007) 85 minutes

Block Four: Case Studies (Apr. 1-29)

- April 1-6: China Joseph et al. chapter 2
- April 8-13: Mexico Joseph et al. chapter 4
- April 15-20: Nigeria Joseph et al. chapter 6
- April 22-27: Iran Joseph et al. chapter 7
- **LAST DAY OF CLASS/REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM: April 29th**
- **READING DAY: May 1st**
- **FINAL EXAM: May 4, 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.