

Marquette University
Department of Political Science

POSC 159
Spring 2007
Tu-Th, 3:35-4:50
Lalumiere 232

Professor Michael Fleet
Wehr Physics 446; tel. 81799
Of. Hrs: Tu-Th. – 9:30-11:00
Wed., 3:30-5:00

Third World Politics

This course deals with the socioeconomic and political challenges that developing or “third world” countries face in today’s globalized world. It focuses on such topics as the nature of underdevelopment, colonial experiences and their legacies, the extent and implications of ethnic, cultural, and religious divisions, relationship between economic and political development, and the consequences of the development models and strategies to which third world countries have been subjected by their own governments and by foreign powers and international institutions. The readings include “third world” novels by Achebe and Mahfouz (students will choose one), an Annual Editions anthology of short (3- to 10-page) articles and essays on development topics; a book by a Nobel Prize-winning Indian economist (Amartya Sen); Handelman’s text on the challenges of Third World development; and the 2006 U.N. Human Development Report that analyzes the global water crisis.

The course will require active student participation. Students will be assigned to “work groups” that will function both in and outside of class, helping students to digest course materials, to prepare for classes, quizzes, and essay exams, and to participate more effectively in class discussions by formulating questions and responding to those by others. Grades will be assigned along the following lines: participation – 20%; quizzes (4) – 20%; the mid-term essay exam – 20%; and the final essay-exam – 40%. The questions for both the mid-term and final essay-exams will be distributed roughly a week in advance of the day on which the essays are to be submitted.

The following books should be purchased by all:

Howard Handelman, The Challenges of Third World Development, 4th ed.,
Prentice Hall, paperback;
Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom, Anchor, paperback;
Annual Editions, Developing World 07/08, 17th edition;
United Nations Development Project, 2006 Human Development Report;

In addition, students should purchase **either** one of the following:

Chinua Achebe, A Man of the People, Anchor, paperback; **or** Naguib
Mahfouz, Adrift on the Nile, Anchor, paperback.

Course Outlines and Readings

I – Introduction – Jan. 16th

II – A Novel Experience - Jan. 18th – 23rd

Reading Assignments (to be completed in advance of class):

Jan. 18th – Achebe, A Man of the People, Chs. 1-8; or Mahfouz, Adrift on the Nile, Chs. 1-10; plus Fleet, “C lientelism” (on electronic reserve);

Jan. 23rd – Achebe, Chs. 9-13; or Mahfouz, Chs. 11-18; plus Clapham, “T he Third World State” (on electronic reserve);

III - Points of View - Jan. 25th – Feb. 6th

Reading Assignments (to be completed in advance of class):

Jan. 25th – Annual Editions (AE), articles 1-5, 15, and 18; plus “P risoners of Geography” (on electronic reserve);

Jan. 30th – Annual Editions (AE), articles 6-14, 16, and 17; plus Krugman, “H earts and Heads” (electronic reserve);

Feb. 1st – Annual Editions (AE), articles 19-35; plus Harrison, “Wh y Culture Matters” (on electronic reserve);

Feb. 6th – Annual Editions (AE), articles 36-47;

First Quiz - Feb. 6th - on either Achebe or Mahhouz and Annual Editions (all articles)

IV - Freedom as Development as Freedom - Feb. 8th - 27th

Reading Assignments (to be completed in advance of class):

Feb. 8th – Sen, Introduction and Chs. 1 and 2, pp. 3-53;

Feb. 13th – Sen, Chs. 3 and 4, pp. 54-110;

Feb. 15th – Sen, Chs. 5 and 6, pp. 111-159; plus “S moother Road to Free Markets” (on electronic reserve);

Feb. 20th – Sen, Chs. 7 and 8, pp. 160-203;

Feb. 22nd – Sen, Chs. 9 and 10, pp. 204-248;

Feb. 27th – Sen, Chs. 11 and 12, pp. 249-298;

Second Quiz - Feb. 27th - on Sen

V - The Challenges of Third World Development - Mar. 1st - 29th

Reading Assignments (to be completed in advance of class):

Mar. 1st – Handelman, Ch. 1, "Understanding Development," pp. 1-21; mid-term essay exam question(s) distributed;

Mar. 6th – Handelman, Ch. 2, "Democratic Change and the Change to Democracy," pp. 22-44; and Ch. 3, "Religion and Politics," pp. 45-75;

Mar. 8th – Handelman, Ch. 4, "The Politics of Cultural Pluralism and Ethnic Conflict," pp. 76-113;

Mid-term essay exam due - March 8th

Mar. 10th – Handelman, Ch. 5, "Women and Development," pp. 114-147; no class on either the 13th or 15th;

Mar. 20th – Handelman, Ch. 6, "Agrarian Reform," pp. 148-169;

Mar. 22nd – Handelman, Ch. 7, "Rapid Urbanization and the Politics of," pp. 170-197;

Mar. 27th – Handelman, Ch. 8, "Revolutionary Change," pp. 198-222; and 9, "Soldiers and Politics," pp. 223-152;

Mar. 29th – Handelman, Ch. 10, "The Political Economy of Third World Development," pp. 253-287;

Third Quiz - Mar. 29th - on Handelman (all)

VI - The Crisis and Politics of Water - Apr. 3rd – 24th

Reading Assignments (to be completed in advance of class):

Apr. 3rd – UNDP, 2006 Human Development Report, "Overview," pp. 1-24;

Apr. 10th – HDR, Ch. 1, "Ending the Crisis," pp. 25-74;

Apr. 12th – HDR, Ch. 2, "Water for Human Consumption," pp. 75-107;

Apr. 17th – HDR, Ch. 3, "The Vast Deficit in Sanitation," and Ch.4, "Water Scarcity, Risk, Vulnerability," pp. 109-170;

Apr. 19th – HDR, Ch. 5, "Water Competition in Agriculture," pp. 171-200;

Apr. 24th – HDR, Ch.6, "Managing Transboundary Waters," pp. 201-231;

Fourth Quiz - April 24th - on 2006 Human Development Report

VII – Measuring, Interpreting, Assessing, and Prescribing - Apr. 26 – May 3rd

Reading Assignments (to be completed in advance of class):

Apr. 26th – Defining and Measuring (on electronic reserve); final essay-exam distributed;

May 1st – Theoretical Perspectives (on electronic reserve)

May 3rd – The Importance of Politics (on electronic reserve)

Final Essay - Exam Due - May 7th

(challenging the view that successful development requires utterly free markets, reductions in state spending and involvement, and governments capable of resisting popular demands and pressures);

Theoretical perspectives geographic - crucial geographical differences between and within countries and regions; vs. institutions; the "right" economic policies; cultural values and attitudes;

Globalization vs. its critics - it is not globalization as such, but truncated or one-dimensional globalization (of capital but not labor) that is problematic for most third world countries.

Why politics (functional and predictable political institutions) and economics (access to markets, investment in worker productivity, are important