

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
James Madison College
MC 320 - Fall 2005

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POLITICS, SOCIETY AND THE ECONOMY IN THE THIRD WORLD

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

MC 320 focuses on the political, economic and social changes in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America in the last three decades. In spite of the great diversity among and within these regions, these countries share a common set of characteristics: intense global and domestic pressures regarding nation-state building, political, social and economic reforms; lower levels of capital accumulation, education, and material standards of living relative to the developed world; and technological and financial dependence upon developed countries and global markets. The shared historical experiences of the Third World countries are based upon their similar insertions into the modern international system as suppliers of raw materials, foodstuffs, low value-added manufactures, cheap labor force, and the historical tardiness of their processes of political, economic and social modernization.

Part I of the course will present the theories and concepts that shape our study of change in developing countries: development as freedom; globalization and economic development; and globalization and cultural liberty. Part II will compare the development experiences of six emerging powers that are playing a diverse and increasingly influential role in the international system: Brazil, China, India, Iran, Mexico, and Nigeria.

ORGANIZATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Reading assignments, lectures, in-class discussions, and professor's office hours: This class meets **Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00-4:20 p.m.** A careful reading of the course bibliography is essential. Timely completion of the reading assignments will enable each student to reflect more systematically upon the issues presented and contribute to in-class discussions. Student participation, whose main expressions are careful thinking about the material assigned and the exchange of views among colleagues and the professor will be factored into the grading process. Students should keep a journal of notes from their readings, in-class discussions, and lectures. Students are advised to visit the professor during office hours to explore in further detail the topics of their particular interest.

Required work for MC 320 and grade determinants:

Midterm exam	20 %
Paper proposal	10 %
Final exam	25 %
Research paper	30 %
Class presentations	5 %
Class participation	10 %

All required work must be completed to pass this course. You will be evaluated on: (i) the quality of your responses to exam questions; (ii) your grasp of the concepts and issues presented in the lectures and readings; (iii) your capacity to develop and present your own analysis of the concepts and issues discussed in the course in your research paper.

Research paper, paper proposal and class presentation: Your research paper should constitute a major focus of your course work. Your research will provide you with a tangible point of reference from which to analyze the questions and issues presented in the lectures, in-class and group discussions, and the course bibliography. Your research paper will be an individual effort, but you will join a research group focusing on a selected country. Your active participation in the discussions of your country group should generate a cooperative effort with a positive impact on the quality of your research paper. Your individual research paper should be maximum 10 pages in length (double-spaced, typed, with minimum 20 references). The professor will assist you in your selection of a specific research topic and the approach to be used in the elaboration of your research paper. During part II of the course, students will orally present their research work. Your paper proposal (6-8 pages, double-spaced, typed)

should contain the objectives of your research project; a discussion of the preliminary bibliography (minimum 8 titles); an historical and statistical profile of the country you have selected for your research paper; and, a detailed outline of the argument you plan to develop. Correct bibliographic and end/foot note citation form are expected in your proposal and final paper. As long you are consistent, you may choose among various note styles by consulting the following sources: *The Chicago Manual of Style: The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors and Publishers*. 14th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993; Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 4th edition. New York: The Modern Library Association of America, 1995; Turabian, Kate. *Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. 6th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Honors work: Students enrolled in MC 320 may receive honors credit for this course. To receive honors credit, the student must write a second research paper. You should consult with the professor early on during the semester to plan your honors project and to schedule a sequence of meetings with the professor.

MC 320 will be conducted according to the College's policies on academic honesty/dishonesty. Students should refer to the *James Madison College Student Handbook* for clarification.

READINGS

Four books are required for MC 320. The books are available for purchase in the Student Book store, 411-427 E. Grand River, East Lansing, MI 48823, Phone: (517) 351-4210:

Joseph, William A., Mark Kesselman, and Joel Krieger, eds. *Introduction to Politics of the Developing World*. Third edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004.

Rodrik, Dani. *The New Global Economy and Developing Countries: Making Openness Work*. Washington, DC: Overseas Development Council, 1999.

Sen, Amartya. *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books, 1999.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). *Human Development Report 2004: Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING LIST

INTRODUCTION

- Aug. 29 Course program, organization and requirements
Syllabus
- Aug. 31 The political economy of development: issues, theories and national experiences
 Joseph et al. *Introduction to Politics of Developing Countries*, ch. 1, pp. 5-27
- Sept. 7,12 The development gap: the measurement of development
 Joseph et al. *Introduction to Politics of Developing Countries*, ch. 1, pp. 5-27
 UNDP. *Human Development Report 2004*, pp. 127-138

PART I: THEORIES OF DEVELOPMENT

1. THE CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT: DEVELOPMENT AS FREEDOM
- Sept. 14 The perspective of freedom; the ends and means of development
 Sen. *Development as Freedom*, chs. 1-2, pp. 3-53
- Sept. 19 Foundations of justice; poverty as capability deprivation
 Sen. *Development as Freedom*, chs. 3-4, pp. 54-110
- Sept. 21 Markets, state and democracy
 Sen. *Development as Freedom*, chs. 5-6, pp. 111-159

Sept. 26 Women's agency; population growth; food production

Sen. *Development as Freedom*, chs. 7-9, pp. 160-226

Sept. 28 Culture and human rights; social choice and individual freedom as a social commitment

Sen. *Development as Freedom*, chs. 10-12, pp. 227-298

2. GLOBALIZATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Oct. 3 Making openness work: a summary

Rodrik. *The New Global Economy and Developing Countries*, Executive summary and ch. 1, pp. 1-21

Oct. 5 Why is openness important? Export fallacies; investment strategies

Rodrik. *The New Global Economy and Developing Countries*, chs. 2-3, pp. 23-65

Oct. 10 Managing turbulence in the world economy

Rodrik. *The New Global Economy and Developing Countries*, ch. 4, pp. 67-102

Oct. 12 **PAPER PROPOSAL DUE**

Oct. 12 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

3. GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURAL LIBERTY

Oct. 17 Human development and cultural liberty in today's diverse world

UNDP. *Human Development Report 2004*, Overview and ch. 1, pp. 1-25

Oct. 19 Challenges for cultural liberty

UNDP. *Human Development Report 2004*, ch. 2, pp.

27-45

- Oct. 24 Building multicultural democracies
 UNDP. *Human Development Report 2004*, ch. 3, pp. 47-72
- Oct. 26 Confronting movements for cultural domination; cultural choice
 UNDP. *Human Development Report 2004*, chs. 4-5, pp. 73-105

PART II: NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES

1. China

- Oct. 31 The politics and economics of development
 Joseph et al. *Introduction to Politics of Developing Countries*, ch. 2, pp. 29-81

- Nov. 2 Student presentation of research papers

2. India

- Nov. 7 The politics and economics of development
 Joseph et al. *Introduction to Politics of Developing Countries*, ch. 3, pp. 83-132

- Nov. 9 Student presentation of research papers

3. Mexico

- Nov. 14 The politics and economics of development
 Joseph et al. *Introduction to Politics of Developing Countries*, ch. 4, pp. 133-181

- Nov. 16 Student presentation of research papers

4. Brazil

Nov. 21 The politics and economics of development
 Joseph et al. *Introduction to Politics of Developing Countries*, ch. 5, pp. 183-237

Nov. 23 Student presentation of research papers

5. Nigeria

Nov. 28 The politics and economics of development
 Joseph et al. *Introduction to Politics of Developing Countries*, ch. 6, pp. 239-295

Nov. 30 Student presentation of research papers

6. Iran

Dec. 5 The politics and economics of development
 Joseph et al. *Introduction to Politics of Developing Countries*, ch. 7, pp. 297-344

Dec. 7 Student presentation of research papers

Dec. 7 **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

Dec. 15 **FINAL EXAMINATION**
 3:00-
 5:00 p.m.

