

Political Science 3412F  
Politics in the Developing World  
Fall 2023

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## Course Description

The course focuses on three areas: democracy, development, and society. We will approach these three broad topics using a comparative lens (i.e., Why are some countries more democratic than other? Why are "developed" countries more democratic than "developing" countries?). We will also study how institutions and historical political processes affect these three areas. The ultimate goal of this class is for you to critically engage with new concepts and material in a comparative perspective.

## Grading and Important Dates

Final Exam	30%	date: December 4
First Draft	10%	due date: October 9
Second Draft	10%	due date: November 13
Research Proposal	30%	due date: December 11
Annotated Readings	20%	
Total	100%	

## Readings

The main external platform we will use in this class is Perusall ([www.perusall.com](http://www.perusall.com)). Perusall is a free collaborative annotation tool that allows you to analyze texts collaboratively. All the required texts for the class, the most important supplementary readings, and the dates on which you should have them completed, are available on Perusall. Part of your grade will be calculated based on the annotations and comments you make on Perusall, so it is mandatory to register on Perusall.

## Course Requirements

**Final Exam:** There is one final exam worth 30pts. The exam will be taken in class, with open book/notes/slides/internet. You will have to choose three questions out of five options. Each question is worth 10pts.

**Research proposal:** You will work on a research proposal throughout the semester. Before the final submission, you are required to submit two drafts. Each draft is worth 10pts and the final submission is worth 30pts. Instruction on what each submission should include can be found at the end of this syllabus.

**Readings and annotations:** Reading and annotating the material through Perusall is required and will be graded. The combined score for the semester is worth 20pts.

**Class participation:** Class participation means that you are fully present during lectures and other class activities. Take advantage of the forum that is given to you to share, critique, and develop your ideas. However, class participation will NOT be graded.

### Non-medical and medical accommodation

Besides the Final Exam, all work can be submitted online. In the case of a non-medical absence during the Final Exam, the student can contact me and take the Exam in my office the following Monday at 9:30 AM. Further information is found in the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>).

If documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean`s office and not to the instructor. Only the Dean`s office can determine if accommodation is warranted.

### Part I: Introduction

*Week 1: Introduction to the course: What is the “developing” world?*

Define the scope of the course.

Review the structure and requirements of the course.

Compare our area of study to the “developed” world.

Why study the developing world?

Readings:

Handelman (2011). *The Challenge of Third World Development*. Pearson. Chapter 1: 1-16.

Calvert and Calvert (2019). *Politics and Society in the Developing World*. Pearson. Chapter 1: 1-64. (Optional)

*Week 2: Overview: Democracy, dictatorship, and development*

Defining concepts: democracy, dictatorship, and development.

Broad comparison in terms of democracy, dictatorship, and development.

Readings:

Samuels (2013). *Comparative Politics*. Pearson. Chapter 3: 59-65.

Samuels (2013). *Comparative Politics*. Pearson. Chapter 3: 91-114.

*Week 3: Theories of development*

Modernization.

Dependency theory.

The radical tradition.

Readings:

Handelman (2011). *The Challenge of Third World Development*. Pearson. Chapter 1: 16-26.

Munck (2021). *Rethinking Development Marxist Perspectives*. Palgrave. Chapter 1: 8-14.

*Week 4: Why are some countries rich and some countries poor?*

Institutions and economic development.

Readings:

Acemoglu and Robinson (2012). *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. Profile Books. Chapter 3: 70-95.

## **Part II: Democracy and dictatorship in the developing world**

*Week 5: Democracy and democratization*

What is democracy?

When do countries democratize?

When do/did developing countries democratized?

Readings:

Handelman (2011). *The Challenge of Third World Development*. Pearson. Chapter 2: 27-55.

Calvert and Calvert (2019). *Politics and Society in the Developing World*. Pearson. Chapter 8: 357-373. (Optional)

*Week 6: Dictatorship and democratic backsliding*

What is dictatorship?

When do democracies break down / backslide?

When do/did developing countries transition to autocracies / backslide?

Readings:

Calvert and Calvert (2019). *Politics and Society in the Developing World*. Pearson. Chapter 8: 337-357.

Levitsky and Ziblatt (2018). *How Democracies Die*. Crown. Introduction: 8-23. (Optional)

*Week 7: Democracy and the quality of democracy: The Latin American experience*

The history of democratization in Latin America  
Democratic backsliding and regime change in Latin America

Readings:

Munck and Luna (2023). *Latin American Politics and Society. A Comparative and Historical Perspective*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 5: 469-560.

**Part III: Developing countries, institutions, and society**

*Week 8: Political institutions in the developing world I*

Systems of government in the developing world  
Systems of government and regime stability

Readings:

Calvert and Calvert (2019). *Politics and Society in the Developing World*. Pearson. Chapter 7: 299-333.

*Week 9: Political institutions in the developing world II*

Electoral systems, electoral strategies, and elections  
Party systems and parties in the developing world

Readings:

Munck and Luna (2023). *Latin American Politics and Society. A Comparative and Historical Perspective*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 7: 680-769.  
(Optional)

*Week 10: Racial identity, ethnicity, and politics (in the developing world)*

What is racial identity? What is ethnicity?  
Ethnicity and conflict in the (developing) world.  
Racial identity and racist structures in the (developing) world.

Readings:

Handelman (2011). *The Challenge of Third World Development*. Pearson. Chapter 4: 94-130.

Golash-Boza and Bonilla (2013). "Rethinking race, racism, identity and ideology in Latin America." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol. 36, No. 10: 1485-1489.  
(Optional)

*Week 11: Gender and politics (in the developing world)*

How do we understand gender in a political context?  
The role of gender in the developing world.

Readings:

Handelman (2011). *The Challenge of Third World Development*. Pearson. Chapter 5: 133-163.

Htun (2004). "Is Gender like Ethnicity? The Political Representation of Identity Groups," *Perspective on Politics*, Vol. 2, No. 3: 439-458. (Optional)

*Week 12: Recovery week / special topic*

(We might be a bit behind at this point. We will use this week to catch up).  
(Time permitting, we can explore an additional topic).

Readings:

(Good week to catch-up on any missing readings)

***Week 13: Final exam***