

Political Science 2245E
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Winter 2014
Power and Politics in the Global South

Andrés Pérez
aperez@uwo.ca
SSC 4164
Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4 p.m. or by appointment

Course Objectives

This course builds upon students' knowledge of politics and power in the countries of *the Global North* to assess the explanatory value and authenticity of dominant political science interpretations of the nature of politics and power in *the Global South*. The role of Comparative Politics in the construction of these interpretations will be critically examined.

The concept of *the Global South* makes reference to the countries of Africa, Latin America and most of Asia. As the Center for the Global South (CGS) points out, *the Global South* includes "nearly 157 of a total of 184 recognized states in the world, and many have less developed or severely limited resources". The CGS adds: "Unfortunately, the people of these nations also bear the brunt of some of the greatest challenges facing the international community in the next millennium: poverty, environmental degradation, human and civil rights abuses, ethnic and regional conflicts, mass displacements of refugees, hunger, and disease." (<http://www1.american.edu/academic.depts/acainst/cgs/about.html>).

Course Evaluation:

Participation in Tutorials: 10%
Book Review: 20%
Essay Proposal: 10%
Final Exam: 30%
Essay: 30%

Books recommended for purchase:

December Green and Laura Luehrmann, Comparative Politics of the Third World: Linking Concepts and Cases. Boulder/London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2012.

Henry Veltmeyer, ed., The Critical Development Studies Handbook: Tools for Change. London/New York: Pluto Press, 2011.

Assignments:

Book review:

Participants in this course will review one of the following books:

Francisco Goldman, The Art of Political Murder: Who Killed the Bishop? New York: Grove Press, 2008.

Kamin Mohammadi, The Cypress Tree. London: Bloomsbury Paperbacks, 2012.

Barbara Kingsolver, The Poisonwood Bible. New York: Harper Perennial, 1999.

The book review is due on February 6 **in class**. Detailed instructions regarding this assignment will be given in class by the instructor.

Essay:

The **essay proposal** is due on February 13 **in class**. The **essay** is due on March 17 and should be submitted to your Teaching Assistant **in class**. Detailed instructions regarding this assignment will be given in class by the instructor.

Participation:

Students in this course will be expected to master the assigned readings and to actively participate in the discussions that will take place every week in the lecture sessions and in the tutorials.

Exam:

The final exam will take place during the exam period at the end of the term.

Course Outline

I: Introduction

January 9: Introduction

II. Comparative Politics and the People Without History

January 16: Ethnocentrism and the Embodied Mind

Questions of the week: Comparative Politics: For What? For Whom? From What Perspective?

Green and Luehrmann, chapter 1
Veltmeyer, Module 1

George Lakoff, The Brain and its Politics,
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEb_-szK4k

Lera Boroditsky, "How Language Shapes Thought: The Languages We Speak Affect Our Perceptions of the World, Scientific American (ScientificAmerican.com), February 2011, 63-65.
<http://psych.stanford.edu/~lera/papers/sci-am-2011.pdf>

January 23: Comparative Politics and "the People Without History."

Question of the week: How do you interpret Octavio Paz's sentence in page 29 of Green and Luehrmann: "The Past reappears because it is a hidden present."

Green and Luehrmann, chapters 2,3
Veltmeyer, Modules 2,3,4

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, They Came for the Children: Canada, Aboriginal Peoples, and Residential Schools, 2012.
http://www.attendancemarketing.com/~atmk/TRC_jd/ResSchoolHistory_2012_02_24_Webposting.pdf

Our Spirits Don't Speak English: Indian Boarding School
<http://irsr.ca/video/>

January 30: From History to Development

Questions of the week: What is development? What is critical development theory?

Green and Luehrmann, chapters 4, 5
Veltmeyer, Modules 5,6,7

Growth vs Development: Nobel winner Amartya Sen discusses way ahead for India
<http://www.ndtv.com/video/player/ndtv-special-ndtv-24x7/growth-vs-development-nobel-winner-amartya-sen-discusses-way-ahead-for-india-with-ndtv/273449>

February 6: Globalization and Development

Question of the week: Is globalization a cause or the potential cure for underdevelopment?

Green and Luehrmann, chapters 6,7
Veltmeyer, Modules 8,9,10,11

Joseph Stiglitz on Globalization,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV7bRLtDr3E>

February 13: Globalization and Development: The Search for Alternatives

Question of the week: Is an alternative globalization possible?

Green and Luehrmann, chapters 8,9
Veltmeyer, Modules 47, 48, 49

A Place called Chiapas
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TffwElt_UU

Africa Theorises: Tony Bogue and Achille Mbembe
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brvLjfhslCg>

III. Democracy, Civil Society, and Imaginary Citizens

February 27: The illusions and realities of democracy in the Global South

Question of the week: Do the concepts of democracy and civil society provide useful insight into understanding the social forces that determine the balance of power in the societies of the Global South?

Green and Luehrmann, chapters 10, 11
Veltmeyer, Modules 17,18,19,27,28,29

An American Genocide: Guatemala
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMRUXOgvyUI>

March 3: Democracy, history and culture

Question of the week: Is democracy universally possible/desirable?

Green and Luehrmann, chapters 14,15,16

Islam and Liberal Democracy: How tradition matters.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSYyF3Lj3uc>

March 10: Violence as a political tool

Question of the week: Is political violence ever justified to initiate social change in the societies of the Global South?

Green and Luehrmann, chapters 12,13
Veltmeyer, Modules 21,22,23

The Life of Nelson Mandela
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/news-video/video-the-life-of-nelson-mandela/article12770271/>

When conservatives branded Nelson Mandela a terrorist.
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/rickungar/2013/12/06/when-conservatives-branded-nelson-mandela-a-terrorist/>

IV. Politics and Democracy in the Global South: Tentative Conclusions

March 17: Your XXI Century

Questions of the week: Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of justice and democracy in the Global South? Why? Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of justice and democracy in the Global North? Why?

Green and Luehrmann, chapters 17,18,19,20,21
Veltmeyer, Modules 43, 44, 45,

Samuel Huntington on the 'Clash of Civilizations'
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SNicJRcUqs>

Edward Said Lecture: The Myth of the Clash of Civilizations
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkK4pApcwMc>

March 24: Debate about the future of the relationship between the Global North and the Global South

April 3: Concluding Remarks

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

Accessibility at Western: Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.