

CPO3034.1: Politics of Developing Areas

Summer Session

Course Information

- Course: CPO3034.1
- Class Time: Mon-Fri, 3:05 PM - 4:20 PM
- Term: Summer Session
- University: Florida State University

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Kwabena Fynn Fletcher
- Office: 562 Bellamy Building
- Email: kf21k@fsu.edu
- Office Hours: Tue & Th, 2:00 PM – 2:50 PM

A study of the political forces shaping development in the Global South.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course "Politics of Developing Areas," focuses on the political dynamics of the "Global South," providing a historical account of economic and political development. We will explore the political aspects of economic and human development, emphasizing the forces shaping development in these countries.

Students will gain an understanding of the complex relationship between politics and development. We will examine the role of the state, international organizations, and other actors, as well as the strategies these nations have pursued to achieve economic growth and democracy, aiming to "catch up" to advanced industrial countries.

Theoretical Approach

While incorporating material authored by economists, the core perspective of this course is that of a political scientist. We adopt a **strategic approach to theory construction**, assuming that political actors are forward-thinking, goal-oriented, and rational. This approach emphasizes the importance of state institutions and policy choices over geographic or cultural factors in creating the necessary conditions for economic growth.

Key Questions

- How do political institutions shape economic development?
- Why do governments sometimes choose policies that hinder growth?
- What determines the success or failure of important reforms?
- Are there preconditions for democracy?
- What are the challenges to democratization in the 21st century?

By the end of the course, students will have a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities of economic and political development in the Global South.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

McMichael, P. (2017). *Development and social change: A global perspective*. Sage Publications.

Clark, W. R., Golder, M., & Golder, S. N. (2017). *Principles of comparative politics*. CQ Press.

Note: Scanned chapters of these books will be available on Canvas.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

The final grade is based on 100 total points distributed as follows:

Component	Points
Class Participation	30
Comparison Exercise	20
Exams (5 highest scores @ 10 pts each)	50
Total	100

Class Participation (30 points)

To fulfill the participation requirement, students are expected to:

- Complete all reading assignments in advance and come to class prepared to discuss the material. Please bring a copy of the readings to class.
- Attend class, take effective notes, and ask informed questions of the instructor.
- Critically engage with the material and participate actively in class discussions.
- Refrain from negative participation (behavior disrespectful to others).

Comparison Exercise (20 points)

This assignment requires students to conduct a comparative analysis between a developing country and an advanced industrial country.

- Details will be provided separately in class.
- Due Date: End of Week 5, June 17, 2023.

Exams (50 points)

- There will be a total of 6 in-class exams, held on Fridays during normal class hours, each potentially worth 10 points.
- Exams will primarily assess the understanding of material discussed that week.
- Lowest Score Dropped: Only the 5 highest scores will count toward the final grade. Your lowest exam score will be dropped.
- Final Exam: The final exam is mandatory and will cover cumulative material from the entire semester. It will count as one of the 5 scores, regardless of the ranking.

Grading Conversion Chart

Grades ending in .5 or higher are rounded up to the nearest whole percentage point.

$\geq 93 = A^*$	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
90-92 = A-	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D
	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-

*An A is the highest grade you can earn in this class.

COURSE POLICIES

Technology Policy

While technology can enhance engagement, it can also be highly distracting.

- I strongly recommend turning off cell phones during class time, except in exceptional circumstances. Texting or reading course material on phones is not permitted.
- Laptops are discouraged. Research suggests that handwriting notes improves test scores and engagement. Please leave laptops at home.
- Taking pictures of slides without explicit permission is a breach of intellectual property rights.

Recording of Lectures (HB223)

Consistent with state law and university policy, students are permitted to record class lectures for personal use only. Sharing, posting, or publishing classroom recordings may result in Honor Code violations and legal penalties. To maintain a free and open learning environment, students must monitor recordings to ensure the participation of other students is not included without permission. Students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodation via the Office of Accessibility Services.

Academic Honor Policy

All students are responsible for reading and adhering to the Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, which outlines expectations for the integrity of academic work. The pledge is to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Find the full policy at <http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-gri>)

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities. Students needing academic accommodation must:

- Register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS).
- Request a letter from OAS to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation.
- Meet with the instructor to review approved accommodations.

Instructors cannot provide classroom accommodations without appropriate verification from OAS. Syllabus materials are available in an alternative format upon request.

Office of Accessibility Services Contact:

- Location: 108 Student Services Building, 874 Traditions Way
- Phone: (850) 644-9566 (voice) / (850) 644-8504 (TDD)
- Email: oas@fsu.edu

Confidential Campus Resources

Resources available to assist students with navigating stressors:

- Victim Advocate Program: University Center A, Rm. 4100. (850) 644-7161 (24/7/365).
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Askew Student Life Center, 2nd floor. (850) 644-8255.
- University Health Services: Health and Wellness Center. (850) 644-6230.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Origin of Development and Inequality

- **May 15: Introduction: What is development? And where does it come from?**
 - McMichael, P. (2017). *Development and social change: A global perspective*. Sage Publications. Pp. 2-4
 - Bates, Robert. (2001). *Prosperity and violence*. Vol. 1. New York: Norton. pp 1-98
- **May 16: The Geographic Origins of Underdevelopment**
 - Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. (2001). "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation." *The American Economic Review*, 91:5, pp. 1369-1401
 - Gallup, John Luke, Jeffrey D. Sachs, and Andrew D. Mellinger. (1999). "Geography and economic development." *International regional science review*, 2, pp. 179-232.
- **May 17: The Political Origins of Underdevelopment (The Logic of Political Behavior in Weak States)**
 - Lewis, Peter. (1996). "From Prebendalism to Predation: The Political Economy of Decline in Nigeria." *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 34:1, pp. 79-103
 - Gay, Robert. (1999). "The Broker and the Thief: A Parable (Reflections on Popular Politics in Brazil)." *Luso-Brazilian Review*, 36:1, pp. 49-70
- **May 18: The Political Origins of Underdevelopment (The Logic of Corruption and Violence)**
 - Ross, Michael L. (1999). "The political economy of the resource curse." *World politics*, 2, pp. 297-322.
- **May 19: Exam 1**

WEEK 2: Strategies to Development: Postwar Attempts to Growth

- **May 22: Modernization Theory**
 - Rapley, John. (2007). *Understanding Development: Theory and Practice in the Third World* (3rd Edition), pp. 15-16.
 - Rostow, W. W. (1959). "The Stages of Economic Growth." *The Economic History Review*, vol. 12, no. 1, pp. 1-16.
- **May 23: Dependency Theory**
 - Rapley, John. (2007). *Understanding Development: Theory and Practice in the Third World* (3rd Edition), pp. 16-19.
 - Dos Santos, Theotonio. (2019). "The structure of dependence." *The gap between rich*

and poor. Routledge. pp. 95-104.

- **May 24: State-led Development**

- Rapley, John. (2007). *Understanding Development: Theory and Practice in the Third World* (3rd Edition), pp. 21-23.
- Gereffi, Gary. (1989). "Rethinking Development Theory: Insights from East Asia and Latin America." *Sociological Forum*, vol. 4, no. 4, pp. 505-533.

- **May 25: The Foundations of Neoliberalist Policies and Structural Adjustment Program**

- Rodrik, Dani. (1996). "Understanding economic policy reform." *Journal of Economic Literature*, 34, no. 1, pp. 9-41.
- Williamson, John. (1990). "What Washington Means by Policy Reform." *Latin American Adjustment: How Much Has Happened?*, pp. 7-20.

- **May 26: Exam 2**

WEEK 3: An Alternative? Economic Growth Development

- **May 29: The Asian Tigers and the Role of the State**

- Team, CFI. (2022). "Four Asian Tigers: Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea." Corporate Finance Institute. <https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/economics/>
- Sachs, Jeffrey D. (2006). *The end of poverty: Economic possibilities for our time*. Penguin. pp. 309-28.

- **May 30: The Foreign Aid Debate (I): The Logic of Development and The "Big Push"**

- Easterly, William. (2006). *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. pp. 3-59; 270-310.

- **May 31: The Foreign Aid Debate (II): The Problems of Planning**

- Sachs, Jeffrey D. (2006). *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*, pp. 309-28.

- **June 1: The Foreign Aid Debate (III): What's the Solution?**

- Collier, Paul. (2007). *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Falling Behind, and What Can Be Done About it*, pp. 135-56.

- **June 2: Exam 3**

WEEK 4: Defining Democracy

- **June 5: Democratic History and Definitions**

- Dahl, Robert. (2000). *On Democracy*. pp. 7-61.

- **June 6: Are there Democratic "Preconditions?" (I)—Modernization and Economic Arguments**

- Lipset, Seymour Martin. (1959). "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." *American Political Science Review*, 53, pp. 69-105.
- Acemoglu, D., Naidu, S., Restrepo, P., & Robinson, J. A. (2019). "Democracy does cause growth." *Journal of Political Economy*, 127(1), 47-100.

- **June 7: Are there Democratic “Preconditions?” (II)— Modernization Cultural Determinism**
 - Clark, W. R., Golder, M., & Golder, S. N. (2017). *Principles of comparative politics*. CQ Press. 223-246.
 - Putnam, Robert. (1993). “What Makes Democracy Work?” *National Civic Review*, pp. 101-107.
- **June 8: The Class Structure of Society and Democratization**
 - Moore, Barrington. (1993). *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Reprint edition. Boston: Beacon Press. chapter 7: The Democratic Road to Modern Society, pp. 413-433.
- **June 9: Exam 4**

WEEK 5: Getting to Democracy

- **June 12: The “Transition” Paradigm**
 - Clark, W. R., Golder, M., & Golder, S. N. (2017). *Principles of comparative politics*. CQ Press. 269-285.
- **June 13: Why the Arab Spring Failed**
 - Taub, Amanda. (2006). “The unsexy truth about why the Arab Spring failed.” *Vox*.
- **June 14: How and Why Do Dictatorships Succeed?**
 - Brownlee, Jason. (2007). *Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization*. pp. 16-43; 122-56.
- **June 15: Promoting Democracy from Abroad**
 - Diamond, Larry. (2008). *The Spirit of Democracy: The Struggle to Build Free Societies Throughout the World*. pp. 106-52; 314-44.
- **June 16: Exam 5**

WEEK 6: Contemporary Issues

- **June 19: Patronage & Clientelism**
 - Harris, J. Andrew and Daniel N. Posner. (2019). “(Under What Conditions) Do Politicians Reward Their Supporters? Evidence from Kenya’s Constituencies Development Fund.” *APSR*, 113 (1): 123-139.
- **June 20: Elections & Political Behavior**
 - Reuter, Ora John. (2021). “Civic Duty and Voting Under Autocracy.” *Journal of Politics*, 83 (4).
- **June 21: Corruption**
 - Brierley, Sarah. (2020). “Unprincipled Principals: Co-opted Bureaucrats and Corruption in Ghana.” *AJPS*, 64 (2): 209-222.
- **June 22: Censorship**
 - Xu, Xu. (2021). “To Repress or to Co-opt? Authoritarian Control in the Age of Digital Surveillance.” *AJPS*, 65 (2): 309-325.
- **June 23: Final Exam (Cumulative)**