

## POLITICAL SCIENCE 463/563 - THIRD WORLD POLITICS

Term II/TR 9:55-11:10

Briggs 245

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*Purpose of the Course:* The purpose of Political Science 463 is to familiarize students with the basic concepts necessary for comparing, contrasting, and beginning to comprehend the wide variety of political systems extant in the contemporary third world. Through in-depth analysis of theoretical approaches to the study of third world politics, as well as the application of these approaches to the dynamics of a number of representative third world political systems, the student can expect to become more literate about third world politics, comparative politics, and politics in general. This course (as Political Science 563) also offers graduate students the opportunity to engage in research on third world politics.

In addition, Political Science 463/563 subscribes to and is designed to emphasize and promote several broad educational goals germane to a liberal arts curriculum: (1) the ability to **read** actively and critically; (2) the ability to **think** logically, analytically, and independently; (3) the ability to **communicate** clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing; and (4) the ability to **learn** on one's own. The class format and assignments are structured to enhance the achievement of these goals.

Political Science 463 can be used as an elective course toward the undergraduate departmental major. It also satisfies 'Objective 5 - Diverse Human Experience: D. Comparative Experiences' of the University's Core Curriculum. Political Science 563 can be used to satisfy the requirements for the Master of Arts in Economics, International Politics and Economic Track.

*Course Format:* The format of this class may be different from what you are used to: it is not primarily a straight lecture course, in which you simply sit passively and write down what I say. I do not think that genuine learning takes place in that setting. Rather, because this is such a **text-based** course, the more usual format will consist of me asking a (seemingly endless) series of questions about the assigned reading. It is, therefore, imperative that you come to each and every class period prepared to contribute to this dialogue. The only way to do this is to complete the readings prior to the day they will be discussed. More importantly, you must complete the readings in such a way that you are prepared to discuss them intelligently. Your input is essential to the class, and is required: not participating is not an option! To find out if you are prepared for class, ask yourself if you could write a one-page summary of the reading for the day, or if you would pass a surprise quiz on that day's material. (Of course, if you've done the required reading, such a quiz wouldn't be a surprise). I may periodically ask you to do both of these, especially if I sense a lack of preparedness. Your conscientious preparation of the material and subsequent active class participation is, therefore, crucial, both to the success of the course

and to your grade in it. You are required to attend each and every class (see note on attendance policy below) prepared to thoughtfully discuss reading assignments and, in general, to make a positive contribution to the class and the learning environment therein. Your contribution grade depends in large part on your response in this setting. In sum, this course is text-based and **discussion-centered**. If you have any misgivings about your ability or willingness to prepare and participate at this level, see me after the first class meeting!

*Course Requirements:* There are four, equally-weighted (i.e., 25% each), requirements. The **first** is your class attendance, participation, and contribution, discussed in the previous section. The **second** is the mid-term exam, to be given on . The **third** is a final exam, to be administered, as per the Registrar's final exam schedule, on **Thursday, 27 April, 8:00-9:50 a.m.** The **fourth** is your term project, which I describe below and will discuss at our first meeting.

*Additional Requirements for Graduate Students:* Political Science 563 is offered for credit to students at the graduate level. In general, graduate students, in addition to completing the aforementioned requirements, are expected to perform according to graduate-level standards. All work is evaluated at the appropriate graduate level in terms of quality, sophistication, and thoroughness. In particular, and because the primary distinction between undergraduate and graduate education is the research component inherent to the latter, graduate students are required to engage in a significant research project. Ultimately this research will culminate in a written research paper of 15-20 pages. (NOTE: The term paper for this course is not the same as a Plan B paper). The topic of this paper will be determined after consultation with the instructor. Graduate students should set up a meeting, sooner rather than later, to discuss the particulars of their research design.

*Policies Concerning Attendance, Late Work, Incompletes, & Academic Integrity:* My policy on attendance is simple: you must attend each and every class in order to do your best. Coming to class late is disruptive to those already at work in the class, myself included. Thus, every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 9:55 I will shut and lock the door and those of us present will begin working. No admissions will be allowed thereafter. I also have very specific policies on both the submission of late work and the use and abuse of the Incomplete grade. In addition, I and the University share a belief in the importance of maintaining academic integrity. Policies concerning these areas are described in attachments at the end of this syllabus. Please familiarize yourself with them and, if any doubt, ask for clarification.

*Readings:* The reading load for this class is designed to encourage not only completion of all reading assignments prior to the due date, but also allow a certain amount of time beyond mere reading to comprehend the reading in a way that will prepare you to contribute to class discussion. Thus, you must read the required pages, but with enough concentration and rigor to be able to contribute to our understanding through class discussion. The following book has been ordered at the bookstore. It is required; you should bring it with you to each class period.

Joseph, William A., Mark Kesselman & Joel Krieger, general editors. Introduction to Third World Politics. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000, 2nd edition.

I will distribute copies of non-text required readings.

In addition, you must, in order to complete your term project, purchase a term-long subscription to The New York Times. I have made arrangements for subscriptions to same at the lowest possible student rates, details of which I will provide at our first class meeting. I may, from time to time, direct you to or make available to you additional optional readings.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Introductions & Foundations**

- T 1/11 Introduction to the Course  
read: syllabus
- R 1/13 ...to the Third World  
watch & discuss: 'A Garden of Eden in Decay' (film)
- T 1/18 Context, Themes & Organization  
read: Joseph et al, Preface, pp. xv-xvi; and  
Chapter 1, Sections 1, 2, 4 & 5, pp. 1-8 & 14-22.
- R 1/20 Defining the Third World  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 1, Section 3, pp. 8-14.
- T 1/25 ...continued...  
Martin W. Lewis, "Is There a Third World?," Current History 98:631, November 1999, pp. 355-358.
- R 1/27 ...continued...  
Paul Kennedy, "Preparing for the 21st Century: Winners and Losers," The New York Review of Books XL:4, 11 February 1993, pp. 32-44.
- T 2/1 Institutional-Structural Classifications in Comparative Politics
- R 2/3 ...continued...

### **Term Project Proposal Due (R 2/3)**

## **Mexico**

- T 2/8 Historical Transitions & Critical Junctures  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 4, Section 1, pp. 129-143.
- R 2/10 Political Economy & Development  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 4, Section 2, pp. 143-154.
- T 2/15 Political Institutions & Policy-Making  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 4, Section 3, pp. 154-160.
- R 2/17 State & Society: Representation & Participation  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 4, Section 4, pp. 160-170.
- T 2/22 Mexican Politics in Transition: Crossroads & Challenges  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 4, Section 5, pp. 170-175.

### **Thursday, 24 February: MID-TERM EXAM**

## **Nigeria**

- T 2/29 Historical Transitions & Critical Junctures  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 6, Section 1, pp. 233-248.
- R 3/2 Political Economy & Development  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 6, Section 2, pp. 248-262.

## **Spring Break**

- T 3/14 Political Institutions & Policy-Making  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 6, Section 3, pp. 267-275.
- R 3/16 State & Society: Representation & Participation  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 6, Section 4, pp. 275-287.
- T 3/21 Nigerian Politics in Transition: Crossroads & Challenges

read: Joseph et al, Chapter 6, Section 5, pp. 287-294.

### **Iran**

- R 3/23 Historical Transitions & Critical Junctures  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 7, Section 1, pp. 295-311.
- T 3/28 Political Economy & Development  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 7, Section 2, pp. 312-319.
- R 3/30 Political Institutions & Policy-Making  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 7, Section 3, pp. 319-327.
- T 4/4 State & Society: Representation & Participation  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 7, Section 4, pp. 328-337.
- R 4/6 Iranian Politics in Transition: Crossroads & Challenges  
read: Joseph et al, Chapter 7, Section 5, pp. 337-342.
- T 4/11 watch & discuss: 'In Search of Stability' (film)
- R 4/13 student presentations
- T 4/18 student presentations
- R 4/20 student presentations

**Thursday, 27 April, 8:00-9:50 a.m.: FINAL EXAM**

## The Political Science 463/563 Term Project

Your term project for this course, discussed below, counts for 1/4th of your final grade. This is a **term** project. As such, it should appear as if it were worked on over the course of the term, rather than slapped together the night before it is due. I urge you to start it immediately, and to consult with me early and often.

The term project for this course is a country journal, a journal you keep on one Third World country. Your country journal must be comprised *primarily* of clippings from The New York Times, to which you are required to subscribe. You will pick a specific Third World country to report on, subject to the instructor's approval, in a proposal submitted no later than **Thursday, 3 February**. Since the amount of reporting varies significantly from country to country, only a limited number of countries are appropriate for this project. The best way to pick a country that will work is to peruse the last several week's issues of The New York Times and, based on past coverage, assess likely future coverage. It is your responsibility to engage in this search process it is the beginning of your project. Once you've chosen a country, and had it approved, clip articles relevant to the country, place them in a notebook, and comment upon them. You should attempt to analyze your country in terms of the criteria established in the first, theoretical, portion of the course. You should be looking for specific evidence indicating the country's placement in the context of the several classification schemes we have studied. For example, what kind of Third World country is this? Does the country have a presidential or parliamentary system, or both or neither? What type of party system does the country have? At the end of the term you will conclude your project with a brief (5-8 page) summary report on political developments in your country. You will also give a presentation to the class on your findings. Throughout the journal, you should strive to make connections between the newspaper coverage of your country and the more general themes addressed in the text and the course. Finally, and no less important, the journal assignment is designed to train you in the skill of written expression generally, and more specifically in the discourse of politics and comparative politics.