**Course Description:**
This Comparative Politics course is an introduction to the politics of the developing world, also known as the Global South or the Third World. Most of the world’s population lives there, yet since 1492, power globally has been concentrated in the hands of the wealthier, northern countries. The course is comparative examination of the legacies of colonialism, the achievement of independence, and contemporary dynamics of political and socio-economic development in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Topics include modernization, dependency, state-building and national integration, revolution, the role of the military, and democratization.

**Prerequisites:** None. For this course, there is no expectation of prior knowledge of political science.

**Requirements**
- **Come to class prepared:** Do all the assigned readings before class. This is important in order for you to be able to follow the lectures, which will build on (rather than just review) the readings, and for participation in your conferences.
- **Attend class and take notes:** The lectures will go far beyond the material in the textbook, so you will need to absorb the lecture contents in order to succeed.
- **Check the MyCourses website regularly:** I will post assignments, announcements, and other key features of the course on our website. I will remind you about this in class, but it is your responsibility to keep up with any and all online aspects of the course.

**Readings:**
The course readings are in the textbook *Politics in the Developing World* (5th edition), by Burnell, Rakner, and Randall (Oxford University Press: 2017). There is also a mandatory course-pack with a few supplementary readings, and several other readings that will be posted on MyCourses. The textbook and course-pack are both mandatory, and both are available for purchase at the University bookstore; copies of both are also available on 3-hour reserve at the library.

**Course Requirements and Assessment:**
**CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (10%):** This includes attendance and participation in conference discussions and reflects both quality and quantity. Please note: You will lose the entire 10% if you have more than 3 unjustified conference absences.
**IN-CLASS MIDTERM (25%):** The midterm exam will be held in class on Friday 23 February.
**RESEARCH ESSAY (35%):** The essay should be 10-12 double-spaced pages. I will post suggested topics on MyCourses on Friday 1 February. The essay is due in class on Wednesday 20 March. You are welcome to choose your own essay topic, but in that case, make sure to get your TA to approve the topic beforehand. I will post an essay-writing guide on MyCourses, which you should follow carefully, and which will contain information about how to choose a topic and organize your essay.

**FINAL EXAM (30%):** To be scheduled by the University during the final exam period in April.

**Email:** Your TA is your first point of contact for the course and you should direct questions to them first. However, I am also available. I will endeavour to respond to emails within 48 hours during weekdays (I’m often offline on weekends). If you have a lengthy question, please come to my office hours instead of emailing. Note that I will not be available via email to summarize readings or tell you what you missed if you were absent. Please also bear in mind that even if you feel your situation is urgent, I may not reply right away.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Late work submitted without a doctor’s note will be accepted with a penalty of 10% per day late. Excuses without a doctor’s note will not be accepted. Make-up assignments will be offered only if a student misses an exam for a valid medical reason backed up by a doctor’s note. Please note that I cannot change the grading scheme if you wish to be granted special permission to complete a supplementary assignment for extra credit, or to have future work count for a greater percentage of your final grade. This would be unfair to the rest of the class.

It is the student’s responsibility to complete course work on time – printer issues and other technical malfunctions will not be taken as a valid excuse. Make sure to back up your work regularly.

**Fair Warnings:** Lateness is disruptive. Please do not arrive to class late. You may take notes on a laptop computer, but be sure to switch off your ringer and put away all cell phones and other electronics before the start of class. Texting and using social media in the classroom is incredibly disruptive for students and teacher alike; I ask you all to refrain from electronically distracting yourselves, and in return, I pledge to make our class as riveting as I possibly can.

**Students with disabilities:** As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and with the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a very serious offence. If you have any questions whatsoever about what constitutes plagiarism, please come see me at my office hours or email me. The University also has a comprehensive set of guidelines about how to avoid plagiarism, including a warning about consequences. Read the statement below:
“McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures” (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information). (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)
« L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).»

Also:

“In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)
« Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue). »

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

________________________________________

SCHEDULE OF COURSE READINGS

Week 1 (7, 19 & 11 January): Introduction to the Course and Approaches
Textbook, Introduction and readings by Randall and Chiriyankandath, pp.1-43

Week 2 (14, 16 & 18 January): Political Economy and Inequality
Textbook, readings by Ahearne and Pearce, pp.58-101

Week 3 (21 & 23 January): The State and Civil Society
***TA Conferences Begin- We Stop Having Class on Fridays***
Textbook, readings by Persson and Ottaway, pp.183-196 and 149-164

Week 4 (28 & 30 January): Ethnopolitics, Nationalism, and Religion
Textbook, readings by Scarritt and Birnir, pp.103-131

***February: Research Essay Topics are Posted on MyCourses***

Week 5 (4 & 6 February): Gender and Social Movements
Textbook, readings by Randall and Gloppen, pp.132-148 and 165-180

Week 6 (11 & 13 February): Democracy, Regime Change, and Human Rights
Online: Reading by C. Jourde on Democracy
Textbook, readings by Rakner and Freeman, pp.211-225 & 274-288

Week 7 (18 February): Development and Environment
Textbook, readings by Addison and Newell, 243-273

***MIDTERM EXAM IN-CLASS, WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY***

Week 8 (25 & 27 February): Regime Change
Textbook, pp.289-320

****STUDY BREAK (4-8 MARCH) NO CLASS*****

Week 9 (11 & 13 March): Fragile vs. Strong States
Textbook, pp.321-352

Week 10 (18 & 20 March): Development and Human Rights
Textbook, pp.353-382

***20 March: Research Essays are due at the beginning of class***

Week 11 (25 & 27 March): Political Violence I
Textbook, reading by Suhrke et al., pp.197-201
Week 12 (1 & 3 April): Political Violence II

Week 13 (8 & 10 April): South-South Relations
Textbook, pp.383-413

***Final Exam to be scheduled by the University during the final exam period***
SYLLABUS ADDENDUM: STUDENT RESOURCES

Equity Advisors in the Department of Political Science

In the context of ongoing efforts to promote strong and sustainable departmental responses to the issues of harassment and sexual misconduct, the Department of Political Science has appointed two professors to the position of equity advisor. The aim of this position is to work in cooperation with the chair and other members of the department to promote strengthened norms and practices in the department regarding preventing and addressing harassment and sexual misconduct.

The equity advisors are available, individually or in tandem, to meet with colleagues and students to discuss questions relating to harassment, sexual misconduct, and related equity concerns, and will refer students and colleagues to the relevant specialized services and offices at McGill. They will promote awareness and application of policies and guidelines related to these issues in the department, including the Department of Political Science Guidelines on Relationships between Instructors and Students. The role will evolve according to Departmental needs.

Our current equity officers are Professor Kelly Gordon (kelly.gordon2@mcgill.ca) and Professor Hudson Meadwell (hudson.meadwell@mcgill.ca). Please feel free to reach out to either Professor Gordon or Professor Meadwell with any concerns in relation to this issue.

Political Science Students’ Association (PSSA)

The PSSA represents the students enrolled in major, minor, honours, and joint-honours undergraduate degrees in the department of political science at McGill University. They advocate for students’ needs and concerns with the aim of helping to promote students’ experience and overall wellbeing. The team offers many involvement opportunities, coordinates academic and social events and services, provides advising and student support, and enhances the relationship between students, staff, and administration as student liaisons.

Office: Leacock 420
Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/McGill.PSSA/
Website: https://www.mcgillpssa.ca

Assessment and Re-Read Policy Department of Political Science

Liaison Librarian for Political Science

Need help doing research for a paper? Our very own library liaison, Sandy Hervieux, is dedicated to helping you find the sources you need as well as providing you access to software and resources to help organize and simplify the process.

sandy.hervieux@mcgill.ca
514-398-1087
McLennan Library Building

Additional Support: AUS Essay Centre
Further Student Support Resources

Student Services

Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)

Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Students' Society (SACOMSS)

Office for Sexual Violence Response, Support, and Education (OSVRSE)

Peer Support Centre

SSMU Walksafe / Drivesafe

McGill Students' Nightline

On-Campus Resources / Off-Campus Resources

- emotional support and psychological services
- medical services
- safety and security services (shelters)