Politics of the Developing World (2017 - 2021)

COURSE OVERVIEW
Title: Politics of the Developing World
Prerequisites: None
Hours: 50
Number of Credits: 5
Type of Course: POL
Term: Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer
Language: English
Instructor: Dr. Hiram José Irizarry Osorio
Email: hiram.irizarry@uab.cat

Course Description
This course deals with the politics of development from a comparative perspective. We will be addressing development issues across different points in time and across different world regions. Two main topics/concepts will be analyzed throughout the semester: development and the state. We will study Latin America, Africa, and Asia, which form part of what is known as the developing world or Third World, which in fact we will challenge this labeling. We will as well present a comparative overview of the Latin American, African, and Asian regions in general; and address and familiarize ourselves with the debates surrounding the virtues & vices of market economies (and globalization); and the role and relevance of ontological thinking for the purpose of understanding and explaining social reality will be a common intellectual thread throughout the semester. A cultural component, (films, related to development politics), will be part of this course.

Learning Outcomes
To familiarize students with current political realities throughout the Developing World; specially, the struggle to construct a state and promote development and democracy.

Assessment Criteria
Daily class attendance, four critical essays (70%), an in-class final presentation (20%), and a critical essay assessing a classmate's work (10%).

Sessions
Session 1: Introduction to the course on the politics of development.

Session 2: Social Science: Cartesian or Quantum?
**Session 3: Conceptualizing Development I**

  - “Prologue” (pp. 13-32)
  - “Chapter 1: Up to the Starting Line” (35-52)
  - “Introduction: Development as Freedom” (pp. 3-11)
  - “Chapter 1: The Perspective of Freedom” (pp. 13-34)

**Session 4: Sub rosa subvention & Peasants**

  - “Chapter 1: Introduction: infraglobalization” (1-22)
  - “Chapter 6: Conclusion” (326-334)

**Session 5: Justice, Poverty, & Conceptualizing Development II**

  - “Chapter 3: Freedom and the Foundations of Justice” (pp. 70-86)
  - “Chapter 4: Poverty as Capability Deprivation” (pp. 87-110)
  - “Introduction: Geopolitics of Knowledge and Coloniality of Power: Thinking Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans from the Colonial Difference” (1-40)

**Session 6: Democracy, Famines, & Conceptualizing the “modern state”**

  - “Chapter 6: The Importance of Democracy” (pp. 146-159)
  - “Chapter 7: Famines and Other Crises” (pp. 160-188)
  - “Introduction: The State of Race Theory” (1-13)
  - “Conclusion: Stating the difference” (239-276)
Session 7: Women’s Agency, Population, Health, & Human Rights

  
  “Chapter 8: Women's Agency and Social Change” {pp. 189-203}
  “Chapter 9: Population, Food, and Freedom” {pp. 204-226}

  
  Ch. 5, “Health, Healing, and Social Justice: Insights from Liberation Theology,” {pp. 139-159}
  Ch. 9, “Rethinking Health and Human Rights,” {pp. 213-246}

Session 8: Culture & Globalization (“ontologizing it”)

  
  “Chapter 10: Culture and Human Rights” {pp. 227-248}

  
  “Afterword,” pp. 229-245

  
  “Chapter 4: Alternative ways of knowing: reframing globalization” {177-240}

Session 9: In-class film, TBA.

Session 10: Students’ In-class presentations.

Session 11: Final Assessment day and course’s wrap-up

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ASSIGN ADDITIONAL READINGS, MODIFY THE READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND/OR MODIFY GRADING ACTIVITIES.

Texts