

DRAFT SYLLABUS

This is posted for your info to help you select or prepare for a course. An official version will be ready at or prior to your course start. Texts will be same or very similar. Please check online bookstore for exact texts.



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POL 6640: Government and Politics of Developing Nations

Instructor: Dr. Steven L. Taylor

Term: Term 4, March 15 - May 23, 2004

Texts:

The following texts are required for the course and are available via the TSU Distance Learning Center.

Peter Calvert & Susan Calvert. 2001. *Politics and Society in the Third World*, 2nd Edition. Harlow, England: Pearson Education Limited.

Franko, Patrice. 2003. *The Puzzle of Latin American Economic Development.*, 2nd Edition Labham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield.

Tornquist, Ollie. 1999. *Politics and Development: A Critical Introduction*. London: Sage.

ONLINE:

The World Bank. 2003. *World Development Report 2003: Sustainable Development in a Dynamic World, Transforming Institutions, Growth and Quality of Life*. Washington, D.C.:

The World Bank. online:

<http://econ.worldbank.org/wdr/wdr2003/text-17926/>

Note: if you prefer, a hard copy of the World Development Report can be purchased via [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or other online bookstores.

Additional Readings are available online via the course web pages or via [TSU Library](#) online resources such as ProQuest,

EBSCO or Infotrac. These readings are detailed on the [course outline](#).

Class Time and Location: POL 6640 is an online interactive distance learning course available at the location of the student via the Internet. Students do not attend class or workshops on a Troy State University campus.

Catalog Description and Purpose: POL 6640 provides an overview of the challenges that face developing countries. The course is comparative in nature and examines political and economic aspects of nation-states seeking to develop stable governance and to create long-term economic growth. The purpose of POL 6640 is to provide students with the necessary knowledge to understand the complex issues surrounding the problems of development and underdevelopment around the world.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of the of the course, students should have achieved the following:

- 1. An understanding of the differences between the developed, developing and underdeveloped world.**
- 2. An understanding of the major theories concerning development.**
- 3. An understanding of the major developing areas of the world (Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America) and the unique challenges faced by each.**
- 4. An understanding of the political, societal, and economic dimensions of development.**
- 5. A detailed understanding of the recent development path of the Latin American region.**

Course Requirements:

- 1. Read the assigned texts and supplemental articles.**
- 2. Complete a [research paper proposal](#), including an annotated bibliography.**
- 3. Write a graduate-level [research paper](#) on a topic as approved by the professor (20-25 pps).**

4. **Interact with classmates via the course discussion board, to include answering questions posted by the instructor (note the participation policy listed below).**
5. **Completed a proctored final exam.**

Assessment Assignments:

Research Proposal/annotated bibliography (15%)

Each student will present a one-page research proposal which includes the basic research question of the project. Additionally the assignment requires an annotated bibliography of at least fifteen scholarly resources which will be used in writing the research paper.

Due Date:

Final Examination (35%)

The final will be comprehensive and will be proctored. I will post possible questions towards the latter third of the course.

Due Date:

Term Paper (40%)

A 20-25 page analytical research paper. The topic *must* be improved by the instructor.

Due Date:

Discussion Board Participation (10%)

Discussion is vital to this course. Participation consists both of answering questions posted by the professor as well as student-generated questions/discussion. Please see participation policy below.

Method of Instruction: This is an asynchronous distance learning course taught via the Internet. Students will complete assigned readings and interact with their colleagues and the instructor via the course discussion board. Additional guidance on research techniques related to the term paper will be given via electronic mail.

Please keep in mind that *asynchronous* means that we do not meet at specific times and that students have flexibility as to how they approach the material and when. It does NOT mean that the course has no structure and that students may complete the course whenever they want. There is a schedule and structure to the course.

Course Schedule: Click [here](#) for the outline of the course with the basic reading schedule.

Module I: Defining “development.”

Module II: Various facets of the developing world.

Module III: Theories of development.

Module IV: Problems of development.

Module V: The democratization issue.

Module VI: The Latin American example.

Class Policies and Procedures:

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: Any student whose disabilities fall within the ADA must inform the instructor at the beginning of the term of any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course.

BROWSER RECOMMENDATION: I would highly recommend that all student obtain Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.x. It has been my experience with students using my web pages that IE outperforms Netscape Navigator. There is a new version of Navigator available (version 6) which may perform as well as IE, but I have not had a chance to sufficiently test it yet. Note: both browsers are available free online.

E-MAIL RESPONSES: I check my e-mail on a regular basis. I will try to respond as promptly as possible, but will not always be able to respond immediately. Please

allow at least 24 hours before re-sending messages--48 hours over the weekend. Also, *please use the course discussion board for all correspondence that is related to the course material, assignment clarifications, etc.*, and use my personal e-mail address sltaylor@troyst.edu for correspondence that deals with private matters (such as grades and work circumstances (e.g., TDY issues)). This will prove more efficient and will increase the sense of community among the members of the class.

INCOMPLETE WORK POLICY: Incomplete grades are assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Students should refer to the Graduate Bulletin for policies regarding the removal of incomplete grades. Reasonable accommodations will be made for students called away for military duty. Students who anticipate problems should contact the instructor as soon as said problem arises to work out details.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY USAGE POLICY: The University's Information Technology System includes computing, information, technology, and network resources. All users of this technology system are obligated to utilize the various resources responsibly, legally, and ethically for their intended purpose. All students should read the [policy](#) before participating in online course activities.

LEARNING RESOURCES: TSU Library Remote Services are accessed at <http://tsulib.troyst.edu>. Assistance with library instruction is through the Public Service Librarians by discipline, which in this case would be international relations or political science. No non-library laboratories or facilities are required in this course.

PARTICIPATION POLICY: Interaction with colleagues and professors is an essential part of graduate coursework, and is therefore mandatory. Were this an in-class course, the most important part of the course (aside from your readings) would be the time spent in class discussing the material. Since we cannot literally sit around and talk, the message board is as close as we can get. You will note that 10% of your grade (i.e., 1 letter grade) is wrapped-up in participation. Not only will you be required to address questions which I post to the course pages, I would encourage online discussions amongst yourselves and the posing of questions for your colleagues and myself. *Simply answering the questions posed will not be enough for full credit. I expect student-generated participation as well.*

You must answer all the questions posted by the instructor, plus respond to at least two posts by your colleagues per module.

The instructor is aware of the exigencies of TDY and other non-school obligations and will make reasonable accommodations.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT: The commission of or the attempt to commit any cheating and/or plagiarism are in violation of the Standards of Conduct stated in the TSU Student Handbook, and students may be disciplined up to and including suspension and expulsion. Please note my plagiarism policy [here](#).

STUDENT SUPPORT: Distance Learning staff are identified at <http://www.tsulearn.net>. Assistance is available to students who experience difficulties using technology at <http://spectrum.troyst.edu/~distance/help>. Students who are proficient with the Internet generally but having specific problems with the online course materials (e.g., finding a broken link on the page) should contact the instructor directly at sltaylor@troyst.edu.