Politics of Developing Countries
IAS 3063
0208 Burton Hall

Professor Mark W. Frazier
University of Oklahoma
School of International and Area Studies

Fall Term, 2008

Tuesday, Thursday: 10:30 - 11:45

Contact info

123 Hester Hall
tel: 325-2667
markfrazier@ou.edu

Office hours

Wednesdays 3-4 and Fridays 10-11
and by appointment

Course description and objectives

This course serves as an introduction to the politics of developing countries. Themes covered are political development, the causes of regime transitions, the politics of markets and growth, and political culture. Regions of focus include Africa, East and South Asia, and Latin America.

The prerequisite for this class is junior standing; those who are not yet juniors should consult with the instructor before registering for this class.

Students who take this class will gain the following:

- a basic understanding of the concepts used in the comparative political analysis of developing countries
- basic tools for applying and measuring these concepts
- substantive background on six developing countries in Africa, East and South Asia, and Latin America
**Texts**


**Requirements and grading**

Your grade for the course will be based on the following requirements and point totals. *Please note*—in order to receive a passing grade, you must earn more that zero points on each of the five course requirements below.

- **test** 50 points (10%)
- **mid-term exam** 75 points (15%)
- **paper #1** 100 points (20%)
- **presentation**
  - OR
- **paper #2** 100 points (20%)
- **final exam** 125 points (25%)
- **participation** 50 points (10%)

**TOTAL** 500 points (100%)

Students who accumulate the following point totals by fulfilling **all** course requirements will receive the corresponding letter grade for the course:

- 500 - 450 = A
- 449 - 400 = B
- 399 - 350 = C
- 349 - 300 = D
- 299 - 0 OR zero points on any of the five course requirements = F
Test and mid-term exam. The test covers basic material from the readings and lectures during the first two weeks. The mid-term covers all material addressed in the first half of the term. It includes short answers, definitions, and explanations of material from readings and lectures.

Paper and presentation OR 2 papers. Students will complete two research assignments. Both assignments involve comparing closely at least two countries that we have studied. Students will use datasets that we go over in class to conduct their research. Students have the choice of writing two papers, or writing one paper and making a separate in-class presentation. Papers will be 1,500 words or about 6 pages in length.

Final exam. This will be a comprehensive exam that includes identifications, explanations, and short answer discussion questions of material covered in class readings and lectures since the midterm.

Participation will be graded based on three areas: 1) the quality of questions you raise in class, 2) your responses to my questions in class, and 3) your attendance.

Attendance As noted above, your participation grade is based in part on attendance. My practice is to take attendance during the first few weeks, and on occasion thereafter. Those with more than 3 unexcused absences in my attendance records will receive no more than 20 participation points. Needless to say, attendance also indirectly influences your grades on exams and assignments.

Being on time for the start of class is important to me, though I understand that we all get held up sometimes. If something serious prevents you from arriving on time regularly, please let me know in advance.

Please come to class meetings prepared to discuss the assigned reading material for that day.

Late papers I will deduct 10 points for each day that a written assignment is late. If an unforeseen emergency arises that will prevent you from turning in an assignment on time, please let me know, with documentation, as early as you
possibly can. I will not accept a request for an extension the day that an assignment is due.

**Disability accommodation**  Students who have a disability that prevents them from fully demonstrating their academic skills should contact me during office hours to discuss arrangements that can ensure full participation and facilitate their learning experience.

**Academic integrity**  Students who are not familiar with the Student Code of Conduct should read it closely and uphold the obligations, rights, and procedures regarding violations of academic integrity. Please see [http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity-rights/](http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity-rights/)

**Course schedule**  The following schedule outlines how the course will proceed. I may make some minor changes depending on our progress. The dates that assignments are due will not change, barring unforeseen events.