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PSC 240H.01: Introduction to Third World Studies

Olatunde Ojo

The University Of Montana

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University of Montana
PSC 240 - Introduction to Third World Studies
Spring Term 1996

Professor: Olatunde Ojo

Office: LA 354

Office Hours: T 12-1:30, W 1-2, and by appointment

Phone: 243-4418

This lecture-discussion course is about the issue of poverty and underdevelopment in the Third World. We are in search of the why, how and consequences of the life of poverty, and how this affects other international relations. We will examine the relative impact of external and internal forces, especially how the power, wealth and policies of the great powers might have contributed to the deepening poverty and the widening prosperity gap between the Third World and the rest of the world.

The course is also concerned with attempts to eradicate poverty - with national policies at various levels - with international policies and cooperative efforts at the regional and global levels - and what the problems and obstacles are or have been. Of special concern is the implication of the widening prosperity gap for security at the national/regional level and for international and global security. The implications of all these for US foreign policy will be touched upon.

The objective of this course, then, is to introduce the student to some contemporary issues of great import in international politics, and to let them gain insights into their historical and political contexts. The idea is to sensitize students to these issues, and activate their interest in the literature on the subject.

The Texts

The basic texts are: John Isbister, Promises Not Kept-The Betrayal of Social Change in the Third World, 3rd edition; Howard Handelman, The Challenge of Third World Development; and Robert Pinkney, Democracy in the Third World.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to do all the assigned readings on schedule, to attend classes regularly and to participate in class discussions.

Other requirements are:

- 1) a cultural report (one to two pages long), a reflexive analysis of what you learn first-hand from exposure to a non-western program offered this spring semester in Western Montana. (10% of final grade)
- 2) a mid-term exam (25%)
- 3) a final or term paper (30%)
- 4) attendance and participation, including the debates (15%)
- 5) one or two, maybe three, short written assignments (20%)

Course Outline

- Week I**
Jan. 30 **The Third World: What is it? Where is it?**
Feb. 1 Introduction
The concept and characteristics of Third World
Readings: Isbister, chps 1 & 2; Handelman,
pp 1-10
- Week II**
Feb. 6 **Explaining Third World Poverty & Underdevelopment**
Feb. 8 The Modernization Approach
The Dependency Approach
Readings: Isbister, chp 3 and pp 69-79 of chp
4; Handelman, pp 11-18.
- Week III**
Feb. 13 **Imperialism: Traditional & Contemporary**
Debate on the sources of the inhumanity of Third
World people
*First written assignment due: either, How
Third World Poverty Can be Solved, or Were I
Forced to Live in India or China, I would
Choose
Feb. 15 Causes of imperialism: comparative perspectives
Reading: Isbister, chp 4 pp 79-102.
- Week IV**
Feb. 20 **Revolt Against Under-Development**
Feb. 22 Legacy and impact of imperialism
Third World nationalism: its causes, objectives
and strategies; nationalists and neo-colonialism
Reading: Isbister, chp 5 pp 105-147.
- Week V**
Feb. 27 **Challenges of Third World Politics**
Feb. 29 Religion and politics
Ethnic politics & nation-building
Reading: Handelman, chp 3.
- Week VI**
Mar. 5 **Challenges continued**
Mar. 7 Political institutions & participation
Women & socio-economic and political development
Reading: Handelman chp 4.
- Week VII**
Mar. 12 **Agricultural Production, Rural Conditions & Hunger**
Political economy of hunger: examples from Ethio-
pia and Nigeria
Mar. 14 The politics of agrarian revolt
Reading: Handelman chps 5 & 7.
- Week VIII**
Mar. 19 **Urbanization & Urban Life**
*Debate on Food Aid as a developing tool or an
obstacle to development
Mar. 21 Rural-urban migration and its effects on urban
life and national development: the politics of the
urban poor
Reading: Handelman chp 6.

Week IX	Political Economy of Industrialization and Development
Mar. 26	Population, finite resources and sustainable development: the politics of environment
Mar. 28	The role of the state in Third World development Readings: Handelman chp 9; Isbister chp 6.
Week X	Political Economy of Development, cont.
Apr. 2	Foreign Aid and development: the changing role of Aid agencies
Apr. 4	*MID-TERM EXAM Reading: Isbister chp 6 cont.
Week XI	Third World Debt Crisis
Apr. 16	Origins of debt accumulation
Apr. 18	*Debate: Current solutions: success or failure? Readings: Isbister chp 6 cont.; J. Barry Riddell, "Things Fall Apart Again: Structural Adjustment Programs in Sub-Saharan Africa" in <u>Journal of Modern African Studies</u> 30,1 (1992), pp. 53-68 (R).
Week XII	Debt, Adjustment and Democratization
Apr. 22	Adjustment, authoritarianism and the coming anarchy: a discussion of Robert Kaplan's <u>Atlantic Monthly</u> article (R)
Apr. 24	The relevance of the experience of the NICs (newly industrializing countries) for other Third World countries: Taiwan Readings: Handelman chp 10; Pinckney chs 1-4.
Week XIII	Problems of Establishing and Nurturing Democracy
Apr. 29	The exceptionality of Third World's continuing democracies
May 1	Conditions for democracy *Cultural report due Reading: Pinckney chps 5-10.
Week XIV	Looking to the Future
May 6	Summary and conclusion
May 8	Course evaluation Reading: Isbister chps 7 & 8.