COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the political-economic dimensions of (under)development in the "Third World." After a brief introduction to the working vocabulary of international political economy, we will proceed to a critical examination of the prevalent "descriptions," "explanations," and "prescriptions" offered by scholars and policy-makers. Drawing on case studies from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, the course addresses the multi-faceted question of why Third World economies and social formations follow different historical trajectories than those of Western states. Toward that end, the course explored such issues as socio-cultural parameters and obstacles to development, dependency, imperialism, foreign investment and aid, poverty, industrialization, debt, distributive strategies, rules of the international monetary system, political change and the nature and degree of state intervention in the economy. We shall also focus on Third World nations' efforts at state-building, national integration, and political participation.

In this course, you will be exposed to a wide range of "alien worldviews" some of which may force you to question, rethink (and if needed, abandon) your present "understanding" of these problems. Who knows, by the end of the course you might feel that you have taken part in a serendipitous voyage of discovery. Think of it this way, you (may) owe this to your education!

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance: In lieu of the fact that lectures will consist of materials not covered in the assigned readings (and for which you will be held responsible on tests) it is expected that students attend all class meetings. Indeed, attendance will be checked regularly and an attendance "grade" will be calculated as the percentage of the class sessions that you attend. Attendance is mandatory for all exams, and make-ups will be given only for bona fide emergencies (severe illness documented by a physician). Students who may need special consideration because of any sort of disability should make an appointment to see the instructor during office hours.

2. Participation: In addition to being physically present, I expect you to be mentally present as well. As such, you should read and think about the reading assignments before you come to class. If it becomes apparent that large portions of the class are not keeping up with the readings, I reserve the right to administer pop tests over the text material, with the grading scheme being adjusted accordingly.

3. Grades: Your grade in the course will be determined by a midterm (given in class on March 22), a final (given in class on May 4), and a paper. The exams will be a combination of identifications and essays. You will be graded on your ability to present informed as well as coherent and well-written
The choice of subject for the paper should be first cleared by the instructor. The paper is due on April 12. Late papers will be substantially penalized. Further instructions on how to write the paper will be provided in class.

**REFERENCE MATERIALS AT BIRD LIBRARY**

In addition to the journals mentioned above, there are a variety of other materials at Bird Library that you can consult. Please make use of encyclopedias, atlases, maps, newspapers, videos and CD-ROMs in the Library. If you have any questions about how to locate and/or use these materials, please consult with one of the reference librarians.

**CAVEAT**

Despite its somewhat humorous subject headings, this is a very serious course. Aside from being rigorous, the reading assignments are also very challenging. In addition, students are asked to participate actively in classroom discussion.
Please take note of the fact that this syllabus represents *anticipated* scheduling of lectures/readings/assignments; changes may be made to suit the actual composition and competencies of the class.

**REQUARED TEXTS**

(1) Course Reader - collection of required course readings which you should purchase from Campus Copy Center in the Marshall Square Mall. The reader number is 384.

(2) Books - in addition, three books are required for the course, which you should purchase at the Orange Student Bookstore (also in the Marshall Square Mall):


*P.S.* You should be aware that single copies of all the assigned readings have also been placed on reserve in the library (second floor).

**********
All Adam's sons are limbs of one another
   Each of the selfsame substance as his brother:
So, while one member suffers ache and grief,
   The others cannot win relief.
Thou, who are heedless of thy brother's pain,
   It is not right at all to name thee Man.

Sadi (a Persian Poet)

**READING ASSIGNMENTS**

Jan 13: **WHAT IN THE HELL IS INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY?**

   Lairson and Skidmore - Chapter 1
   Amin - Preface

Jan 18: **NO CLASS (Martin Luther King Day)**

Jan 19: **IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE (S)WORD: IPE TERMINOLOGY**

   Lairson and Skidmore - Chapter 2
   Amin - Introduction

Jan 20, 25: **PARDON US, WOULD YOU PLEASE "CIVILIZE" US?**

   Amin - pp. 15-88.

Jan 27, Feb 1: **SHAKERS AND TAKERS (OR THE GOOD OLD IMPERIALISTS)**

   Lairson and Skidmore - Chapter 3
   Amin - pp. 89-117.

---

^1 * Readings from the course reader.
Feb 3, 8, 10: **(S)HE IS LOOKING (ANGRILY) AT YOU KID**

Fanon - Entire book.

Feb 15: **CRY UNCLE (SAM): THE EMERGENCE OF AMERICAN HEGEMONY**

Lairson and Skidmore - Chapter 4.

Feb 17, 22: **THE RICH BOYS CLUB (NO TRESPASSING)**

Lairson and Skidmore - Chapters 5, 6

Feb 24: **OUR (FORMER) RED COUSINS: THE ECONOMICS OF EASTERN EUROPE**

Lairson and Skidmore - Chapter 7
Amin - pp. 118-123.

Mar 1, 3: **THE (THEORETICAL) RIGHT STUFF AND OTHER MUMBO JUMBOS**

Lairson and Skidmore - Chapter 8.

March 8, 10: **NO CLASSES (Spring vacation)**

Mar 15, 17: **SMELL THE ROSES DEAR, THIS WORLD IS POLITICAL**


**March 22: MID TERM EXAM**

**Mar 24, 29: FOR (THROUGH) YOUR EYES ONLY: THE NORTH'S VIEW**


**Mar 31, Apr 5: ELEGY FOR THE LOSER: THE VIEW FROM THE SOUTH**

Lairson and Skidmore - Chapter 9.

**Apr 7: NO CLASS (Redefined to Friday)**

**Apr 12: OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF MY HEART: THE AID EPIDEMIC**

Lairson and Skidmore - Chapter 10.

**Apr 12: Due Date for Opinion Paper**

**Apr 14: DANCING WITH THE WOLVES? MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS**

Lairson and Skidmore - Chapter 11.

**Apr 19, 21: BORROW NOW, PAY WHEN YOU CAN (NOT): THE DEBT PROBLEM**
Lairson and Skidmore - Chapter 12.

Apr 26: **GODS MUST BE CRAZY: HUMAN SUFFERING IN THE THIRD WORLD**


Apr 28: **BROTHER, YOU DON'T HAVE A PRAYER (OR DO YOU?)**

Lairson and Skidmore - Chapter 13.
Amin - pp. 136-152.

*May 4: Final Exam*