Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: POSC 321

Course Title: Politics of Developing Nations

Number of: Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Analysis of the governmental structures and roles played by developing nations in contemporary world affairs. Occasional offering.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): None.

Text(s): Most current editions of the following:


Course Objectives:

- To explore the legacy of colonialism in the developing world.
- To examine major theoretical approaches to economic and political development.
- To understand causes and consequences of conflicts in the developing world.
- To investigate social and environmental conditions in the developing world.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

- Explain and assess the process of colonialism and its impact on the developing world.
- Explain and assess theories of economic development as they apply to the developing world, including modernization theory, Marxist-based theories, liberal economic theories and developmental state theory.
- Apply theories of democratic transitions to the developing world.
• Explain the causes and consequences of military intervention in politics.
• Describe and explain the problem of ethnic conflict in the developing world.
• Explain and assess the role of religion in Third World societies.
• Explain and assess the role of women in Third World societies.
• Describe health, population and environmental concerns in the developing world and analyze the relationship between economic growth and sustainable development.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage): Note: At a minimum, students should be expected to write a 10-12 page research paper or multiple shorter assignments of equivalent length.

This course can be organized in a variety of ways: by substantive topic, by region of the world, or on a country-by-country basis. Regardless of the organizational form chose, students should be exposed to the political and economic conditions of a variety of developing countries from multiple regions of the world.

Material from this course may be tested on the Major Field Test (MFT) administered during the Culminating Experience course for the degree.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 25

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Brian Kessel

Date: January 28, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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