

Political Modernization - PLS 5533
Spring 2009
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The concept of “Political Modernization” is one which has interested social scientists for decades. Given the recent changes in eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and various developing countries political modernization is again a “hot topic” in political science. In this course we will determine just what is meant by “political modernization”, how or why it comes about, what institutional factors are involved, and what are the possible, or likely, results of the various routes states take towards political modernization.

FORMAT

This is a graduate course, and the course will be conducted in a seminar format. It will not be conducted as a lecture course. In order for this to succeed everyone will have to have read and be prepared to discuss all assigned readings. Due to the size of the class it will be quite evident if this is not the case. 10% of your course grade will come directly from class participation. As students in a graduate program you are expected to be able to intelligently discuss, critique, and expound on course readings. The role of the professor in seminars is assist in guiding discussion, not to explain to the class what the readings state. It is important that this be understood. Students in a seminar setting are largely responsible for “teaching” each other.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements of the course include: 1) A graduate level paper on a topic cleared with the professor relevant to the topic of the seminar. A research design for the paper is due no later than January 26th. An oral presentation of your paper to the class will take place at the end of the semester. 2) Two exams, a midterm and a final. They will be open book/note in nature. 3) A political modernization evaluation for an assigned state. A specific format for the evaluation will be given you. 4) Responsibility for leading class discussion for one class meeting.

GRADING

Grades will be assigned by a straight 90-100 = A, 80-89.9=B, 70-79.9 = C, 60-69.9 = D, 59.9 and below = F. Grades will be determined by:

Term Paper	45%
Modernization Paper	15%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
Class Participation	10%

ATTENDANCE

Since this class only meets a total of 13 times, attendance is mandatory at all class meetings. I am sure this goes without saying to a graduate student audience, but for forms sake I will say it anyway.