INTL 290.03—Special Topics in International Studies
Small States in the Global System

Fall 2016

Instructor: Professor Marsha Pacheco
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Phone: 843-953-0265

Section: INTL 290.03
Time: MWF: 3:00pm-3:50pm
Classroom: Education Center, Rm.103
Office hours: M, W, 9:30am-10:30am; & by appointment

Course Description

It has been said that “the strong do what they will, while the weak suffer what they must!” Small developing states have long been defined by their economic vulnerabilities, limited landmass and demographics, in addition to narrow material and institutional capacities. As such, in terms of relational power they are said to be severely constrained and disadvantaged in the international system; wield little influence and therefore possess less prestige. In the contemporary world, they oftentimes display a number of common attributes featuring asymmetric power relations, dependency on international markets and susceptibility to external shocks. These predicaments are also said to be a result of the manner in which these are inserted in the global economy. While still seemingly weaker in hierarchical terms, in recent years smaller states have been noticeably asserting themselves on the global stage, as they strive for greater openness, and engagement. This shift is being viewed as both a redefining and realigning of their global political posture, to seemingly offset perceived weaknesses. As such, what is being witnessed is the increased participation of smaller developing states in global diplomatic and governance structures, specifically those that reflect their interests.

This course will explore various aspects of historical and contemporary politics, societies, and economies of smaller states, with particular emphasis on the Caribbean region. Owing to the multidisciplinary nature of this area, what is naturally embedded within this examination are broader themes about race, class, culture, migration, gender, and sexuality. Moreover, the class will take an in-depth look at the relationship between processes of development and exploitation in the Caribbean. The region’s presence within the US sphere of influence has also made it one of “special interest,” and this reality has shaped much of its political, economic and social development. As such this course will also examine the continuity and the changes in U.S. foreign policy towards the Caribbean in the latter half of the 21st century and beyond.

A. International Studies & Course-Specific Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to identify a number of areas of concern to small developing states in the contemporary world, including: security and diplomacy; economic choice and constraint; domestic political institutions; and the challenges to cultural identity.
- Students will gain proficiency of the impacts of changing political dynamics in the Western Hemisphere on the small Caribbean states such as Chavez’s Bolivarian movement and the rise of the new populists, hegemonic decline, emerging drugs and crime networks, and free and unfair trade practices.
- Students will be able to delineate between various economic developments challenges in the region, and discern where they intertwine with security concerns, and structural realities.

B. General Education Student Learning Outcomes:
This course meets the following General Education requirements for Social Science & Humanities:

- Students will analyze how diverse ideas are represented, interpreted, or valued in various expressions of interstate interactions and human cultures.
- Students will examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline, and interpret the material in writing assignments.

The midterm examination which comprises a series of short essays will measure these outcomes

Course Requirements & Expectations of Professionalism

Attendance & Class Participation: Attendance in class is mandatory and will be recorded. Students are expected to be punctual, and those who arrive 15 minutes after the start of class will not be allowed to sign the roll, and will be marked as absent. (Note: This policy can change at the Professor’s discretion and pending appropriate justification). Regular attendance and participation are important because: (1) materials covered in lectures will be included in all examinations; and (2) classroom participation will provide you with an opportunity to raise any questions that you may have regarding both the readings and lectures, in addition to demonstrating your understandings of core course content. Please note that your grade will be lowered if you have more than 3 unexcused absences, and excessive absences will result in further grade penalties, which may include removal from the course roll. Lastly, your final grade will be based, in part, on an assessment of the effort that you have put into the course: attendance and participation are visible indicators of such effort, and accounts for 10% of your overall grade. Note that grades will be based on the quality, rather than the frequency of participation during class meetings.

Reading Assignments: Required readings will be posted on OAKS (Textbooks purchases are not a requirement of this course). It is your responsibility to check the class homepage on a regular basis to prepare for lectures, review assigned readings, respond to discussion questions, and keep abreast of other important class related information/notices. Students are responsible for obtaining and studying all assigned class materials, including readings, films, and lectures, whether you are present or absent from class. Students are expected to complete all of the required readings prior to each session, and be prepared to actively engage in class discussions. Lectures will complement – but not explicitly replicate – the readings. However they will draw upon and explore concepts and facts discussed in the readings.

Please Note: This syllabus, including the lecture schedule, readings, and assigned work and exams, is subject to change as necessary. Additional readings will be assigned throughout the semester, and changes will be announced in class, by email, or on the course website. It is your responsibility to keep up with all readings and assignments. Check your College email inbox regularly! It is your responsibility to make sure you acquire all of the readings necessary for the class.

Examinations, Discussion Boards & Writing Assignments: There will be two exams over the course of the semester, a mid-term exam and a final exam. The mid-term exam will be taken in class on Monday 17th October 2016; the final exam will be taken in class as scheduled by the College. You will need Blue Books for both exams. Both exams will be taken in class, and both will consist of short answer questions and essays.

Online Discussion Board: Students will review and analyze newspaper reports (which will be posted on the class homepage) of current political, economic or societal developments in the Caribbean region, and provide their informed comment and opinions on the major arguments, assumptions or themes in the article. As much as possible entries should be related to course readings and lectures. Submissions must be made twice a week, and be no more than half page in
length. The first submission, will be due on September 5th, and continue bi-weekly thereafter. This exercise accounts for 20% of your overall grade.

A 1500-2500 word research paper will evaluate the course-specific learning objectives. You will submit a one page research topic outline that includes a thesis statement; and further guidelines for the research paper will be posted after the midterm.

Note: Students should utilize the library often in support of their research and presentation planning. We will have a research librarian presentation during a class session, and also, please do not hesitate to see me during my office hours if you are having trouble choosing a topic.

**Academic Support Services: The Center for Student Learning (CSL)**
The CSL is located on the first floor of the library, and offers a wide variety of tutoring and other academic resources that support many courses offered at the College. Services include: walk-in tutoring, by appointment tutoring, study strategies appointments, Peer Academic Coaching (PAC), and Supplemental Instruction (SI). All services are described and all lab schedules are posted on the CSL website [http://csl.cofc.edu/](http://csl.cofc.edu/), or call 843.953.5635 for information.

**Grading Policy:** Grades will be based on a combination of class attendance and participation, the group project, written assignments and examinations. The breakdown of grading for the course is summarized as follows: class attendance and participation (10%); Part I exam/midterm (20%); position paper group project (20%); Part II exam (20%); research paper (30%). Late papers will be graded down by one grade for every 12 hours (for example from an A to a B+). Make-up exams will not be offered without a written request from the Dean.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Measures General Education Learning Outcomes</td>
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<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Assess knowledge of course materials and analytical skills</td>
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<td>Online Discussion Board</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Measures critical thinking, and analytical skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Develops reading comprehension, research, critical thinking, and analytical skills</td>
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**Final grades will be calculated using the following table:**

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A: 93-100</td>
<td>A-: 90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+: 87-89</td>
<td>B: 83-86</td>
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<td>B: 80-82</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C+: 77-79</td>
<td>C: 73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-: 70-72</td>
<td>D+: 67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+: 63-66</td>
<td>D: &lt;60</td>
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**Disability Services**
The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsibility
for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.

**College of Charleston Honor Code & Academic Integrity**

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of the Honor Code, and when identified will be investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved. Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. This intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor, and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others’ exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance. Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at [http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php)

**Respect & Course Rules**

International studies addresses complex and often contentious issues. Students should feel free to share their informed comments, opinions and questions in class, and respect the right of their colleagues to do the same. In order to foster an environment of thought, learning, discussion and collaboration, it is important that students express themselves in an appropriate manner, listen, and learn from the debates at hand. Additionally students should:

1. Arrive in class and be seated five minutes PRIOR to class beginning
2. When in the classroom, please turn off cell-phones and remove your hats AND headphones.
3. Do not sleep in class. It will seriously affect your class attendance and participation grade.
4. Do not chat, send or read e-mails in class. It will seriously affect your participation grade.
5. Only in the most serious of circumstances [serious personal illness, family emergency, and travel for unavoidable university business] will the instructor grant permission – which must be obtained in advance – to delay the due date of an assignment.
6. Students may request that the instructor reassess exam questions which they believe have been inaccurately evaluated. Requests for re-evaluation must be submitted to the instructor in writing [including via e-mail], within a week after the examinations are returned to students. The written statement must suggest and defend the grade that the student believes he/she deserves.
7. Instructors are interested in helping student master the course materials, hence, questions are invited during class sessions. Also, students are encouraged to take advantage of office hours to raise questions about materials covered in the course or about other matters.

**Course Schedule & Reading Assignments**

*Note: This schedule may be subject to change pending availability of guest speakers or films, extension of class discussions, and other unforeseeable events.*

Additionally, short clips, documentaries, discussion questions, suggested further readings and references will be posted on the class home page to provide students with a broader historical overview of the most important issues confronting societies within the international arena, as well as an evolution of the study of international studies in the modern era. In other words, because of course and time restrictions, key historical moments during the 20th and 21st centuries may not receive in-depth attention during lectures, but comprehension and interests can be reinforced on the students own time.

**Week 1: August 24-26**
**Introduction & Course Administration**
- **Wednesday**, Introductions; Organization of course, class objectives, course content expectations and policies
- **Friday**: Conceptualizing and Studying Small States: Size, Demographics, Geography, Growth, Income, Openness, Interdependence and Vulnerabilities. Globalized World:

**Week 2: August 29-September 2**
**The Political Economy of Development in Small States**
- **Monday**: Development Theories: Modernization, World Systems & Dependency
- **Wednesday**: Neoliberalism, and the Washington Consensus
- **Friday**: Foreign policy behavior of Small States

**Week 3: September 5-9**
**The Contemporary Caribbean in a Global Context: Opportunities & Constraints**
- **Monday**: US Hegemony & Interventionism in the Caribbean
- **Wednesday**: Unequal Relations: Global Institutions & Policy in the Caribbean
- **Friday**: Possibility for Economic Change & Transformation

**Week 4: September 12-16**
**Navigating the New Global Economy**
- **Monday**: Outward Looking Growth: Negotiating the Global Marketplace & Attracting Foreign Investment
- **Wednesday**: Development Strategies: From Special and Differential Treatment to Export Processing Zones
- **Friday**: Documentary: Life & Debt (*Online Discussion Board Analysis*)

**Week 5: September 19-23**
**Regional Cooperation & Integration**
- **Monday**: Building Blocks or Stumbling Blocks: Multilateralism and Regionalism
- **Wednesday**: Preferential Arrangements: From the Lome Convention to the Doha Development Round
- **Friday**: Re-inventing CARICOM as a Single Common Market

**Week 6: September 26-30**
The Diasporic Economy & Caribbean Development
Monday: Modernity, Progress & Development
Wednesday: Globalization, Socio-economic & Political transitions
Friday: Migration & Remittances

Week 7: October 3-7
Uneven Development
Monday: Coping with Small Internal Markets & Declining Industries
Wednesday: Changing Economic Drivers & Work-force Dynamics
Friday: Boom & Bust Cycles: The Oil Economy of Trinidad & Tobago

Week 8: October 10-14
On the Periphery of NAFTA & MERCOSUR
Monday: Emerging Economies & Assistance
Wednesday: South-to-South Cooperation
Friday: IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAM (Covers weeks 1-8)

Week 9: October 17-21
Servicing the World
Monday: Tourism as a Development Strategy
Wednesday: Offshore Financial Service Industries
Friday: Sex Tourism in the Caribbean

Week 10: October 24-28
Regional Public Health Challenges & Human Security
Monday: Health Cooperation in the CARICOM Region
Wednesday: Case Study: “Haiti after the Earthquake”
Friday: Case Study: “Medical Tourism in Cuba”

Week 11: October 31-November 4
Environment Threats, Resource Depletion & Sustainable Development
Monday: Global Warming, Climate Change & Pollution
Wednesday: Energy and Resources Constraints
Friday: Prospects for Cleaner Technologies and Industries

Week 12: November 7-11
Human Security
Monday: Fall Break, No Classes
Tuesday: Fall Break, No Classes\Election Day
Wednesday: Women & the Informal Sector
Friday: Poverty, Corruption, Crime Networks & Trafficking

Week 13: November 14-18
China in the Caribbean
Monday: Is China the New Colonialist?
Wednesday: China vs. Taiwan: Battling for Influence in the Caribbean
Friday: Between two Giants: Leveraging US & Chinese Relations

Week 14: November 21-25
Prospects for the Future
Monday: Case Study: Obama & Cuba
Wednesday: Thanksgiving Holiday/No Classes
Friday: Thanksgiving Holiday/No Classes

Week 15: November 28-December 2
Monday: Cuba & Caricom
Wednesday: Documentary: Alternative Industries for Small States
Friday: Research Paper Due

Week 16: December 5-9
Monday: Last Day of Fall Semester
Wednesday: Reading Day