

POP88194— State and Society in the Global South

Module Information	
Module Code	POP88194
Module Title	State and Society in the Global South
Department	Political Science
Year Group	MSc
Module Personnel	Michelle D’Arcy
Academic Year	2026-7
Credit Weighting	5 ECTS
Semester	Semester 2
Contact Hours	3 hours seminar per week for 5 weeks

Module Content	
Module Description	What kind of institutions promote human flourishing? How can the character of domestic politics and institutions explain underdevelopment in the Global South? These are the fundamental questions that this course addresses. In the course we will take a historically informed approach to answering these questions over the longue duree. We will look first at how structural factors like geography and histories of colonialism and slavery shaped long term institutional development. We will then examine in detail the nature of the state in most countries in the Global South, comparing them to states in the Global North. The relationship between democracy and development will be examined, including the reasons why clientelism and corruption are so pervasive. Finally, we will address the issue of aid, and whether it helps or hinders political development in Global South states.
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, students should be able to: • Understand the long-term legacies of colonialism and slavery • Analyse the nature of states in the Global South • Critically review the evidence on the relationship between democracy and



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	development • Understand the root causes of clientelism and corruption • Debate the effect of aid on politics and institutions
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Assessment

Assessment Components	Presentation 30%, Final Essay 70%
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Additional Information

Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None