ANTHROPOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT

Why are countries such as Haiti poor? What does it mean to say they require “development”? This course explores anthropological approaches to development—a contested term some define as improvements in material well-being or living standards, while others view it as a destructive myth, or as historical processes of industrialization, modernization or globalization. We will examine development debates in anthropology and related fields, paying particular attention to why this concept provokes such ambivalence within anthropology. Why do some propose alternatives to development and how do they imagine a post-development era? Looking inside powerful international financial institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, which act as agents of development, we will examine why they provoke protest in many parts of the world and how they respond to critique. Ethnographic case studies will help us to understand how people in nations targeted as objects of development perceive development initiatives and discourses.

The format of class meetings includes lectures, group discussions, and films. Readings are drawn from anthropology as well as other disciplines, and it is assumed that students are interested in theoretical debates within anthropology and are willing to invest the time needed to understand readings they may find difficult.

Course Objectives

• Introduce students to key concepts and debates in the anthropological study of development and analyze the place of culture in those debates.
• Introduce students to key organizations that design and implement development programs, such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
• Help students to improve their skills in critically assessing scholarly publications, and in presenting their ideas in oral and written forms.
• Expand students’ understanding of the experiences of those who live in the global South.

Requirements include regular attendance, timely completion of assigned readings, participation in class discussions, two in-class examinations (weeks 6 & 11), a 30-minute quiz (week 14), and pop quizzes. Quizzes and exams will cover assigned readings, lectures, and films. There will be no final exam. Make-ups of the two in-class exams and 30-minute quiz will not be allowed except in emergencies, which must be documented by your Dean. If you miss an exam you must notify the instructor of the reason no more than 24 hours later. (Such notification should be by both phone/voice mail and email.)
**Travel plans are not an acceptable reason for missing an exam.** Make your travel arrangements so that you will be in class when exams are given.
Pop quizzes will be given during the first 10 minutes of some class meetings. These quizzes cannot be made up and cannot be taken by those who arrive late to class. The single lowest of the pop quiz grades will be dropped. [Note that the 30-minute quiz on Friday, April 30 is not included among those for which the lowest score will be dropped.]

Grades will be determined as follows:
- Pop quizzes = 20%
- In-class exam #1 (Tues., Feb. 23) = 25%
- In-class exam #2 (Tues., April 6) = 25%
- 30-minute quiz (Friday, April 30) = 15%
- Attendance and participation = 15%

Attendance and reading: Attendance is required. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, to complete assigned readings on time, and to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Points will be deducted from the attendance and participation portion of your grade for class absences as follows: 1 point will be deducted (from a possible 15) if two classes are missed; 3 points will be deducted if three classes are missed; 10 points if four classes are missed. Anyone who misses four or more class meetings is advised to drop the course. Be sure to review the syllabus before scheduling travel, job interviews or appointments, since these are not acceptable reasons for missing a class.

Do not record any classroom lectures or discussions.

Religious Holidays: Notify the instructor during the first two weeks of the semester if you will observe a religious holiday that will prevent you from attending a class meeting. You may arrange to make up the missed session and any required work (sometimes through an oral quiz on assigned readings)—if you notify the instructor during the first two weeks of the semester.

Cell phones, laptop computers, and all other electronic devices must be turned off during class unless you have made special arrangements with your instructor.

Classroom atmosphere: We are all responsible for creating a friendly, relaxed, and productive classroom atmosphere. That requires listening respectfully to everyone, phrasing comments constructively and politely, turning off cell phones and other electronic devices, coming to class on time, and refraining from working on other assignments during class or sleeping in class. *How well you practice these common courtesies will be reflected in the class attendance and participation portion of your grade.*

Communication: All students are responsible for timely attention to email and Sakai postings for this course and therefore should check the Sakai site and their Rutgers "eden" email accounts regularly. Dates and assignments may change; all changes will be announced in class or posted on Sakai or both.

To access Sakai go to http://sakai.rutgers.edu, log in with your Rutgers userid and password; and use the course membership tool to access class materials.

Ethics/Academic Integrity: Be careful to avoid plagiarism and cheating. See the Rutgers academic integrity policy at http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html. You are responsible for knowing what plagiarism is. A clear explanation, with examples of different types of plagiarism, is available on the website of Georgetown University's Honor Council:
Required readings are available electronically on the Sakai website for this course.

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SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1/Jan. 19 & 22  WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT?


*Extra Credit reading on Haiti*


FILM: *Life and Debt* (part 1)

Week 2/ Jan. 26 & 29  INSIDE THE WORLD BANK


FILM: *Our Friends at the Bank* (part 1)

Week 3/Feb. 2 & 5  A WORLD BANK VIEW OF LESOTHO (An Anthropologist’s Critique)


FILM: *Our Friends at the Bank* (part 2)

Week 4/Feb. 9 & 12  INSIDE THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)


FILM: *Life and Debt* (part 2)
Week 5/Feb. 16 & 19  DEVELOPMENT AGENCY IMAGES OF EGYPT (A Political Scientist’s Critique)


FILM: The Money Lenders

Week 6
Tuesday, Feb. 23: ** EXAM #1**


Week 7/March 2 & 5  NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs): RESCUING DEVELOPMENT?


Week 8/March 9 & 12  PROTESTING THE IMF, WORLD BANK, AND WTO


FILM excerpts: Global Views: 2000 IMF-World Bank Meetings & Protests and This Is What Democracy Looks Like

SPRING BREAK, March 14-21

Week 9/March 23 & 26  POST-DEVELOPMENT?


FILM: The Take
Week 10/March 30 & April 2 DEVELOPMENT AND PERSONHOOD


Week 11:
Tuesday, April 6: **EXAM #2**

Week 12/April 13 & 16 ANTHROPOLOGY’S EVIL TWIN?


Week 13/ April 20 & 23 DEAD AID?


FILM: A Conversation with Dambisa Moyo and A Conversation with Peter Singer (Charlie Rose)

Week 14/April 27 & 30 REDIRECTING ANTHROPOLOGY?


FRIDAY, APRIL 30th. **30-MINUTE QUIZ** (counts as 15% of course grade)