

070:305
Spring 2010
T, F 12:35-1:55
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:15-3:30 or by appointment

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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 device 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.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

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

- Richard Peet and Elaine Hartwick, 2009, *Theories of Development*, pp. 1-13. New York: Guilford Press.
- Riall Nolan, 2002, *Development Anthropology*, pp. 30-64. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Extra Credit reading on Haiti

- Paul Farmer, 2002, "On Suffering and Structural Violence: A View from Below," pp. 424-437, in *The Anthropology of Politics*, Joan Vincent, ed. Oxford: Blackwell.

FILM: *Life and Debt (part 1)*

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

- Michael Goldman, 2005, "Introduction: Understanding World Bank Power," pp. 1-45 in *Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice in the Age of Globalization*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Joseph E. Stiglitz, 2002, "The Promise of Global Institutions," pp. 3-22 in *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York and London: W.W. Norton and Co.

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

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

- James Ferguson, 1990, *The Anti-Politics Machine*, pp. 3-9 and 23-73.

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

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

- Richard Harper, 2005, "The Social Organization of the IMF's Mission Work," pp. 323-333. In *The Anthropology of Development and Globalization: From Classical Political Economy to Contemporary Neoliberalism*, Marc Edelman and Angelique Haugerud, eds. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Joseph Stiglitz, 2002, "The IMF's Other Agenda," pp. 195-213, in *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York and London: W.W. Norton.

FILM: *Life and Debt (part 2)*

Week 5/Feb. 16 & 19 DEVELOPMENT AGENCY IMAGES OF EGYPT (A Political Scientist's Critique)

-Timothy Mitchell, 2002, "The Object of Development," pp. 209-243, in *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

FILM: *The Money Lenders*

Week 6

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

Friday, Feb. 26: Amartya Sen, 1999, *Development as Freedom*, pp. 3-11. New York: Random House.

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

-Julia Elyachar, 2002, "Empowerment Money: The World Bank, Non-Governmental Organizations, and the Value of Culture in Egypt." *Public Culture* 14(3):493-513.

-Annelise Riles, 2005[2001], "The Network Inside Out," pp. 262-267, in *The Anthropology of Development and Globalization*, Marc Edelman and Angelique Haugerud, eds. Oxford: Blackwell.

-William Fisher, 1997, "Doing Good? The Politics and Anti-Politics of NGO Practices." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 26:439-464.

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

-Joseph Stiglitz, 2002, "The Way Ahead," pp.214-252, in *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York and London: W.W. Norton.

-Michael Goldman, 2005, "Conclusion: Can It Be Shut Down?," pp. 272-291, in *Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice in the Age of Globalization*.

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?

-Arturo Escobar, 2005, "Imagining a Post-Development Era," pp. 341-251, in *The Anthropology of Development and Globalization*, Marc Edelman and Angelique Haugerud, eds. Oxford: Blackwell.

-Katy Gardner and David Lewis, 2005, "Beyond Development?," pp. 352-359 in *The Anthropology of Development and Globalization*, Marc Edelman and Angelique Haugerud, eds. Oxford: Blackwell.

FILM: *The Take*

Week 10/March 30 & April 2 DEVELOPMENT AND PERSONHOOD

-Ivan Karp, 2002, "Development and Personhood: Tracing the Contours of a Moral Discourse," pp. 82-104, in *Critically Modern: Alternatives, Alterities, Anthropologies*, Bruce M. Knauft, ed. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

-Stacy Leigh Pigg, 1997, "'Found in Most Traditional Societies': Traditional Medical Practitioners between Culture and Development," pp. 259-290, in *International Development and the Social Sciences*, Frederick Cooper and Randall Packard, eds. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Week 11:

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

Friday, April 9: Peter D. Little and Catherine S. Dolan, 2005, "Nontraditional Commodities and Structural Adjustment in Africa," pp. 206-215, in *The Anthropology of Development and Globalization*, Marc Edelman and Angelique Haugerud, eds. Oxford: Blackwell.

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

-James Ferguson, 2005 [1997], "Anthropology and Its Evil Twin: 'Development' in the Constitution of a Discipline," pp. 140-154, in *The Anthropology of Development and Globalization*, Marc Edelman and Angelique Haugerud, eds. Oxford: Blackwell.

-David Gow, 2002, "Anthropology and Development: Evil Twin or Moral Narrative?" *Human Organization* 61(4):299-313.

Week 13/ April 20 & 23 DEAD AID?

-Dambisa Moyo, 2009, *Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is A Better Way for Africa*, pp. 1-9, 29-47. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

-Peter Singer, 2006, "What Should a Billionaire Give – and What Should You?" *New York Times Magazine*, pp. 58-63, 80, 83, 87.

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

Week 14/April 27 & 30 REDIRECTING ANTHROPOLOGY?

-James Ferguson, 1990, "Epilogue," pp. 279-288, in *The Anti-Politics Machine*. New York and Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

-Bill Cooke and Uma Kothari, 2001, "The Case for Participation as Tyranny," pp. 1-15, in *Participation: The New Tyranny?*, Bill Cooke and Uma Kothari, eds. New York and London: Zed Books.

-Jonathan Fox, 2005, "Advocacy Research and the World Bank: Propositions for Discussion," pp. 306-312, in *The Anthropology of Development and Globalization*, Marc Edelman and Angelique Haugerud, eds. Oxford: Blackwell.

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

