

Interdisciplinary Programmes

Academic year 2018-2019

History, Theory and Practice of Development

DE132 - Autumn - 6 ECTS

Course Description

Development is both a field of practice and an object of ongoing study. This course considers development as a historically situated set of practices and theories, formed and informed by the conditions of late colonialism, decolonization, cold war, and various types of liberalism. Paying close attention to shifting institutional landscapes of development, and to continuity and change in the configuration of its actors and subjects, the course seeks to deepen our analytical understanding of contemporary development practices. Questions we will ask include: how and why did development emerge and become a goal of policy and a tool of intervention? How have development ideas, policies and practices been shaped by changing ideological or geo-/political imperatives? We will also explore how they have informed public and private interventions in two broad and key areas, i.e. agrarian transformations and labor and employment. Contemporary issues of relevance to development in these areas will be addressed through case studies prepared and presented by students.

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Syllabus

Organization and evaluation

The classes will involve a combination of lecture---type presentations motivating the main questions and readings, interactive sessions including seminar---type meetings in smaller groups, and student presentations and discussion. Evaluation will comprise three main components: (1) two reading responses (each worth 20%); (2) a group case study and presentation of approximately 3,000 words (40%); and (3) class and discussion group participation (20%).

Case studies

The development and completion of the case study is a collaborative project that will run for much of the duration of this course, and account for 40% of your final grade. The purpose of the case study is to allow you, together with your group, to explore how particular and situated histories, theories, and practices of development may be understood with reference to a specific, contemporary empirical phenomenon or example. Case topics will be provided in the first week of the semester, however these are left intentionally open to allow groups to define their own approach and focus.

Groups will be formed at the beginning of the semester and will have until **October 15** to sign up for their particular case---study area, i.e. Agrarian Transformations or Forms and Relations of Employment, and to specify their broad topic. Groups then have then until **November 23** to refine and research their topic, and circulate a proposal of 1,000 words plus bibliography. These proposals will be discussed during discussion groups scheduled during the week of **November 26**. Presentations of the case studies will take place on **December 10** and **December 17**. The final version of the case study should be submitted by **December 31** along with a joint note explaining the contributions of each member and describing your collaboration. In determining the final grade for this assignment, we will consider the quality of the original proposal, the presentation, and the completed case study.

This project will require considerable initiative and collaboration on your part. Course instructors and TAs will be available to guide you. Further details on format and presentations will follow in due course.

Reading Response Papers

Mid---term assignments for the course comprise two reading responses, each of approximately 1,000 words and worth 20% of your final grade. The first response paper will encompass readings assigned during Weeks 3 – 5 (Development: Lessons from the classicals; and Modernization and Dependency). It will be due on **October 19**. The second response paper will encompass readings for Weeks 6 – 9 (Human & Post---Colonial Development; and Post---Development Perspectives). It will be due on **November 9**. Guidelines on these papers will follow once the semester starts.

Class Participation (20%):

Attendance in class is mandatory. Please come to class on time, having read and reflected on the readings, and ready to participate by contributing your ideas and questions. Time will be allocated in lecture sessions for Q&A and discussion, and the smaller seminar sessions during Weeks 5, 8, and 11 will be discussion---based. If you cannot attend any class, please inform the TAs.

Summary of Provisional Dates and Deadlines (note: deadlines will be finalized by the first week of class)

5 October 2018 / case study briefing meetings

15 October 2018 / finalization of case study groups

19 October 2018 / deadline for Response Paper 1 (1,000 words) 9 November 2018 / deadline for Response Paper 2 (1,000 words)

23 November 2018 / deadline for submitting case study proposal (1000 words) 31 December 2018 / deadline for final case study submission (3000 words approx.)

Late Work

Late assignments will lose one quarter of a point for each day of lateness. Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.

Technology in the Classroom

Use of technology within the classroom must be limited to only that which is necessary for note-taking or reading course material. Please disable Wi-Fi settings on laptops or tablets to minimize sources of distraction to you and others during class. Cell phones or other mobile devices should not be used inside the classroom.

References and Citation Styles

In your written work we will accept any standard citation style used consistently. You are encouraged to visit the Graduate Institute's Library where you will find information on training presentations for using bibliographic and referencing software such as EndNote and Zotero.

Week 1, 17 September 2018

Orientation Day: No Class

Week 2, 24 September 2018

Introduction: Situating Practice

Elyachar, Julia. "Best practices: Research, finance, and NGOs in Cairo." *American Ethnologist* 33.3 (2006): 413-- 426.

Week 3, 1 October 2018

Development: Lessons from the classicals

Readings TBA

Week 4, 8 October 2018

Modernization to dependency

Readings TBA

Week 5, 15 October 2018

Discussion groups based on readings for Weeks 3-4 (scheduled during class hours)

Week 6, 22 October 2018

Human and Postcolonial developments

Readings TBA

Week 7, 29 October 2018

Post-development Perspectives

Readings TBA

Week 8, 5 November 2018

Discussion groups based on readings for Weeks 6-7 (scheduled during class hours)

Week 9, 12 November 2018

Agrarian Transformations

Readings TBA

Week 10, 19 November 2018 *Forms*

and Relations of Employment

Readings TBA

Week 11, 26 November 2018

Discussion groups for Case Study Proposals (scheduled during and, if necessary, outside regular class hours)

Week 12, 3 December 2018

Case study preparation & group meetings (scheduled during and outside class hours, as needed)

Weeks 13, 10 December 2018

Class presentations (Forms and Relations of Employment)

Weeks 14, 17 December 2018

Class presentations (Agrarian Transformations)