

## Interdisciplinary Programmes

Academic year 2019-2020

## History, Theory and Practice of Development

### DE132 - Autumn - 6 ECTS

Monday 10h15 - 12h00

### 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 discourses and practices. Land, labour/employment, and environment are the key thematic foci of the course, which will also address questions such as how and why development emerged as a goal of policy and a tool of intervention, and how development ideas, policies and practices have been shaped by changing ideological, geo-/political, and other imperatives. Classes will involve a mix of lectures and small group meetings. The course will additionally enable students to address related topics of interest, including actual development practices, through papers or case studies.

### > PROFESSOR

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## Syllabus (Subject to Revision)

### Organization and evaluation

Classes will combine lectures, motivating the main questions and themes, and interactive discussion sessions in smaller groups. Evaluation will comprise three components:

- (1) **Weekly 200-word reading responses (cumulatively worth 25%)**
- (2) **Discussion group and class participation (25%)**

- (3) A final assignment (50%),** for which you have two options:
- a) **a group case study and presentation,** or
  - b) **an end-semester essay** which may be written individually or in pairs

**Reading Responses (25%) (deadlines: respective Friday midnight)**

The reading responses cover the readings assigned for Weeks 3-12 (excluding Week 7 when there is no class). They will not exceed 200 words, and should be submitted **no later than the Friday** following the respective class. Submission procedures and grade classification criteria will be announced at the introductory meeting and uploaded on Moodle.

**Discussion group and class participation (25%)**

Classes during Weeks 3-12 will comprise two parts—a 45-50 minutes 'lecture' session followed immediately by smaller discussion groups of up to 15 students each to enable us to process the readings and the 'lecture' in a more interactive setting. Active engagement and participation are important elements of the course. They will count for 25 per cent of the overall credit.

Attendance in class and discussions sessions is mandatory. Please come on time, having read and reflected on the readings, and ready to participate by contributing your ideas and questions. If you cannot attend any class, please inform the TAs in advance.

**A final assignment (50%),** for which you have two options:

**a) a group case study and presentation:**

This will be a collaborative project by groups comprising 3-4 students. The idea is to enable you to explore whether/what/how particular histories/theories/practices of development are applied/interpreted in an actual setting related to one of the two thematic areas of the course, i.e. **Land, labour, employment or Agrarian and environmental transformations**. You should expect the project to run for much of the duration of the course.

You will be expected to form your own groups and register them by **14 October**, indicating your thematic area and specifying your broad topic. Groups then have then until **11 November** to refine their topic and circulate a proposal of 1,000 words plus bibliography. These proposals will be discussed during **Week 10**. Case studies will be presented in class on **9 December**. Oral presentations will be accompanied by pre-circulated drafts (of about 2000 words) and slides. A short Q&A/discussion session will follow each individual presentation. The final report (not more than 5000 words) is due by **4 January** (midnight), 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.

- b) An end-semester essay** on one of two prompts that will be announced at the start of the semester. The essay may be written individually (2500 words max) or in pairs (4000 words max). We strongly encourage joint papers that can foster collaborative partnerships between students with similar

interests and complementary skill sets. Consultations during class hours on 16 December. Papers due by **4 January** (midnight).

### **Week 1 / 16 September / No class**

### **Week 2 / 23 September / Introduction: Situating Practice**

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

### **Week 3 / 30 September 30 / Land, labour, employment**

W.A. Lewis, 'Economic Development with Unlimited Supplies of Labour', *The Manchester School of Economic and Social Studies*, 22: 2, May 1954, pp. 139-40 (section 1) and 171-81 (sections 8-12).

Stephen Marglin, 'What do Bosses Do?' The Origins and Functions of Hierarchy in Modern Capitalism Production', *Review of Radical Political Economics*, 6: 2, July 1974, pp. 81-112.

Malcolm Harris, *Kids these Days: Human Capital and the Making of Millennials*, New York: Little Brown, 2017, Chapter 3, 'Work (Sucks)'.

### **Week 4 / 7 October / Agrarian and environmental transformations**

James Scott. *Seeing Like a State*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1998. Chapter 8 - Taming Nature: An Agriculture of Legibility and Simplicity.

James Fairhead and Melissa Leach. "False forest history, complicit social analysis: rethinking West African environmental narratives." *World Development* 23(6), 1995. 1023-1035.

### **Week 5 / 14 October / Transition to capitalism I**

V.I. Lenin, *The Development of Capitalism in Russia*, Chapter II ('The Differentiation of the Peasantry'), Section XIII ('Conclusions from Chapter II). 1899. Marxists.org

S.R Epstein, 'Rodney Hilton, Marxism and the Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism', *Past and Present*, 195 (supplement 2): 2007, pp. 261-89

### **Week 6 / 21 October / Transition to capitalism II**

Alexander Anievas and Kerem Nisancioglu, 'What's at Stake in the Transition Debate? Rethinking the Origins of Capitalism and the "Rise of the West"', *Millennium*, 42: 1, 2013, pp. 78-102.

David Harvey, 'The "New" Imperialism: Accumulation by Dispossession', *Socialist Register*, 40, 2004, pp. 73-76.

### **Week 7 / 28 October / Mid-semester break / No class**

### **Week 8 / 4 November / Decolonization, cold war, development**

Nils Gilman, *Mandarins of the Future: Modernization Theory in Cold War America*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 2003, Chapter 2, 'From the European Past to the American Present'.

John P. Leary, *A Cultural History of Underdevelopment: Latin America in the U.S. Imagination*, Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2016, Introduction, pp. 1-15.

### **Week 9 / 11 November / Human development and the practice of measurement**

Amartya Sen. *Development as Freedom*. 1999. Introduction & Chapter 1.

Sally Engle Merry. "Measuring the world: Indicators, human rights, and global governance." *Current Anthropology* 52(S3) 2011. S83-S95.

### **Week 10 / 18 November / Post-colonial development**

Edward W. Said. *Orientalism*. 1st Vintage Books ed. New York: Vintage Books. "Knowing the Oriental," 1979. pp.31-48.

Michel Foucault. "Governmentality." In *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality*. G. Burchell, C. Gordon, and P. Miller, eds. Pp. 87-104. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1991

Partha Chatterjee. *The Politics of the Governed: Reflections on Popular Politics in Most of the World*. New York: Columbia University Press. Chapter 3, "The Politics of the Governed." 2004. pp.53-64.

**Week 11 / 25 November / Sovereignty, development, dependence**

Samir Amin, *Unequal Development: An Essay on the Social Formations of Peripheral Capitalism*, Hassocks/Sussex: Harvester Press, 1978. pp. 203-14

Gregory Mann, *From Empires to NGOs in the West African Sahel: The Road to Nongovernmentality*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015, Chapter 5, 'Governing Famine'.

**Week 12 / 2 December 2 / Post-development and beyond**

James Ferguson. *The Anti-Politics Machine: Development, Depoliticization, and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Introduction.

Anand Pandian. Devoted to development: moral progress, ethical work and divine favor in South India. *Anthropological Theory* 8, 2008. 159-179.

**Week 13 / 9 December / Case study presentations, discussion, and wrap-up**

**Week 14 / 16 December / Consultations for final essays and case studies**