

Fall 2020
Graduate Seminar



Sociology of Development

Thursday 7:30 to 10 PM
Convenor: Manjusha Nair
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Office hours: by appointment

There is a renewed interest in “development,” prompted by the numerous movements and counter-movements that constitute globalization and the failure of the market interventions to “develop” societies. In this course, we will examine the emergence of Development in the latter half of the twentieth century and its re-emergence in the twenty-first century. What are the historical origins of the development idea and how do they represent the myriad of issues at work in the global South? How effectively can it survive/counter the critiques, specifically from the standpoint of the global South that has plagued development studies in general? What possibilities does it offer to scholars to pose new questions that stand at the intersection of globalization, political economy, and development? This course aims to provide students with an opportunity to learn about societal transformations in the global South.

In this seminar, you are expected to have a mature intellectual agenda, curiosity, and willingness to learn and unlearn. You are expected to:

- ❖ Come prepared with a list of questions that you will put forth to the author (As if she were present)
- ❖ Present a reading to the class in 15 minutes or so
- ❖ Contribute substantively to class discussions
- ❖ Write a book review of 1000 words of the recommended books provided in the syllabus,
- ❖ Write a good research paper by the end of the course (topic to be approved by the convener).

Grading will consist of presentations (20%), homework and participation (20%), book review (20%), and paper (40%).

The research paper should be —maximum 5000 words long—about a topic of your choice regarding development. It ideally should link some theoretical proposition to empirical observation. Please submit your one-paragraph topic statement by **September 18**. Please use my office hours for discussions of possible topics, problems, and solutions as soon as they occur to you. Deadline for the finished paper: **December 10, 2020**.

The book review is due on **November 15**. Visit <https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2015/03/27/essay-writing-academic-book-reviews> to learn more about writing a book review.

The following books have been ordered through the GMU Bookstore. The rest of the readings will be provided online.

Coronil, Fernando. *The magical state: Nature, money, and modernity in Venezuela*. University of Chicago Press, 1997.

Engerman, David C., Nils Gilman, Michael E. Latham, and Mark H. Haefele, eds. *Staging growth: Modernization, development, and the global cold war*. Univ of Massachusetts Press, 2003.

Ferguson, James. *The anti-politics machine: "development," depoliticization, and bureaucratic power in Lesotho*. U of Minnesota Press, 1994.

Galeano, Eduardo. *Open veins of Latin America: Five centuries of the pillage of a continent*. NYU Press, 1997.

Goldman, Michael. *Imperial nature: The World Bank and struggles for social justice in the age of globalization*. Yale University Press, 2005.

Gupta, Akhil. *Postcolonial developments: Agriculture in the making of modern India*. Duke University Press, 1998.

Hart, Gillian Patricia. *Disabling globalization: Places of power in post-apartheid South Africa*. Univ of California Press, 2002.

Heller, Patrick. *The labor of development: Workers and the transformation of capitalism in Kerala, India*. Cornell University Press, 1999.

Li, Huaiyin. *Village China under socialism and reform: a micro-history, 1948-2008*. Stanford University Press, 2009.

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt. *Friction: An ethnography of global connection*. Princeton University Press, 2011.

Class Schedule

August 27 Introduction

Required Movie before class: *A Touch of Sin* by Jia Zhangke (rent online, free 7-day trial in amazon)

Questions to keep in mind while watching: 1) What does the film say about China's globalization and development? 2) What does the film do that academic work cannot?



September 3

Interrogating Development

Required Reading:

McMichael, Philip. *Development and social change: A global perspective*. Sage Publications, 2016.

Recommended Readings:

So, Alvin Y. *Social change and development: Modernization, dependency and world-system theories*. Sage, 1990.

Escobar, Arturo. *Encountering development: The making and unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton University Press, 2011.

Shiva, Vandana. *Staying alive: Women, ecology, and development*. North Atlantic Books, 2016.

Portes, Alejandro. 1973. "Modernity and Development: A Critique." *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 1973, 8, 3(Fall): 247-279.

September 10

Development and modernity

Required Readings:

Scott, David. "Colonial governmentality." *Anthropologies of modernity: Foucault, governmentality, and life politics* (2005): 23-49.

Alatas, Hussein. *The Myth of the Lazy Native: A Study of the Image of the Malays, Filipinos and Javanese from the 16th to the 20th Century and Its Function in the Ideology of Colonial Capitalism*. Psychology Press, 1977.

Recommended Readings:

Fabian, Johannes. *Time and the other: How anthropology makes its object*. Columbia University Press, 2014.

Ludden, David. "Development regimes in South Asia: history and the governance conundrum." *Economic and Political Weekly* (2005): 4042-4051.

Said, Edward W. *Orientalism*. Vintage, 1979.

Mitchell, Timothy. *Colonising Egypt*: Univ of California Press, 1991.

Scott, David. "Colonial governmentality." *Anthropologies of modernity: Foucault, governmentality, and life politics* (2005): 23-49.

Cohn, Bernard S. *Colonialism and its forms of knowledge: The British in India*. Princeton University Press, 1996.

September 17

Development and Underdevelopment

Required Readings:

Galeano, Eduardo. *Open veins of Latin America: Five centuries of the pillage of a continent*. NYU Press, 1997.

Amin, Samir. "Underdevelopment and dependence in Black Africa—origins and contemporary forms." *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 10, no. 4 (1972): 503-524.

Recommended Readings:

Rodney, Walter. *How Europe underdeveloped Africa*. Verso Trade, 2018.

Frank, Andre Gunder. *Latin America and Underdevelopment*. NYU Press, 1970.

Frank, Andre Gunder. *The development of underdevelopment*. Boston: New England Free Press, 1966.

September 24

Postcolonial Agrarian Development

Required Readings:

Gupta, Akhil. *Postcolonial developments: Agriculture in the making of modern India*. Duke University Press, 1998.

Recommended Readings:

Li, Tania Murray. *The will to improve: Governmentality, development, and the practice of politics*. Duke University Press, 2007.

Foucault, Michel. *The Foucault effect: Studies in governmentality*. University of Chicago Press, 1991.

Scott, James C. *Seeing like a state: How certain schemes to improve the human condition have failed*. Yale University Press, 1998.

Wiser, Charlotte Melina Viall, Charlotte Viall Wiser, and William Henricks Wiser. *Behind mud walls, 1930-1960*. Univ of California Press, 1971.

Dube, S. C. (1956). *Some problems of communication in rural community development*. Cornell University India program, report of February 9, 1956. [Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University.

October 1

Development through Commodities

Required Reading:

Coronil, Fernando. *The magical state: Nature, money, and modernity in Venezuela*. University of Chicago Press, 1997.

Recommended Readings:

Scott, David. *Conscripts of modernity: The tragedy of colonial enlightenment*. Duke University Press, 2004.
Buck-Morss, Susan. *Hegel, Haiti, and universal history*. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009.
Babb, Sarah. *Managing Mexico: Economists from Nationalism to Neoliberalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004.

October 8

Socialist Developments: China

Required Readings:

Li, Huaiyin. *Village China under socialism and reform: a micro-history, 1948-2008*. Stanford University Press, 2009.
Buck-Morss, Susan. *Dreamworld and catastrophe: the passing of mass utopia in East and West*. MIT press, 2002. Selections

Recommended Readings:

Perry, E. J. (2001). Challenging the mandate of heaven: popular protest in modern China. *Critical Asian Studies*, 33(2), 163-180.
Gao, M. C. (1999). *Gao village: rural life in modern China*: University of Hawaii Press.
Scott, J. C. (1976). The moral economy of the peasant: Subsistence and rebellion in Southeast Asia. *Yale UP (New Haven)*.
Chan, Anita, Richard Madsen, and Jonathan Unger. *Chen village: Revolution to globalization*. Univ of California Press, 2009.

October 15

Labor and Development: Kerala

Required Readings:

Heller, Patrick. *The labor of development: Workers and the transformation of capitalism in Kerala, India*. Cornell University Press, 1999.
Portes, Alejandro. 1973. "Modernity and Development: A Critique." *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 1973, 8, 3(Fall): 247-279.

Recommended Readings:

Chibber, Vivek. *Locked in place: State-building and late industrialization in India*. Princeton University Press, 2003.
Evans, Peter B. *Embedded autonomy: States and industrial transformation*. Princeton University Press, 2012.

October 22

Cold War Development

Required Readings:

Engerman, David C., Nils Gilman, Michael E. Latham, and Mark H. Haefele, eds. *Staging growth: Modernization, development, and the global cold war*. Univ of Massachusetts Press, 2003.
Friedmann, Harriet. "The political economy of food: the rise and fall of the postwar international food order." *American journal of sociology* 88 (1982): S248-S286.

Recommended Readings:

McMichael, Philip, ed. *Food and Agrarian Orders in the World-economy*. No. 160. Greenwood Publishing Group, 1995.
Gilman, Nils. *Mandarins of the future: Modernization theory in Cold War America*. JHU Press, 2003.
Cueto, Marcos, ed. *Missionaries of science: the Rockefeller foundation and Latin America*. Indiana University Press, 1994.

October 29

World Bank Development

Required Reading:

Goldman, Michael. *Imperial nature: The World Bank and struggles for social justice in the age of globalization*. Yale University Press, 2005.
Viterna, Jocelyn, and Cassandra Robertson. "New directions for the sociology of development." *Annual Review of Sociology* 41 (2015): 243-269.

Recommended Readings:

Kumar, Amitava, ed. *World Bank Literature*. U of Minnesota Press, 2003.
Jamison, Andrew. *The making of green knowledge: Environmental politics and cultural transformation*. Cambridge University Press, 2001. Fox, Jonathan A., Jonathan A. Fox, and Lloyd David Brown, eds. *The struggle for accountability: The World Bank, NGOs, and grassroots movements*. MIT press, 1998.

November 5

The De-politics of Development

Required Readings:

Ferguson, James. *The anti-politics machine: "development," depoliticization, and bureaucratic power in Lesotho*. U of Minnesota Press, 1994.
Diouf, Mamadou. "Senegalese development: from mass mobilization to technocratic elitism." *International Development and the Social Sciences: Essays on the History and Politics of Knowledge* (1997): 291-319.

Recommended Readings:

Ferguson, James. *Global shadows: Africa in the neoliberal world order*. Duke University Press, 2006.
Comaroff, Jean, and John L. Comaroff, eds. *Millennial capitalism and the culture of neoliberalism*. Duke University Press, 2001.

November 12

Ethnographies of Economy and Power

Required Readings:

Hart, Gillian Patricia. *Disabling globalization: Places of power in post-apartheid South Africa*. Univ of California Press, 2002.

Hart, Gillian. "Geography and development: critical ethnographies." *Progress in Human Geography* 28, no. 1 (2004): 91-100.

Recommended Readings:

Smith, Neil. *Uneven Development: Nature, Capital and the Production of Space*. Oxford: Oxford University Press,

Livingston, Julie. *Self-devouring Growth: A Planetary Parable as Told from Southern Africa*. Duke University Press, 2019.

November 19

Global Ethnographies of Connection

Required Readings:

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt. *Friction: An ethnography of global connection*. Princeton University Press, 2011.

Recommended Readings:

Roy, Ananya, Genevieve Negrón-Gonzales, Kweku Opoku-Agyemang, and Clare Talwalker. *Encountering poverty: Thinking and acting in an unequal world*. Univ of California Press, 2016.

Burawoy, Michael, Joseph A. Blum, Sheba George, Zsuzsa Gille, and Millie Thayer. *Global ethnography: Forces, connections, and imaginations in a postmodern world*. Univ of California Press, 2000.

December 3

Conclusion

Discussing your papers