Department of Geography Fall 2018

Geography of Development - 01:450:363

Dr. Paul O'Keefe

Mon/Wed 1:40-3pm, BRR-5109 (Business School), Livingston Campus

Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12pm-1pm, and by appointment

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This course satisfies a 21st Century Challenges (21C) requirement in the SAS Core Curriculum. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to analyze issues of social justice across local and global contexts.

COURSE OUTLINE

This course examines the multi-faceted process of social, cultural and political-economic change commonly known as “development.” We will explore a number of theories that claim to explain how and where development occurs. We will ask why, for example, certain regions of the world collectively known as “developing countries” or “the third world” have come to experience conditions of crushing poverty while other areas have prospered. How should we define development? Is it something that can be measured objectively? Are there universal standards of development (do all people have rights to have certain basic needs met?), or is development better understood as a relative concept, contingent upon historical and geographical circumstances? What is the relationship between rich countries and poor, and how have links between different parts of the world changed over time? Who is it, exactly, that brokers the terms of that relationship? What kinds of institutions are involved in the process of development, and what ideas motivate their actions? How have these ideas influenced approaches to entrenched problems such as food shortages, the spread of disease, and environmental degradation? How successful have development programs been in serving the needs of people from different backgrounds marked by gender, ethnicity, caste, class or nationality? Why, in short, have efforts to bring about improvements in the general human condition been so uneven and incomplete?

READINGS

This is a reading-intensive course. You are expected to keep up with weekly readings and be prepared to ask questions and comment on readings in class. This is a central part of your participation grade, which may be complemented by pop-quizzes and in-class exercises. Over the semester, we will read a mix of academic, popular, and theoretical texts. The theoretical readings (e.g., Adam Smith, Karl Marx) are dense, take time, and may require that you read them multiple times. Although these are demanding materials, you will find that spending the necessary time to understand them will pay off since we return to these same
theories throughout the semester. Additional readings for the course are available on the course website at - https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal

**GRADING & ASSIGNMENTS**

Grades for this course will be weighted as follows:

- **Attendance & Participation** 15%
- **Mid-Term Exam** 25%
- **Course Essay** 25%
- **Final Exam** 35%
- **Extra Credit (2%)**

**Attendance & Participation**

Attendance and participation are compulsory and constitute 15% of your final grade. Participation is assessed through your in-class questions and comments, completion of in-class quizzes and exercises, small group work, and office hour visits. If you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email will automatically be sent to me. If you do not do this, your absence will be considered unapproved.

**Mid-Term Exam**

The mid-term exam (25% of your overall grade) is scheduled for October 16th. The previous class meeting (October 14th) will be run as a review session.

**Course Essay**

Due on December 5th, submit a digital copy via Sakai. This is an analytical essay that you will use to demonstrate your ability to critically analyze issues of social justice related to a pre-approved topic or debate related to the geography of development. The essay should be approximately 2,000 words long.

Essay questions and instructions will be distributed in class. Essays must be submitted digitally and uploaded via Sakai. Late essays will lose one letter grade (A->B) for each week they are submitted after the deadline. Essays will not be accepted after the last day of class.

**Final Exam**

The final exam (35% of your grade) is on December 19th from 8-11AM. Make-up exams cannot be arranged except in cases of a University-approved emergency.
**Extra Credit**

Extra credit (up to 4% of your grade) may be obtained by attending pre-approved, development oriented extra-curricular events scheduled throughout the term. To obtain extra credit, you must prepare: (1) a 1-page summary of the event; and (2) a list of 4-5 critical questions prompted by the event. This option may be exercised only once per student during the term.

**PLAGIARISM**

Rutgers University views plagiarism as a very serious offense. Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly. Some common examples of plagiarism include copying something word for word (from an oral, printed, or electronic source) without proper attribution, paraphrasing without proper attribution, or submitting a purchased, downloaded, or one’s own already-submitted paper. If you are unsure how to cite or acknowledge someone else’s words or ideas, please ask. Cases of plagiarism will be pursued following university regulations, which can be found at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu

**TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

Cell phones and all other non-note-taking technological devices must be turned off during class out of respect for the instructor and fellow students.

**DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with me about these issues at the beginning of the term. **01:450:343**

**Class Schedule & Reading List**

Week 1 – COURSE INTRODUCTION

(September 5)

Week 2 – THE OBJECT OF DEVELOPMENT & THE END OF POVERTY?

(September 10, 12)

Readings:


In-class video: Selections from The End of Poverty? (2009)

Part 1 THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

Week 3 – Classical theories of capitalist “d”evelopment

(September 17, 19)

Readings:


Marx, Karl & Frederick Engels. 1848. Preamble and Chapters I-II from The Communist Manifesto.

Week 4 – Imperialism & the Geography of International Capital

(September 24, 26)

Readings:


Lenin, Vladimir I. 1916. Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism, Chapters I & X

Optional additional reading:

Week 5 – State, Market and Civil Society

(October 1, 3)

Readings:


Polanyi, Karl. 2001. The Great Transformation, Ch. 6, Ch. 11, Ch. 12, Ch. 13 up to paragraph where footnote 2 is found, and select pages from Chapter 21.

In-class video: Selections from Inside the Meltdown (2009)

Week 6 – Decolonization and the birth of “D”evelopment

(October 8, 10)

Readings:


Additional optional reading:

Week 7 – MID-TERM EXAM

October 15: Mid-Term Review October 17: In-class Mid-Term
PART II – “D”EVELOPMENT AS A POST-WAR INTERNATIONAL PROJECT: A HISTORY OF CHANGING THEORIES AND PRACTICES

Week 8 – The 1950s-1970s: From Modernization to Basic Needs

(October 22, 24)

Readings:


Additional background reading:


Week 9 – The Neoliberal Counter-Revolution

(October 29, October 31)


PART III – ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY

Week 10 – Natural Disasters and Development
(November 5, 7)

Readings:
Selections from Wisner et al. 2004. At Risk.

Weeks 11 & 12 – Climate Change & Development
(November 12, 14, 19)

Readings:
Huq, S and Reid, H. 2009 Mainstreaming Adaptation in Development

Week 13 – Land Titling and Slum Improvement
(November 26, 28)

Week 14 – New Geographies of Development

(December 3, 5)


******* Course Essay Due on December 5th via Sakai*******

Week 15 – COURSE WRAP-UP AND EXAM REVIEW

(December 10)

**FINAL EXAM – December 19, 8AM**