

AANT 340 – Topics in Ethnology Fall 2011
Culture and Economy in a Globalizing World
T/TH 2:45PM – 4:05PM, BA 216

Instructor: Sarah Taylor
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Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:00pm-2:00pm, and 4:30pm-5:00pm
Thursday, 1:00pm-2:00pm, and 4:30pm-5:00pm or by appointment

Course Description:

This course will focus on the relationship between culture and economy in the context of international aid and development, which are perhaps the most prevalent forces driving the globalization process. Amartya Sen famously defined development as “a process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy” (1995:3), while Arturo Escobar calls it (among other things) “a growing will to transform drastically two-thirds of the world in pursuit of the goal of material prosperity and economic progress” (1995:4).

Through discussions of readings from both critical and complimentary views of development, we will learn about the history of international aid and anthropology’s complicated engagement with it. The questions that will underpin our discussions of the history, politics, and critiques of development are: What cultural factors influence this interaction and dictate its success or failure, and how do existing economic strategies correspond with the ultimate goal of development?

Case studies will be used to help students conceive of the role of social science in development, both as practitioners and as academics. In each case study we will find practical and ethical dilemmas, and will attempt to understand how an anthropological lens could have benefited the situation.

Course Materials:

Required Texts:

Edelman, Marc and Angelique Haugerud, eds.

2005 The Anthropology of Development and Globalization: From Classical Political Economy to Contemporary Neoliberalism. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

McMichael, Philip

2008 Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective. 4th Ed. Los Angeles: Pine Forge Press.

Additional readings will be available on BlackBoard.

Course Requirements:

500 possible points:

1. Participation (100 points)
2. Discussion Facilitation (50 points)
3. Midterm (150 points)
4. Project (200 points)
 - Project Proposal (25)
 - Annotated Bibliography (50)
 - Project Workshop (25)
 - Final Report (100)

Grading Scale:

- 90%-100% = A
- 80%-89% = B
- 70%-79% = C
- 60%-69% = D
- 59% or less = F

1. Participation:

This class will consist of both lecture and seminar discussions. Generally, I will spend Tuesday's class lecturing on the week's topic to give us an introduction and overview. Thursday's class will be spent discussing the readings. This discussion will be led primarily by the facilitators, but the class as a whole will be expected to participate in this discussion. The assigned readings should be completed before class each week so that you can come to the discussion prepared. There are not written summaries of the readings assigned, however you are expected to organize your thoughts on the readings before coming to class. If it seems that the group is having difficulty engaging a particular topic I will give a pop quiz at my discretion. Points will count toward your participation grade. Should you miss a class, you will be responsible for the material covered. There are three in-class assignments listed on the schedule. If you have an excused absence on one of those days please contact me to discuss a make-up.

2. Discussion Facilitation:

Each student will be responsible for leading one discussion of the readings on Thursdays. This will be done as a group (approximately 4 students per week), and you will be expected to organize a handout and a plan for the discussion among the group. Assignments will be made the second week of class. Remember, this is not a presentation, per se, and you are not expected to prepare a lecture. Instead, this is a way to present talking points and raise questions in order to engage your fellow students in a lively and productive discussion. Each student facilitator will submit an essay that synthesizes the week's readings. Keep in mind, this should not be simply a summary of the readings, but instead a discussion of how they fit (or do not fit) together to present the week's topic. Each summary should be approximately 3 pages (double-spaced).

3. Midterm:

The midterm will be a take home exam, consisting of essays and short answer questions. You will have a variety of essay questions to choose from.

4. Student Project:

This project consists of four parts, all of which are due at different times throughout the semester and each of which are weighted differently. Taken as a whole, this project will represent a synthesis of the knowledge you gain through the study of a specific global commodity or development strategy. We will discuss this project in depth a few weeks into the course.

Project Proposal:

The Project Proposal consists of a 4-5 page (double-spaced) paper that introduces your topic and explains why it is useful or relevant. You will be expected to submit a preliminary bibliography with your proposal (not included in the page requirement). This can consist of as many references as you would like, however it is in your best interest to submit a proposal based on a preliminary bibliography that is well developed. The more research you do at this point, the easier the next portion of the assignment will be!

Annotated Bibliography:

An annotated bibliography consists of a brief summary of the work (be it an article, a book chapter, an edited volume, or a monograph) that allows you to gain an understanding of the main points. It also serves as a tool to remind you of the content of a particular work so that you can quickly determine if it will be of use to you at a later time. For this assignment you are expected to create an annotated bibliography of at least ten (10) sources that you will use for your final project. There is not minimum length for the annotations; however they must each contain the following information: Topic, Main argument, Keywords, Relevance to your project, Critique. This assignment will be submitted via email so that I can create a complete annotated bibliography for distribution to the class. Please see handout for additional information.

Project Workshop:

Each student will have a chance to present their project and receive feedback from their classmates. While students will not be familiar with each of the specific topics presented during workshops, we will all be familiar with the methodologies and broad concepts discussed. Students will take notes while workshop presenters are discussing their projects, and will submit evaluations of each project so that the presenters have the feedback for use later. It is expected that your research project is at an advanced stage at the time of your workshop. This will allow you to make use of the suggestions offered and complete your final project. Each student will prepare handouts for the class outlining the major points of your project.

Final Report:

The final report represents a culmination of your research on the chosen topic. The paper will be 10-15 pages in length, not including references, notes, and appendices. When you submit your final report you should include as appendices the graded project proposal, annotated bibliography, and notes from the project workshop. For specific information about the report format and requirements please see the Writing Guidelines handout.

Course Schedule:				
Date	Topic	Assignments	Reading	Notes
Tue. 8/30	Introducing Development and Globalization		N/A	
Thur. 9/01		READ SYLLABUS	ADG: Introduction (pp. 1-21)	
Tue. 9/06	Introducing Development and Globalization		ADG: Introduction (pp. 21-52)	
Thur. 9/08			DASC: 1. Development and Globalization	
Tue. 9/13	Anthropology and Development in a Historical Perspective		DASC: 2. Instituting the Development Project	
Thur. 9/15			ADG: I. Classical Foundations and Debates	Intro: all, T1:1, T2:2, T3:3, T4:4
Tue. 9/20	Development in Theory and Practice		DASC: 3. The Development Project	
Thur. 9/22		DEFINING DEVELOPMENT	ADG: II. What is Development?	Intro: all, T1:5, T2:6, T3:7, T4:Break
Tue. 9/27	Global Commodities		Project Discussion	
Thur. 9/29			No Class	

Date	Topic	Assignments	Reading	Notes
Tue. 10/04	Globalization	PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE	DASC: 4. Globalizing National Economy	
Thur. 10/06			ADG: III. From Development to Globalization	Intro: all, T1:8, T2:9, T3:10, T4:11
Tue. 10/11	Economic Flows		DASC: 5. Demise of the Third World	
Thur. 10/13		MADE IN AMERICA	ADG: IV. Consumption, Markets, and Culture	Intro: all, T1:12, T2:13, T3:14, T4:15, ST:16
Tue. 10/18	Midterm		Review Discussion	
Thur. 10/20			Take Home Essay Midterm	
Tue. 10/25	Women and Development	MIDTERM DUE	DASC: 6. Instituting the Globalization Project	
Thur. 10/27			ADG: V. Gender, Work, and Networks	Intro: all, T1:17, T2:18, T3:Break, T4:19
Tue. 11/01	The Political Ecology of Development		DASC: 7. The Globalization Project in Practice	
Thur. 11/03			ADG: VI. Nature, Environment, and Biotechnology	Intro: all, T1:20, T2: Break, T3:21, T4:22
Tue. 11/08	Who does Development?		ADG; VII. Inside Development Institutions	Intro: all, T1: Break, T2:23, T3:24, T4:25
Thur. 11/10		CASE STUDIES	Discussion	
Tue. 11/15	Toward an alternative	ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE	DASC: 8. Global Development and Its Counter-movements	
Thur. 11/17			No Class	
Tue. 11/22	Alternative Development Strategies		ADG: VIII. Development Alternatives	Intro: all, ST:26, T1:27, T2:28, T3:29, T4:31
Thur. 11/24			No Class	
Tue. 11/29	Conclusions		DASC: 9. Development for What?	

Thur. 12/01		PROJECT WORKSHOP	N/A	
Date	Topic	Assignments	Reading	Notes
Tue. 12/06	Conclusions	PROJECT WORKSHOP	N/A	
Thur. 12/08			Reading Day (no class)	
Thur. 12/15		FINAL PROJECT DUE	Final Exam	1:00pm to 3:00pm

Classroom Policies and Etiquette:

- This class will emphasize discussion, participation, and sharing of different perspectives. While dissent from the prevailing notions presented in the readings and class discussions is accepted (and even encouraged!), it must be expressed in a manner respectful to the authors we are reading and to other members of the class.
- No electronic devices are necessary for successful participation in class discussion, nor are they permitted. Please do not text, type, talk, etc...during the class unless it pertains to the week's topic and is something you would like to discuss with the class as a whole.
- This class runs from 2:45pm to 4:05pm. This means that the professor and/or the student facilitators of the week's discussion are entitled to use the entire class time to present information, and it is therefore unacceptable for students to interrupt this discussion by shuffling papers, packing book bags, and other similar disruptive activities associated with the end of class before the class is adjourned.
- Plagiarism is the use of another person's thoughts, ideas, and language without giving proper credit to the author. This is a grave breach of academic ethics and is, in effect, intellectual theft. **All cases of plagiarism in this class will be dealt with in strict accordance with university policy.** Other instances of academic dishonesty include cheating, multiple submission, forgery, sabotage, falsification, unauthorized collaboration, and bribery. It is the student's responsibility to know and to adhere to appropriate standards of academic integrity. The university policy on academic dishonesty can be found here:

http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html

- Lastly, your success in this class the main objective for the semester. Should you experience unexpected academic, personal, or work related issues that affect your participation in the class please contact me right away. I will not always be able to accommodate you; however the earlier you discuss the situation with me the more likely I will be able to assist.