Purpose of the Course

This course will introduce you to the knowledge and skills required to obtain a theoretical understanding of the sociology of development. Social change and development in “Third World,” “underdeveloped,” or “developing” societies is the geographical focus of this course. We will consider what development means, who benefit from it, why it occurs or fails to occur, and how to measure it. We will explore the state of developing countries in their historical relations to other countries, institutions, and actors. We will examine development through various lenses: economy, politics, society, population, environment, and globalization. The purpose is to allow you to engage with main topics in development and the large number of competing paradigms that purport to explain problems, puzzles, and crises encountered by developing societies.

Upon completion of this course, you are expected to: (1) grasp the major literature on development; (2) evaluate the interaction between social, economic, and political institutions; (3) identify ways and means by which development theory, research and policy from different disciplinary and sectoral perspectives can be fruitfully integrated; (4) incorporate evidence from primary, secondary and Web-based sources, and clearly communicate their ideas to different types of audiences; and (5) articulate frameworks that can be used in building your own models of development.

Rules of the Road

1. We start and end class on time.
2. Turn off cell phones, pagers, and beepers.
3. Check your email account daily.
4. Check the course Web page daily: check the Daily Assignments page. Some parts of the assignment are ONLY listed on the Web page. Your grades for the daily questions, in-class tests, group presentations and research paper/proposal will be posted on the course Web page.
5. Bring the reading materials with you.
**Honor Code**

The University Honor Code will be in effect through all exams, quizzes, and written assignments. Please read carefully the provisions of the Honor Code, make certain you understand and adhere to them, and ask me to clarify any questions you have regarding the Code. The Code is a long and valuable tradition at UNC – protect it! You will find a link to the Code on our course Web page.

**Texts**


These four books are required reading for the course. They can be purchased at the Student Bookstore. I select them deliberately and believe them to be the best introductory texts available in the field of development. The first book provides a wide range of interesting current articles from some of the most respected magazines, newspapers, and journals. Being exceptionally accessible and concise, the second book is the most widely adopted textbook on development. It provides a world-historical perspective that situates globalization in postwar development project and has a series of useful case studies. The third book is among the best sociological surveys of development theory to date. The last one was written by a Westerner who had lived in a remote “developing” region for seventeen years. It witnesses how the “development project” has been profoundly reshaping everything in the Ladakha community.

Throughout this course, we will read some other articles and book chapters, which are available through the course Web page.

Recommended readings: If you get hooked on the compelling drama of global development, there is a treasure trove of classic books to ponder. Below is the list of my beloved books (we will read some chapters from these books).


**Requirements**

Class participation and active learning is vital to the success in this course. Participation includes attending class regularly, and doing the readings and assignments prior to class. You are expected to keep up with the reading, to think critically at all times, to participate in group-discussions, and to ask and answer questions. Class discussion is encouraged. Each class has a reading question. You should answer the question within one page and turn it in before class starts.

There will be four in-class tests. The tests will be based on the readings. You need to turn in a research paper or proposal, with the length of around 8-10 typed, double-spaced pages (excluding references, which are required, however), by the end of this semester. The paper or proposal can be theory-based or policy-oriented. You can choose a specific developing society or elaborate a topic faced by developing societies in common. You should not simply pull together simple facts or descriptions. You own thoughts and opinion are required. You can work on the paper individually, or in pairs.

You will also need to do a group presentation, focusing on a particular developing country or region, during the second part of the course. Everybody is required to present. Each group is comprised of four students. You may use any means to support your presentation. Group presentation will last for 20 minutes, including 5 minutes of Q&A. Each group should produce two multiple-choice questions (don’t let the class know!) and I will select some for the final exam. The suggested focus areas are: China/Taiwan, North/South Korea, Malaysia, Iran, India, Brazil, Argentina, Ethiopia, South Africa, Botswana, Czech, and Russia. Group will be assigned in class. Very deep or original analysis is not required; just basic introduction (current situation and history) and initial thoughts are fine.
**Components of your grade**

Daily reading questions     20%
Group presentation         10%
First in-class test         10%
Second in-class test        10%
Third in-class test         10%
Final exam                  20%
Research paper or proposal  20%
Total                       100%

**Grading Scale**

I do not grade on a curve. I use a scale with 10-point intervals, modified occasionally to correct for tests/assignments that are too difficult. At the end of the term, you will receive a letter grade, based on the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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DAILY ASSIGNMENTS

Aug 31 Wed: What is It About?

Sep 2 Fri: Learning “Development” from Ladakh
Film: Ancient Futures: Learning from Ladakh.

Sep 5 Mon: What Does “Ladakh” Tell Us?
Reading Question: What does “Ladakh” tell you?

Sep 7 Wed: What is Development? I
Reading Question: What common beliefs do these authors share?

Sep 9 Fri: What is Development? II
Reading Question: What are the essential elements of development?

Sep 12 Mon: The Colonial Roots of Development
Reading Question: What is the relationship between colonization and development?

Sep 14 Wed: The Development Project and Post-Colonial Societies
McMichael, Philip. 2004. “Chapter 1: Instituting the Development Project” in

Reading Question: What was the historical context in which the development project arose?

Sep 16 Fri: The Development Project: International Dimensions

Reading Question: What constituted the development project?

Sep 19 Mon: First In-class Test

Sep 21 Wed: Classical Foundations of Development Theory


Reading Question: Summarize the main views of development of these four classical theorists.
Sep 23 Fri: The Rise and Fall of Development Theory  
Reading Question: What have been the main debates about development theory?

Sep 26 Mon: Theories of Development: Modernization I  
Reading Question: What are the main theoretical assumptions of the modernization theory?

Sep 28 Wed: Theories of Development: Modernization II  
Reading Question: What do the new modernization theorists do to save the modernization school?

Sep 30 Fri: Theories of Development: Dependency I  
Reading Question: What are the similarities and differences between the modernization theory and the dependency theory?

Oct 3 Mon: Theories of Development: Dependency II  
Reading Question: What are the powers of the new dependency theories?

Oct 5 Wed: Theories of Development: World-Systems I  
Reading Question: Compare the world-systems perspective with the dependency theory.
Oct 7 Fri: Theories of Development: World-Systems II
Reading Question: What are the main criticisms of the world-systems perspective?

Oct 10 Mon: Theories of Development: Economics of Growth and Development

Oct 12 Wed: University Day. No Class

Oct 14 Fri: No Class

Oct 17 Mon: Theories of Development: Postmodernism

Oct 19 Wed: Second In-class Test

Oct 21 Fri: Fall Break. No Class

Oct 24 Mon: Measuring Development

Oct 26 Wed: Poverty and Development

Oct 28 Fri: Does Development Matter?
Press.
Film: Paradise with Side Effects.

Oct 31 Mon: Why Aren’t Countries Rich?

Nov 2 Wed: From National Development to World Development

Nov 4 Fri: From Development to Globalization

Nov 7 Mon: Empires and Global Pax
Nov 9 Wed: Creative Destruction or Destructive Creation: Globalization and Culture I

Nov 11 Fri: Creative Destruction or Destructive Creation: Globalization and Culture II
Nov 14 Mon: Third In-class Test

Nov 16 Wed: Debt and Developing Societies

Nov 18 Fri: Foreign Aid and Development

Nov 21 Mon: Investment and Development

Nov 23 Wed: “Global Scapegoat Number One”: IMF and the World Bank
Nov 25 Fri: Thanksgiving. No Class


Dec 2 Fri: The Third Wave: Democratization of Developing Societies


Dec 5 Mon: Sustainable Development: Population, Resources, and the Environment
Daly; yanjiang valuing earth

Dec 7 Wed: Course Wrap-up