

INTRODUCTION TO DEVELOPMENT ANTHROPOLOGY

Course Syllabus

Time and venue: Monday, 14.10, r. 2/202 and Wednesday, 14.10, r. 1/311

Instructor: Dr. Emil Nasritdinov (Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 12.30-14.30) emilzn@gmail.com

Course abstract

The development effort has been going on a global scale for more than half a century by now involving the governments of developed and developing nations, bilateral and multilateral institutions, international and local non-governmental organizations, and local communities in the attempt to improve the living conditions of people in the less fortunate corners of the world. The development narrative is now full of stories of success and failure. Many studies have been carried out on the analysis of development initiative and one of the main reasons of failures is seen in the standardized universal approach and projects that do not take into account the uniqueness of local cultural context. Anthropologists arrive at the scene as experts with the knowledge of local communities and local traditions. What makes such knowledge useful and how can anthropologists engage successfully in helping communities improve their lives and solve their problems are the main questions of this course.

This course will introduce students to the field of development and to the role that anthropologists play in it. It will look at the history of development effort and evolution of its concept and will analyze major theories of development. It will review major directions of the development work, such as participatory development, use of indigenous knowledge, micro-credit schemes, natural and cultural resources management, politics of development, etc. It will introduce students to the nature of development projects and main principles of working with the communities, donors and local governments. Finally, this course will introduce students to the development discourse in the context of Central Asia. Currently, Kyrgyzstan, due to favorable political climate, large numbers of international and local development organizations and thousands of realized development initiatives, can be seen almost like a development lab of Central Asia. Guest lecturers from development organizations will be invited. All in all, this course will be essential for anthropology students thinking of a career in applied anthropology and interested in the contemporary issues of developing nations.

Assignments

Attendance = 10%

Participation = 20%

Short analysis paper (10%) and presentation (10%) = 20%

2 online assignments x 5% each = 10%

Mid-term exam = 20%

Final Exam = 20%

Attendance

If you don't miss classes, you automatically receive 10% for attendance. For each class missed without a reason - you will lose 2% of your grade. If you miss 4 classes without a reason - you automatically receive X for the course and we will see each other next year again. If you are sick you should inform our office manager before the class and then bring the note from your doctor. Without a call to the office manager and without a note, your absence will not be excused.

Participation

Participation is the discussion of readings. There will be 12 seminar classes where we will discuss texts. Questions for readings will be posted online at the e-course system. For each class you will receive 2% if you participate and give evidence that you have read the text. If the majority of class is not prepared, we cancel the class and appoint a make-up class. In some classes we will also have individual and group exercises, which will also count towards your participation.

Short paper and presentation

At the beginning of the course, two students will select a specific topic from the list and write a short paper (5 pages each student) based on additional readings. You will then make a short (10-15 minutes) joint presentation to the class. You should submit your paper at the same day when you make your presentation. All submissions including your power-point presentation should be submitted online at the e-course system. This is the only written submission you have to do in the entire semester, so late submissions will not be accepted, you will lose 10%. Similarly, if you do not make presentation on the day when it is scheduled, you

will not be given a second chance to do it and you will also lose 10%. On the day of your presentation you should come to class early and have it ready before class starts.

Schedule of student presentations (pick one)

1. Mon, Sep 12 – Modernization theory
2. Wed, Sep 14 – Dependency theory
3. Wed, Sep 21 – Human development and Millennium Development Goals
4. Wed, Sep 28 – Culture and development
5. Wed, Oct 5 – Post-development
6. Wed, Oct 26 – NGOs and development
7. Wed, Nov 2 – Gender and development
8. Thu, Nov 14 – Community participation in development
9. Thu, Nov 21 – Sustainable development
10. Thu, Nov 18 – Religious perspective on development

Online assignments at the e-course system

There will be two assignments, which you will have to submit online at the e-course system at the end of the first and third quarter of the course.

Guest lectures

Nearer to the end of semester we will invite representatives of various development organizations to talk to you about the development work they do in Kyrgyzstan. You are expected to be active during their presentations and ask questions. They are your potential employers in the future; so it is a good chance to make impression.

Midterm and final exams

You will have two exams this semester: one in the middle to cover the first half of the course material and one in the end to cover the second half. There will be two-three essay questions and several short questions to work on in class. All questions will be based on readings and lecture materials. Questions for both exams will be posted each week at the moodle e-course system.

Readings for the course

You have to borrow a course reader at the department and return it back when the course is finished. You will not be given a final grade until you return the reader. So, don't lose it or you will have to make another copy. The reader is compiled from chapters of the following books:

- Black, M. (2007) The No-Nonsense Guide to International Development, New Internationalist Publications
Dichter, T.W. (2003) Despite Good Intentions: Why Development Assistance to the Third World Has Failed, University of Massachusetts Press
Elliott, J. (2006) An Introduction to Sustainable Development, Routledge
Isbister, J. (2001) Promises Not Kept: The Betrayal of Social Change in the Third World, Kumarian Press
Mannan, M.A. (1989) Economic Development and Social Peace in Islam, Ta-Ha Publishers
Momsen, J. (2010) Gender and Development, Routledge
Sachs, J.D. (2005) The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities of Our Time, Penguin Books

Additional course materials will be available at the Moodle system of the university available at: e-course.auca.kg . Instructions on how to use the system and enrollment key for the course will be given to you later.

Grading scale

100-96 = A
95-91 = A-

90-86 = B+
85-81 = B

80-76 = B-
75-71 = C+

70-66 = C
65-61 = C-

60-56 = D+
55-51 = D

50-46 = D-
45 and lower = F

Schedule of classes

Week 1	
Mon, Aug 22	Course introduction (lecture)
Wed, Aug 24	Global poverty (lecture)
Week 2	
Mon, Aug 29	What is development? History of development (lecture)
Wed, Aug 31	Independence Day, No classes
Week 3	
Mon, Sep 5	Modernization theory (lecture)
Wed, Sep 7	Marxism, Dependency and World Systems theories (lecture)
Week 4	
Mon, Sep 12	Student presentation (Modernization) + Discussion of reading #1 (Sachs, CH.1) & reading #2 (Dichter, Ch.2)
Wed, Sep 14	Student presentation (Dependency) + Discussion of reading #3 (Isbister, Ch.2)
Week 5	
Mon, Sep 19	Human development (lecture)
Wed, Sep 21	Student presentation (Millennium Development Goals) + Discussion of reading #4 (Black, Ch. 4) + Online assignment #1
Week 6	
Mon, Sep 26	Cultural turn in development (lecture)
Wed, Sep 28	Student presentation (Culture and development) + Discussion of reading #5 (Allen & Thomas, Ch. 21)
Week 7	
Mon, Oct 3	Alternative and Post-Development (lecture)
Wed, Oct 5	Student presentation (Post-Development) + Discussion of reading #6 (Dichter, Ch.6)
Week 8	
Mon, Oct 10	Development actors (lecture)
Wed, Oct 12	Anthropology and development practice (lecture)
Week 9	
Oct 17-21 – Fall break – No classes	
Week 10	
Mon, Oct 24	Midterm exam
Wed, Oct 26	Student presentations (UNDP; NGOs and development) + Discussion of reading #7 (Dichter, Ch.3) & reading #8 (Putting anthropology to work)
Week 10	
Mon, Oct 31	Gender and development (lecture)
Wed, Nov 2	Student presentation (Gender) + Discussion of readings #9 (Momsen, Ch. 1)
Week 11	
Mon, Nov 7	Day of October Socialist Revolution – No classes
Wed, Nov 9	Community participation and development (lecture)
Week 12	
Mon, Nov 14	Student presentation (Community participation) + Discussion of readings #10 (Chambers, Ch. 4) + Online assignment #2
Wed, Nov 16	Sustainable development
Week 13	
Mon, Nov 21	Student presentation (Sustainable development)+Discussion of reading #11 (Elliot, Ch. 1)
Wed, Nov 23	Development in religious perspective
Week 14	
Mon, Nov 28	Student presentation (Relig. persp.) + Discussion of reading #12 (Mannan, Ch. 1-3)
Wed, Nov 30	Guest-lecture
Week 15	
Mon, Dec 5	Guest-lecture
Wed, Dec 7	Final Exam