

SOCI 254: Development and Underdevelopment

Instructor: Emre Amasyalõ

Winter 2021

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Office Hours: MF 11-12 (by appt)

Office: Online

Class Hours: T,TH 8:35-9:55 AM

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TA: TBA

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- ¥ A critical understanding of the different ways in which poverty has been understood and the implications of those differences;
- ¥ An understanding of the key theories used to explain the diverging the social, economic and political experiences of countries;
- ¥ An understanding of the different roles of development actors, and the debates about their role and impact;
- ¥ A critical understanding of how individual identities, global processes, and experiences shape poverty and create obstacles and challenges to, and opportunities for, development;
- ¥ An ability to use empirically formed analysis to identify the tensions in the literature and academic debates.

3 Instructional Method

The course material for this semester will be delivered remotely (digitally). All lectures and slide presentations will be pre-recorded and made available on MyCourses . During these lectures we will cover basic conceptual tools that are the foundation of sociology of development. These lectures should be available for the duration of the course to review through the MyCourses portal. Note that as per university policy these recordings and slides are for your own use exclusively. You are not allowed to share these with people or to post them in the public domain (see copyright policies below).

3.1 Live Q & A Sessions

I will be holding the following live Q &A sessions throughout the semester to answer questions related to assignments and exams:

1. Thursday, January 7th: Live Q &A (9:00-10:00 AM (EST))
2. Tuesday February 23rd: Live Q &A (9:00-10:00 AM (EST))
3. Tuesday April 13th: Live Q &A (9:00-10:00 AM (EST))

3.2 Required Course Materials

There is one required textbook for this course:

Haslam, Paul Alexander, Jessica Schafer, and Pierre Beaudet, eds. *Introduction to International Development: Approaches, Actors, and Issues, 3rd edition*. Oxford University Press, 2012. (referred to as HSB in the course outline below)

We will read most of the book and assignments will cover that material (as well as lecture material) so it is crucial that you purchase the book to be successful in this class.

You can purchase or rent an e-version of the textbook from www.vitalsource.com or www.redshelf.com. New and used copies can be bought from the McGill bookstore, on Ama-

2. Answer the questions. Each question will ask you to recapitulate material from the required readings and lectures. The questions will be given to you the week before the response papers are due (*see course outline*).
3. Part (a) of each question requires one direct quotation from course material in order to receive a full mark. That quotation needs to be referenced properly.
4. For Part (b), you do not need to cite the lecturer.
5. For Part (c) apply the highlighted concepts to a real-life example. This part of the response gives you the opportunity to consider how theoretical concepts discussed in the class resonate with your personal experience and/or current events. For this section, you are not

4.1.4 Accommodation

There is no accommodation for late or missed response papers, and no extensions will be granted. The due date for each response paper is one week after the last (i.e. second) question has been handed out. Please plan ahead now to work around assignments and mid-terms in other courses. For each response paper, you will receive the second question 7 days in advance of the deadline and the first question some time before that date. If you are going to be absent, if you have other commitments around a due date, or if you start to feel under the weather, please complete and submit the response in advance. Given the limited time commitment required for each response (assuming you attend lectures and keep up with readings), it should always be possible to hand in response papers on time or earlier.

4.2 Midterm & Final Exam (30% and 35% of final grade respectively)

The course will consist of two timed-exams (for further information on terminology see [Guidelines on Remote Teaching](#)). The midterm and final exam will cover all readings and lecture material, including videos shown in class. The test will consist of a mixture of True/False, multiple-choice questions, short/long answer questions. It will cover material from the textbook, additional required readings and the lectures up to the date of the test. A review session for both the midterm and final exam will be provided before the exam date.

The window of availability for both exams will be 48-hours, which includes the time available to complete the exam. The online timed exam may be completed between Tuesday, 10:00 AM (EST) and Thursday 10:00 AM (EST). Once the exam is opened you will have 2.5 hours to complete the test (the test should normally take 1 hour to complete). You must complete the test in one sitting.

4.2.1 Re-Grading

Students who wish to contest a grade for an assignment or exam must do so in writing (by email, sent to me) providing the reasoning behind their challenge to the grade received within two weeks of the day on which the assignments are returned. The TA who graded the assignment will re-grade your assignment, and may raise or lower the grade. If you are still unsatisfied after the re-assessment, you can re-submit the assignment to me (original copy with TA comments), along with your justification. I will then re-evaluate the paper, but also reserve the right to raise or lower the grade.

5 Communication Policy

My preference is to answer questions in my office hours - this format is best for avoiding misunderstandings (which are common via email). My office hours are listed on the first page of the syllabus.

8 Other Policies

8.1 Language of Submission

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

8.2 Copyright

Copyright and the reproduction of course material: Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., lectures, notes, summaries, exam questions) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Specifically, you may not reproduce or place in the public domain lecture and course session recordings. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

8.3 Recording of Live Sessions

To make lectures and other course sessions accessible to students who cannot attend class, I will record all course meetings. You will be notified through a pop-up box in Zoom that a session is being recorded. By remaining in the session, you agree to the recording, which implies that your image, voice, and name may be disclosed to classmates and that recordings will be made available in MyCourses to students registered in the course.

8.4 Disabilities Policy

As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009.

8.5 Other McGill Resources and Support

If you need counseling and mental health support, do not hesitate to contact Counseling Services, where Psychologists, Social Workers, Counseling, Psychotherapies and Psychiatrists support the wellbeing and mental health of McGill students. You can reach the Student Wellness Hub at <https://www.mcgill.ca/wellness-hub/>.

If you have been impacted by sexual violence or sexual harassment or assault, gender-based or intimate partner violence, cyberviolence, do not hesitate to contact the Office for Sexual Violence Response, Support and Education. You can reach the Office by mail at osvrse@mcgill.ca in person at 550 Sherbrooke O. Suite 585 (West Tower elevators 1-11) and visit <https://www.mcgill.ca/osvrse/>.

8.6 End-of-Course Evaluations

End-of-course evaluations are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

9 Class Schedule

Scheduling of topics for the course listed below and associated readings are subject to change at my discretion. Such changes, should they take place, will be announced through MyCourses. Students are responsible for keeping abreast of any changes made.

Part I: What Is Development?

Week 1

- ¥ 07/01: Live Introduction: Course Syllabus and Overview (Course Syllabus)

Week 2

- ¥ 12/01: Foundational Concepts of Development (Rist 2002; HSB, chapter 1)

Part II: Development in Historical Perspective

- ¥ 14/01: Imperialism and Colonialism (Mamdani 1996; HSB, chapter 2)

Week 3

- ¥ 19/01: Decolonization and the Emergence of the Project of Development (Escobar 1995)

Part III: Theories of Development

- ¥ 21/01: Formative Approaches to Development and Social Change (Smith; Marx & Engels; Weber) Ð **Response Paper Due**

Week 4

- ¥ 26/01: Modernization Theory and Its Critics (Rostow 1960; HSB, pp. 45Ð56)
- ¥ 28/01: Underdevelopment, Dependency and World Systems Theories (HSB, pp. 56Ð64; Wallterstein 2007)

Week 5

- ¥ 02/02: Neoliberal Turn in Development Theory (Harvey 2005; Rodrik 2006)
- ¥ 04/02: Post-Development and Alternatives to Development (HSB, chapter 4; Escobar 1995) Ð **Response Paper Due**

Part IV: International Development Actors

Week 6

- ¥ 09/02: NGOs, civil society and social movements (HSB, chapter 12)
- ¥ 11/02: The State (HSB, chapter 7; Evans 1995)

Week 7

- ¥ 16/02: Multinational Corporations (HSB, chapter 11)
- ¥ 18/02: The UN and IFIs (HSB, chapter 9 & 10) Ð **Response Paper Due**

Week 8

- ¥ 23/02: Live Q & A Session
- ¥ 25/02: **Midterm Exam**

Week 9

- ¥ **Study Break Ð no class**

Part V

Week 14

- ¥ 06/04: Conflict and Development (HSB, chapter 22; Hooks 2017)
- ¥ 08/04: Summary of major themes and challenges

Week 15

- ¥ 13/04: Live Q & A Session
- ¥ 15/04: **Final Exam**