

INTD 200

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Instructor

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Class Times

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:05-11:25am

*Please note that there will be no in-person lectures nor in-person conferences.

Teaching Assistances

Azar Mahmoudi azar.mahmoudi@mail.mcgill.ca

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Communication

These are the three ways to communicate with the course instructor.

1. Office hours

- Tuesdays 12:00-14:00 (via Zoom). A weekly office hour Zoom link will be posted via MyCourses (registration required).
- Zoom office hours are offered to clarify your substantive questions about the course materials and assignments.
- If you are not able to make it during office hours due to a time zone difference or having another class, you can make an online Zoom appointment via email.
- In-person office hours are available upon request

2. Discussion Forum (MyCourses)

- We will set up a discussion forum via MyCourses. The discussion forum is to share questions & answers with the class. Students can post general logistical questions, including the course schedule, reading materials, and assignments.

3. Email

- Please note that email messages should be kept concise. If you would like to discuss substantive questions, you are highly encouraged to speak to the instructor during Zoom office hours.

Course description:

This introductory course is designed to familiarize students with key theories, approaches, actors, issues, and critiques that are integral to international development. In particular, we will focus on the question of “sustainability” in the contemporary field of development. Since the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, international development organizations, development practitioners, and NGOs have been promoting the idea of sustainability for global development agendas, including gender, food security, health, education, indigenous rights, and the environment. This emblematic concept of

sustainability deeply reflects the value of an inclusive, bottom-up, long-term oriented, and thus, accountable process that brings transformative outcomes. In short, the concept of sustainability represents the core values of international development. However, scholars increasingly highlight the very problem of the unsustainability of development in terms of both means and ends. This course will interrogate such emerging contestations in the age of sustainability.

The course is divided into two sections: one on macro theories, and one on thematic issues. The first part of the course (Weeks 2-5) will provide the macro picture of international development, especially key development theories and concepts. These include: Human Development, Modernization Theory, Neoliberalism, The Developmental State, Civil Society, and Post-Development Discourse.

The second part of the course (Weeks 6-14) will explore a range of global dilemmas that directly challenge the prospects of development sustainability. These dilemmas include: development financing, development aid effectiveness, gender, health, humanitarianism, labor migration, feminization of labor, environmental sustainability, environmental law, indigenous knowledge, and immigration detention.

By the end of the course, students should be familiar with the key concepts, theories, debates, and controversies that are part of the broad field of international development.

Required course materials

All the required readings are available via MyCourses.

Course arrangements

Zoom will be used for:

- Fixed lectures
- Weekly conferences

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- Office hours

MyCourses will be used for:

- Weekly recorded (flexible) lectures
- Readings
- Logistical information
- Discussion forum
- Assignment submissions
- Class announcements

1. Lecture arrangements

The fixed lectures will be remotely delivered via Zoom. These fixed lectures will be recorded and made available via MyCourses. The pre-recorded lectures will be made available by 10:05am on Tuesdays and Thursdays via MyCourses.

2. Quizzes (5%) - *eight required

Students will be given twelve (12) weekly quizzes during the semester. These quizzes will be provided between Week #2 and #13. Quizzes are always related to the overarching questions of the weekly topics. The main goal of this exercise is to encourage students to proactively engage with the lectures. There will be no strict rubrics for this exercise. However, your answer must reflect the central points of the given lecture. *Students are required to participate in eight (8) quizzes out of twelve (12).* The detailed instructions will be given via MyCourses.

Due date: 11:59pm (EST) on the **Tuesday following the week of the quiz**. For example, if you are going to participate in the quiz based on the lecture on Thursday, September 23, please submit your answer by 11:59pm (EST) on Tuesday, September 28.

3. Conferences

3-a. Logistics

The course will offer seven (7) weekly fixed conferences (small-group discussion sessions). These conferences will be remotely delivered via Zoom. Conferences begin in the fourth week (the week of September 20) of the semester. The primary goal of conferences is to facilitate an engaged and thoughtful discussion of development issues based on the lectures and weekly readings.

Each conference session will be held for 50 minutes. Please note that the discussion for the conference will always be based on the topic of the previous week.

Students are required to attend at least **five (5) conference sessions** during the semester (out of the seven sessions). After participating in a conference, students are then required to submit a discussion reflection (see the following section #3-b. "Discussion Reflections"). Details of the conference schedule and registration for conference meetings will be provided on Monday, September 13.

For those who are not able to attend all or some of the five conferences, you can alternatively submit précis (see the section #3-c. "Alternative Assignments").

3-b. Conference Discussion reflections (15%) - *five required

Students are required to submit a total of **five** discussion reflections based on their conference participation. Each reflection should be written **in at least 350 words**. Your reflection must include (1) the main points/ideas that you learned from the conference discussion and (2) your further critical thoughts on the discussion topic(s). The main goal of this exercise is to encourage students' meaningful engagement with the discussion topics as well as the course materials. Please note that you are not allowed to submit a conference discussion reflection without participating in a conference.

Due date 11:59pm (EST) on the Tuesday following the conference meeting

*For example, if you are going to write a discussion reflection for the first conference meeting in the week of September 20 (Modernization & Dependency), you should submit your reflection by Tuesday, September 28 (11:59pm EST).

3-c. Alternative Assignments - précis

If you are not able to complete the required five conference reflections, you can alternatively write précis. *One précis is equivalent to one conference discussion reflection.* Therefore, for example, if you are only able to attend three conferences, you can submit three discussion reflections and two précis.

A précis is a reading analysis written **in at least 450 words** discussing one of the assigned weekly readings. In your précis, you should discuss (1) the key arguments of the article and (2) your critical thoughts on the reading. The submission date is the same as the discussion reflection (the following Tuesday).

Conferences (begin in the week of September 20)	
Total number of weekly conferences offered during the semester	Seven
Required number of conferences	Five
Duration of each conference	50 minutes
Topic of each conference meeting	The topic of the previous week
Method of evaluation	(1) Actual participation in a conference meeting + (2) a conference reflection (350 words)
An alternative assignment - for those who	Précis (450 words) - one précis for one

are not able to participate in a meeting	conference reflection
Submission due for the conference reflection/précis	The following Tuesday

4. Midterm Development Theory Essay (35%)

The short essay will address a question that analyzes theories of development. Your essay should be written **in a minimum of 1,500 words and a maximum of 1,800 words** excluding footnotes and the bibliography. The detailed instructions will be provided on Tuesday, October 5.

Due date: Monday, October 25 (11:59pm EST) via MyCourses. The document format should be in a PDF file.

Please note:

- Instruction sheet - Tuesday, October 5
- Review session – Tuesday, October 5 (10:05-10:55 EST via Zoom)
- Submission due - Monday, October 25 (11:59pm EST via MyCourses)

5. Final Research Essay (45%)

Students must write a final research essay that discusses specific dilemmas surrounding international development. The paper should be written **in a minimum of 2,100 words and a maximum of 2,400 words** excluding footnotes and the bibliography. The detailed instructions as well as a review session will be provided on November 23.

Due date: Friday, December 17 (11:59pm EST) via *MyCourses*. The document format should be in a PDF file.

Please note:

- Instruction sheet – Tuesday, November 23 (via MyCourses)
- Review session- Tuesday, November 23 (10:05-10:55 EST via Zoom)
- Submission due – **Friday, December 17** (11:59pm EST via MyCourses)

Grade distribution:

Assignments	Requirements	Due	Percentage
Quizzes	Eight (8) required (see page 3)	The following Tuesday	5%
Conference Reflections/Précis	Five (5) required (see pages 5-6)	The following Tuesday	15%
Development Theory Essay	See section #4 (page 6)	Monday, October 25	35%
Final Research Essay	See section #5 (pages 7-8)	Friday, December 17	45%

Plagiarism:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information)

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

Copyright of lectures:

All slides, video recordings, lecture notes, etc. remain the instructor's intellectual property. As such, you may use these only for your own learning (and research, with proper referencing/citation) ends. You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials; doing so may violate the instructor's intellectual property rights and could be cause for disciplinary action.

Netiquette:

The University recognizes the importance of maintaining teaching spaces that are respectful and inclusive for all involved. To this end, offensive, violent, or harmful language arising in contexts such as the following may be cause for disciplinary action:

1. Username (use only your legal or preferred name)
2. Visual backgrounds
3. "Chat" boxes

To maintain a clear and uninterrupted learning space for all, you should keep your microphone muted throughout your class, unless invited by the instructor to speak. You should follow instructors' directions about the use of the "chat" function on remote learning platforms.

Policy on Languages:

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)

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 on Mercury, the online course evaluation system. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

N.B.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Course schedule

Date	Theme	Format
Week 1: Introduction – An Overview of the Course		
September 2 (Thursday)	Introduction – An Overview of the Course	Fixed session 10:05-10:55
Week 2: Development as Freedom? Discourse and Practice		
September 7 (Tuesday)	Development as Freedom	Fixed session 10:05-10:55

September 9 (Thursday)	Intensified “Unfreedoms” in the Age of Development Sustainability	Fixed session 10:05-10:55
Part I. Development Theories		
Week 3: Modernization Theory – The Birth of “Development”		
September 14 (Tuesday)	Modernization Theory: The Emergence of “Underdeveloped Areas”	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:55
September 16 (Thursday)	Dependency Theory: International of Trade Imbalances	Recorded lecture
Week 4: Neoliberalism *Weekly conferences begin		
September 21 (Tuesday)	Neoliberalism “Freedom” vs. “Dispossession	Fixed session 10:05-10:55
September 23 (Thursday)	The Developmental State “The East Asian Miracle” and Its Discontents	Recorded lecture
Week 5: Civil Society Engagement and the Post-Development Discourse		
September 28 (Tuesday)	Civil Society and Sustainable Development Goals Speaker: Fayyaz Baqir, Human Rights Research and Education Center, University of Ottawa)	Fixed session 10:05-10:55
September 30 (Thursday)	Post-Development Discourse	Recorded lecture

Week 6: Development Financing		
October 5 (Tuesday)	Review Session (Development Theory Essay)	Fixed session 10:05-10:55
October 7 (Thursday)	Development Financing and SDGs Speaker: Christian Novak, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University	Fixed session 10:05-10:55
Week 7: Development Aid Effectiveness		
*October 12 – Fall Reading Break		
*October 14 – Following a Monday Schedule		
October 15 (Friday) *following a Tuesday schedule	Development Aid Effectiveness	Recorded lecture
Week 8: Gender and Development		
October 19 (Tuesday)	Gender and Development#1: Gender Mainstreaming in Development	Fixed session 10:05-10:55
October 21 (Thursday)	Gender and Development #2: Neoliberal Imagination of Empowerment	Recorded lecture
Week 9: Health and Development		
October 26 (Tuesday)	Health and Development: Social Determinants of Health	Recorded lecture
October 28 (Thursday)	Intersectional Burdens of the Pandemic	Fixed session 10:05-10:55

Week 10: Humanitarianism		
November 2 (Tuesday)	Humanitarianism: Responsibility to Protect	Recorded lecture
November 4 (Thursday)	Humanitarianism and The Role of the UNHCR during the Pandemic	Fixed session 10:05-10:55
Week 11: Labor Migration and Development		
November 9 (Tuesday)	International Law and Labor Rights	Recorded lecture
November 11 (Thursday)	Feminization of Labor Mobility	Fixed session 10:05-10:55
Week 12: Environmental Sustainability		
November 16 (Tuesday)	Environmental Sustainability	Recorded lecture
November 18 (Thursday)	Operationalizing Indigenous Knowledge in International Environmental Law Speaker: Timothy Hodges, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University	Fixed session 10:05-10:55
Week 13: Indigenous Rights		
November 23 (Tuesday)	Review Session (Final Analytical Essay)	Fixed session 10:05-10:55
November 25 (Thursday)	Internationalization of Indigenous Rights	Fixed session

		10:05-10:55
Week 14: Contested Sustainability during the Pandemic		
November 30 (Tuesday)	COVID-19 and the Plight of Migrant Workers	Fixed session 10:05-10:55
December 2 (Thursday)	Conclusion	Fixed session 10:05-10:55

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1. Introduction

Week 1. September 2 – Introduction: An Overview of the Course

*We will explore the overview of the course, including the central goals, lecture schedule, topics, course readings, conferences, and the main course assignments.

Week 2. Development as Freedom? Discourse and Practice

Week 2-1. September 7 – Development as Freedom

Readings

Sen, Amartya. 1999. *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Book, pp.1-34.

Week 2-2. September 9 – Intensified “Unfreedoms” in the Age of Development

Sustainability

Langhelle, Oulf. 1999. “Sustainable Development: Exploring the Ethics of Our Common Future.” *International Political Science Review* 20(2): 129-149

Part I. Development Theories

Week 3. Modernization Theory - The Birth of “Development”

Week 3-1. September 14 - Modernization Theory: The Emergence of “Underdeveloped Areas”

Readings:

Hout, Wil. 2016. “Classical Approaches to Development: Modernization and Dependency.” In *The Palgrave Handbook of International Development* (edited by J.Gruel and D. Hammett). London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 21-25.

Cullather, Nick. 2010. *The Hungry World: America’s Cold War Battle Against Poverty in Asia*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press (pp.1-10).

Optional:

Rostow, W. W. 1959. “The Stages of Economic Growth.” *The Economic History Review* 2(1): 1-16.

Week 3-2. September 16 – Dependency Theory: International Trade Imbalances

Readings:

Hout, Wil. 2016. “Classical Approaches to Development: Modernization and Dependency.” In *The Palgrave Handbook of International Development* (edited by J.Gruel and D. Hammett). London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 25-40.

Week 4. Neoliberalism

Week 4-1. September 21 – Neoliberalism: “Freedom” or “Accumulation by Dispossession”?

Readings:

Williamson, John. 2008. “A Short History of the Washington Consensus.” *Washington Consensus Reconsidered: Towards a New Global Governance* (edited by N. Serra and J. Stiglitz). Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.14-30.

Harvey, David. 2005. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.5-38.

Optional:

Renfrew, Daniel. 2011. "The Curse of Wealth: Political Ecologies of Latin American Neoliberalism." *Geography Compass* 5(8): 581-594.

Week 4-2. September 23 – The Developmental State “The East Asian Miracle” and Its Discontents

Readings:

Holliday, Ian. 2000. "Productivist Welfare Capitalism? Social Policy in East Asia." *Political Studies* 48: 706-723.

Evans, Peter. 1989. "Predatory, Developmental, and other Apparatuses: A Comparative Political Economy Perspective on the Third World State." *Sociological Forum* 4(4): 561-587.

Week 5. Civil Society Engagement and the Post-Development Discourse

Week 5-1. September 28 – Civil Society and Sustainable Development Goals

Guest Speaker: Fayyaz Baqir, Visiting Professor, Human Rights Research and Education Center, University of Ottawa

Readings:

Baqir, Fayyaz. 2009. "Civil Society Engagement and Aid Effectiveness." *Lahore Journal of Policy Studies* 3(1): 97-116.

Week 5-2. September 30 – Post-Development Discourse

Readings:

Ferguson, James. 1994. "The Anti-Politics Machine: 'Development' and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho." *The Ecologist* 24(5): 176-181.

Escobar, Arturo. 1995. *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 21-54

Week 6. Development Financing

Week 6-1. October 5 – Review Session for the Development Theory Essay

Week 6-2 October 7 – Development Financing: Financing SDGs and the Role of International Financial Institutions

Guest Speaker: Christian Novak, Professor of Practice, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

Readings:

Grimard, Franque and Christian Novak. 2019. "Updating DFIs' Operating Models and Methods Towards Helping to Achieve the 2020 Agenda for Sustainable Development." Policy Brief, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University.

Week 7. Development Aid Effectiveness

Week 7. October 15 - Development Aid Effectiveness: Quantity vs. Quality

***Please note that October 15 (Friday) is following a Tuesday schedule**

Readings:

Easterly, William. 2014. *Reinventing Foreign Aid*. Cambridge: MIT Press, pp.1-43.

Riddell, Roger. 2008. *Does Foreign Aid Really Work?* Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.1-14.

Optional:

Mosely, Paul. 2015. *Foreign Aid*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, pp.21-48 (Chapter 2. International Politics of Aid).

Part II. Global Dilemmas in the Age of Sustainability

Week 8. Gender and Development

Week 8-1. October 19 - Gender and Development#1: Gender Mainstreaming in Development

Readings:

Nilsson, Patricia. 2013. "Gender and Development: The Challenge of Mainstream." *Consilience* 10:125-135.

Smyth, Ines. 2007. "Talking of Gender: Words and Meanings in Development Organisations." *Development in Practice* 17 (4/5): 582-588.

Week 8-2. October 21 - Gender and Development #2: Neoliberal Imagination of Empowerment

Readings:

Karim, Lamia. 2011. *Microfinance and its Discontents: Women in Debt in Bangladesh*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. xiii-xxxiii.

Week 9. Health Governance and Disparities

Week 9-1. October 26 - Health and Development: Social Determinants of Health

Readings:

Farmer, Paul. 2001. *Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp.33-43 (Introduction) & pp.72-95 (Chapter 3)

Week 9-2. October 28 – Intersectional Burdens of the Pandemic

Readings:

Ho, Elaine Lynn-Ee and Avril Maddrell. 2021. "Intolerable Intersectional Burdens: A COVID-19 Research Agenda for Social and Cultural Geographies." *Social & Cultural Geography* 22(1): 1-10.

Bambra, Clare et al. 2020. "The COVID-19 Pandemic and Health Inequalities." *Journal of Epidemiology Community Health*. Vol. 0:1-5.

Week 10. Humanitarianism

Week 10-1. November 2 - Humanitarianism: Responsibility to Protect

Readings:

Silander, Daniel and John Janzekovic. 2013. *Responsibility to Protect and Prevent: Principle, Promises, and Practicalities*. New York: Anthem Press, pp.11-44.

FitzGerald, David Scott. 2019. *Refugee beyond Reach: How Rich Democracies Repel Asylum Seekers*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter 1).

Week 10-2. November 4 – Humanitarianism and the Role of the UNHCR during the Pandemic

Readings:

Guterres, Antonio. 2008. "Millions Uprooted: Saving Refugees and the Displaced." *Foreign Affairs* 87(5): 90-99.

Week 11. Labor Migration and Development

Week 11-1. November 9 – International Law and Labor Rights

Readings:

Ruhs, Martin. 2013. *The Price of Rights: Regulating International Labor Migration*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp.1-12.

Xiang, Biao. 2013. "Return and the Reordering of Transnational Mobility in Asia." In *Return: Nationalizing Transnational Mobility in Asia* (edited by B. Xiang et al.) Durham: Duke University Press, pp.1-20.

Week 11-2. November 11 – Feminization of Labor Mobility

Readings:

Isaksen, Lise Widding, S. U. Devi, and A. R. Hochschild. 2008. "Global Care Crisis: A Problem of Capital, Care Chain, or Commons?" *American Behavioral Scientist* 52(3): 405-425.

Pande, Amrita. "The Paper that You Have in Your Hand is My Freedom: Migrant Domestic Work and the Sponsorship (Kafala) System in Lebanon." *International Migration Review* 47(2):414-441.

Week 12. Environmental Sustainability

Week 12-1. November 16 – Environmental Sustainability

Readings:

Knox, John. 2015. "Human Rights, Environmental Protection, and the Sustainable Development Goals." *Washington International Law Journal* 24(3): 517-536.

Week 12-2. November 18 - Operationalizing Indigenous Knowledge in International Environmental Law

Guest Speaker: Timothy Hodges, Professor of Practice, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

Readings:

Hodges, Timothy and Jack R. Langford. "Canada and the Nagoya Protocol: Towards Implementation, In Support of Reconciliation." In *Genetic Resources, Justice and Reconciliation: Canada and Global Access and Benefit Sharing* (edited by Chidi Oguamanam. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp.20-39.

Week 13. Indigenous Rights

Week 13-1. November 23 – Review Session for the Final Analytical Essay

Week 13-2. November 25 – Internationalization of Indigenous Rights

Champagne, Duane. 2013. "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Human, Civil, and Indigenous Rights." *Wicazo Sa Review* 28(1): 9-22Morgan,

Week 14. Contested Sustainability and Pandemic-Induced Inequality**Week 14-1. November 30 The Plight of Migrant Workers during the Pandemic****Readings:**

Xiang, Biao and Ninna Nyberg Soørensen. 2020. "Shock Mobility Long-Term Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Lock-Down." *Danish Institute for International Studies Policy Brief* (August).

Week 13-2. December 2 Conclusion