

INTD 350

Culture and Development



Instructor

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Class Times

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:05-11:25

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

Teaching Assistant

Ina Filkobski

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Communication

These are the three ways to communicate with the course instructor. Please note that in-person meetings are not available this Winter semester.

1. Office hours (Zoom)
 - Mondays 10:00-12:00 (via Zoom). A weekly office hours 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.
 - For general and logistical questions, please use the “Discussion Forum” via MyCourses.
 - 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.
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 brief and concise. If you would like to discuss substantive questions, you are highly encouraged to speak to the instructor during Zoom office hours.

Course description:

Development policy makers and agencies have long assumed that successful development interventions are direct results of positive economic behavior, while perceiving culture as an inappropriate variable. In the past two decades, however, development agencies and practitioners have looked to culture as an influential determinant in terms of explaining development outcomes. Engaging with such renewed fascination of culture in development, this course aims to apply a critical and interdisciplinary lens in order to understand the intricate effects of culture on development discourse as well as on development practice. We will investigate culture as contested socio-political processes that produce asymmetrical power relations and inequalities. Thus, we will challenge the dominant essentialist view that assumes culture as something given or a static entity.

The course is divided into two sections. The first part of the course (Weeks 2-7), we will pay attention to the intricate effects of cultural essentialism on development discourse, as well as on practice. Topics include cultural determinism, Asian values, fictions of ethnicity, indigeneity, colonial biopower, female labor discipline, and transitional justice. The second part of the course (Weeks 8-13), we will interrogate the presence of power imbalances and inequalities in development. Topics include multiculturalism, refugee deterrence,

indigenous rights in international law, commercial surrogacy, call centers, environmental protection, HIV prevention program, food security, sexual morality, and pandemic-induced racism. Through the readings, we will explore controversies and debates surrounding culture and development. The readings span almost all the major regions of the developing world.

Required course materials

All the required readings are available via MyCourses.

Course arrangements

Zoom will be used for:

- Fixed lectures
- Weekly conferences
- Office hours

MyCourses will be used for

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

1. Lecture arrangements

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

2. Quizzes (10%) - *eight required

Students will be given twelve (12) weekly quizzes during the semester. These quizzes are 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. 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 on the **Tuesday following the week of the quiz**. For example, if you are going to participate in the quiz based on the pre-recorded lecture on Thursday, January 21, please submit your answer by 11:59pm (EST) on Tuesday, January 26.

3. Conferences

3-a. Logistics

The course will have seven (7) weekly fixed conferences (small-group discussion sessions). These conferences will be remotely delivered via Zoom. Conferences begin in the third week (the week of January 18) 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 45 minutes. Please note that the discussion for the conference will always be based on the topic of the previous week.

You are required to attend at least **five** 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 in the first week of the semester.

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%)

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 as well as (2) your further 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.

Submission Due: 11:59pm (EST) on the Tuesday following the week of the conference.

For example, if you are going to write a discussion reflection for the conference on Thursday, January 21, you should submit your reflection by Tuesday, January 26 (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 two conferences, you can submit two discussion reflections, and three *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	
Total number of weekly conferences offered during the semester	Seven
Required number of conferences	Five
Duration of each conference	45 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 are not able to participate in a meeting	Précis (450 words) - one précis for one conference reflection
Submission due for the conference reflection/précis	The following Tuesday
Conference schedule	
Conf #1 (Week 3 - Thursday, January 21) Cultural determinism	
Conf #2 (Week 4 - Thursday, January 28) Construction of identity	
Conf #3 (Week 5 - Thursday, February 4) Indigeneity	
Conf #4 (Week 6 - Thursday, February 11) Colonialism and Biopower	
Conf #5 (Week 9 - Thursday, March 11) Imagination of "Crisis"	
Conf #6 (Week 10- Thursday, March 18) Indigenous Rights in International Law	
Conf #7 (Week 13- Tuesday, April 6) Contested Humanitarian Aid	

4. Culture and Development Essay (35%)

Students must write a short essay that engages with a question related to culture and development. The analysis should be written in a minimum of 1,600 words and a maximum of 1,800 words. The detailed instructions as well as a review session will be provided on Thursday, February 18.

Submission due - Monday March 8 (11:59pm EST) via MyCourses. The document format should be in a PDF file.

5. Final Research Essay (40%)

Students must write a final research essay discussing a specific question that engages with culture and development. The paper should be written **in a minimum of 2,200 words and a maximum of 2,500 words** excluding the bibliography. The detailed instructions and a review session will be provided on March 25.

Submission due - **Monday, April 12 (11:59pm EST)** via MyCourses. The document format should be in a PDF file.

Please note:

- Instruction sheet - Thursday, March 25 (via MyCourses)
- Review session- Thursday, March 25 (14:30-15:20 EST via Zoom)
- Final essay submission - **Monday, April 12** (11:59pm EST via MyCourses)

Grade distribution:

Assignments	Requirements	Due	Percentage
Quizzes	Eight (8) required (see page 3)	The following Tuesday	10%
Conference Reflections/Précis	Five (5) required (see pages 4-5)	The following Tuesday	15%
Culture and Development Essay	See the section #4 (page 5)	Monday, March 8	35%
Final Research Essay	See the section #6 (page 6)	Monday, April 12	40%

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		
January 7 (Thursday)	Introduction	Recorded lecture (flexible)
Week 2: Cultural Determinism		
January 12 (Tuesday)	Culture Matters?	Fixed lecture (10:05-10:55)
January 14 (Thursday)	The Rhetoric of Asian Values	Recorded lecture (flexible)
Week 3: Construction of Identity Conference #1 - January 21		
January 19 (Tuesday)	Colonialism: Construction of Identity	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:50
January 21 (Thursday)	Fictions of Ethnicity	Recorded lecture (flexible)
Week 4: Indigeneity Conference #2 - January 28		
January 26 (Tuesday)	Politics of Indigeneity	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:50
January 28 (Thursday)	Politics of Refusal	Recorded lecture (flexible)
Week 5: Colonialism and Biopower Conference #3 - February 4		
February 2 (Tuesday)	Colonialism and Biopower #1: Reproductive Control	Recorded lecture (flexible)
February 4 (Thursday)	Colonialism and Biopower	Recorded lecture (flexible)

	#2: Welfare Colonialism	
Week 6: Modernization and Gender Conference #4 - February 11		
February 9 (Tuesday)	Early Modernization and Female Labor Discipline	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:50
February 11 (Thursday)	Contested Women's Labor Mobility and Moral Crisis	Recorded lecture (flexible)
Week 7: Culture and Transitional Justice No conferences		
February 16 (Tuesday)	Localizing Transitional Justice	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:50
February 18 (Thursday)	Review Session	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:55
Week 8: Imagination of "Crisis" No conferences		
February 23 (Tuesday)	Contested Multiculturalism	Recorded lecture (flexible)
February 25 (Thursday)	Imagination of "Crisis"	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:55
Week 9: Indigenous Rights in International Law Conference #5 - March 11		
March 9 (Tuesday)	Operationalizing Indigenous Knowledge in International Environmental Law (Guest Speaker: Timothy Hodges, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University)	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:55
March 11 (Thursday)	Exclusion of Cultural Genocide in International Human Rights Law	Recorded lecture (flexible)
Week 10: Commodification of Intimacy Conference # 6 - March 18		
March 16 (Tuesday)	Commercial Surrogacy	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:55
March 18 (Thursday)	Call Centers	Recorded lecture (flexible)

Week 11: The Environment and the Imagination of "Sustainability" No Conferences		
March 23 (Tuesday)	The Borneo Case	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:55
March 25 (Thursday)	Review session	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:55
Week 12: Contested Humanitarian Aid No conferences		
March 30 (Tuesday)	Religion and HIV Prevention Programs	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:55
April 1 (Thursday)	Food Security and Gender	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:55
Week 13: Conclusion Conference #7 - April 6		
April 6 (Tuesday)	Undesirable Subjects: Sexual Morality in Postcolonial Nationalism	Recorded lecture (flexible)
April 8 (Thursday)	COVID-19 and Cultural Imagination of "Others"	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:55)
April 13 (Tuesday)	Conclusion	Fixed lecture 10:05-10:55)

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1. Introduction

January 7: Introduction

Week 2 Cultural Determinism

January 12: Culture Matters?

Readings:

Harrison, Lawrence. 2000. "Culture Matters." *The National Interest* 60 (Summer): 55-65.

Sen, Amartya. 2004. "How Does Culture Matter?" in *Culture and Public Action* (edited by Vijayendra Rao and Michael Walton). Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp.37-58.

January 14: The Rhetoric of Asian Values

Readings:

Sen, Amartya. 1997. "Human Rights and Asian Values," *The New Republic* v217 (2-3): 1-9.

Thompson, Mark. 2001. "Whatever Happened to 'Asian Values'?" *Journal of Democracy* 12(4): 154-165.

Week 3 Construction of Identity

January 19: Colonialism: Construction of Identity

Readings:

Chatterjee, Partha. 1989. "Colonialism, Nationalism, and Colonized Women: The Contest in India." *American Ethnologist* 16(14): 622-633.

Mamdani, Mahmood. 1996. "Indirect Rule, Civil Society, and Ethnicity: The African Dilemma." *Social Justice* 23(1/2): 145-150.

January 21: Fictions of Ethnicity

Readings:

Jefremovas, Villas. 1997. "Contested Identities: Power and the Fictions of Ethnicity, Ethnography and History in Rwanda." *Anthropologica* 39(1/2): 91-104.

Week 4 Indigeneity

January 26: Politics of Indigeneity

Readings:

Corntassel, Jeff. 2003. "Who is Indigenous? Peoplehood and Ethnonationalist Approaches to Rearticulating Indigenous Identity." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 9(1): 75-100.

Sylvain, Renée. 2005. "Disorderly Development: Globalization and the Idea of

'Culture' in the Kalahari." *American Ethnologist* 32(3): 354-370.

January 28: Politics of Refusal

Readings:

Simpson, Audra. 2014. *Mohawk Interruptus: Political Life Across the Borders of Settler States*. Durham: Duke University Press, pp.1-28.

Week 5 Colonialism and Biopower

February 2: Colonialism and Biopower #1 : Reproductive Control

Thomas, Lynn. 2003. *Politics of the Womb: Women, Reproduction, and the State in Kenya*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp.1-20.

Bourbonnais, Nicole. 2016. *Birth Control in the Decolonizing Caribbean: Reproductive Politics and Practice on Four Islands, 1930-1970*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp.1-29.

February 4: Colonialism and Biopower #2: Welfare Colonialism

Readings:

Stevenson, Lisa. "The Psychic Life of Biopolitics: Survival, Cooperation, and Inuit Community." *American Ethnologist* 39(3): 592-613.

Week 6 Modernization and Gender

February 9: Early Modernization and Female Labor Discipline

Readings:

Faison, Elyssa (2007) *Managing Women: Disciplining Labor in Modern Japan*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp.8-26.

February 11: Contested Women's Labor Mobility and Moral Crisis

Readings:

Lynch, Caitrin (2007) *Juki Girls, Good Girls: Gender and Cultural Politics in Sri Lanka's Global Garment Industry*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp.1-18.

**Week 7 Culture and Transitional Justice
Review session on February 16**

February 18: Localizing Transitional Justice

Readings:

Shaws, Rosalind and Lars Waldorf. 2010. *Localizing Transitional Justice*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 3-48 (Chapter 1 & 2).

Shaw, Rosalind. 2007. "Displacing Violence: Making Pentecostal Memory in Postwar Sierra Leone." *Cultural Anthropology* 22(1): 66-93.

Week 8 Imagination of "Crisis"

February 23: Contested Multiculturalism

Readings:

Orgad, Liav. 2009. "'Cultural Defence' of Nations: Cultural Citizenship in France, Germany and the Netherlands." *European Law Journal* 15(6): 719-737.

Kundnani, Arun. 2012. "Multiculturalism and Its Discontents: Left, Right, and Liberal." *European Journal of Cultural Studies* 15(2): 155-166.

February 25: Imagination of "Crisis"

Readings:

Holmes, Seth and Heide Castaneda. 2016. "Representing the 'European Refugee Crisis' in Germany and Beyond." *American Anthropologist* 43(1): 12-24.

Mountz, Alice. 2020. *The Death of Asylum*. The University of Minnesota Press, pp.1-26.

Week 9 Indigenous Rights in International Law

March 9: Operationalizing Indigenous Knowledge in International Environmental Law

Guest Speaker: Timothy Hodges, Professor of Practice, Institute for the Study

of International Development, McGill University

Readings:

Gafner-Rojas, Claudia. 2020. "Indigenous Language as Contributors to the Preservation of Biodiversity and Their Presence in International Environmental Law." *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy* 23(1): 44-61.

March 11: Exclusion of Cultural Genocide in International Human Rights Law

Readings:

Bachman, Jeffery. 2019. "An Historical Perspective: The Exclusion of Cultural Genocide from the Genocide Convention." In *Cultural Genocide: Law, Politics, and Global Manifestation* (edited by Jeffery Bachman). London: Routledge, pp. 45-61.

Week 10 Commodification of Intimacy

March 16: Commercial Surrogacy

Readings:

Pande, Amrita. 2010. "Commercial Surrogacy in India: Manufacturing a Perfect Mother-Worker." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 35(4): 969-992.

Bergmann, Sven. 2011. "Fertility Tourism: Circumventive Routes that Enable Access to Reproductive Technologies and Substances." *Signs* 36(2): 280-289.

March 18: Call Centers

Readings:

Padios, Jan. 2018. *A Nation on the Line: Call Centers as Postcolonial Predicaments in the Philippines*. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 1-33.

Week 11 The Environment and the Imagination of "Sustainability"

***Review session on March 25**

March 23: The Environment and the Imagination of "Sustainability"

Film Screening:
The Borneo Case (2017) by Erik Pauser and Dylan Williams

Readings:

Aiken, Robert and Colin Leigh. 2015. "Dams and Indigenous Peoples in Malaysia: Development, Displacement, and Resettlement." *Human Geography* 97(1): 69-93.

Week 12 Contested Humanitarian Aid

March 30: Religion and HIV Prevention Programs

Readings:

Boyd, Lydia. 2015. *Preaching Prevention: Born-Again Christianity and Moral Politics of AIDS in Uganda*. Athens: Ohio University Press, pp.1-24.

April 1: Food Security and Gender

Readings:

Carney, Megan (2015) *The Unending Hunger: Tracing Women and Food Insecurity across Borders*. University of California Press, pp.1-34.

Week 13 Conclusion: Imagination of "Others"

April 6: Undesirable Subjects: Sexual Morality in Postcolonial Nationalism

Readings:

Ndjio, Basile. 2016. "The Nation and Its Undesirable Subjects: Homosexuality, Citizenship and the Gay 'Other' in Cameroon." In *The Culturalization of Citizenship: Belonging and Polarization in a Globalizing World* (edited by Jan Willem Duvendak et al.) Palgrave Macmillan, pp.115-136.

April 8: COVID-19 and Cultural Imagination of "Others"

Readings:

Wald, Priscilla. 2008. *Contagious: Cultures, Carriers, and the Outbreak Narrative*.

Durham: Duke University Press, pp.1-28.