

INTD 354

Civil Society and Development



Instructor

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Classroom

MacDonald Engineering Building (ENGMD) 279

Class Times

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:35-12:55

Teaching Assistant

Roda Siad

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Office Hours: TBA

Communication

1. Weekly office hours

In-person office hours – Mondays 13:00-14:00

Zoom office hours – Tuesdays 12:00-14:00

*A weekly Zoom office hours link will be available via MyCourses

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 weekly office hours or after the lecture.

Course Description

This lecture course aims to provide *a critical analysis of civil society in development*. The course will examine the increasing presence and widening scope of civil society actors in the field of international development. According to the World Bank's definition, "the civil society sector" includes a wide range of non-state actors, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), faith-based groups, trade unions, indigenous people's organizations, community groups, foundations, and other non-

state stakeholders. In recent years, international development organizations have paid attention to the positive externalities of civil society in development. These civil society groups are increasingly regarded as a panacea for development in terms of pushing for “good”, “sustainable” and “bottom-up” social change. However, scholars have also documented the *emerging tensions and problematic behavior* of civil society. These critiques mainly challenge the conventional Euro-centric view that assumes civil society actors’ autonomous, and progressive capacity to bring transformative socio-political outcomes, such as liberal democracy. The course will employ an interdisciplinary approach to engage with these emerging critiques surrounding the roles of civil society in international development. The course explores political, sociological, and anthropological studies that examine the multifaceted behavior and outcomes of civil society largely in the Global South.

The course is divided into two main sections. The first introductory section (weeks 1-6) will provide a macro analytical framework on the study of civil society and development. In this section, we will especially examine the diverse range of political behavior and roles of civil society actors in development. The second section (week 7-13) will examine the distinct roles played by civil society actors. In particular, we will interrogate the analytical question of whether global civil society actors serve as “norm entrepreneurs” who push for transformative and progressive change. We will explore this question by examining a range of emerging development issues, including indigenous rights, migrant rights advocacy, humanitarianism, religion, global health, gender, biological diversity, social entrepreneurship, and immigration detention.

By the end of the course, students should be familiar with the key analytical concepts, theoretical approaches, and debates that are integral to the critical analysis of civil society in development.

Required course materials

All the required readings are available via MyCourses.

1. Lectures and the public health regulations in the classroom

Please note that most of the lectures will be delivered **in person** in the Fall semester except the lectures delivered remotely by our guest speakers. **Please note that students must wear procedural masks in the classroom at all times. In order to ensure the health and safety of yourself and others, you are required to comply McGill's health regulations on campus. For McGill's updated health guidelines, please visit:**

<https://www.mcgill.ca/coronavirus/health-guidelines#preventing>

2. Quizzes (5%)

Students will be given twelve (12) weekly quizzes during the semester. Quizzes are always related to the overarching questions of the weekly topics. We will begin this exercise in the week of September 13. 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. To maximize your points, students are required to participate in **eight (8) quizzes** out of twelve (12). Your answers should be submitted via MyCourses [Assignments – Quizzes].

Due date: 11:59pm (EST) on the following Monday. For example, if you are going to participate in the quiz based on the lecture on Wednesday, September 8, please submit your answer by 11:59pm (EST) on Monday, September 13.

3.Conferences (15%)

3-a. Logistics

The course will offer seven (7) weekly conferences (small-group discussion sessions). You are required to attend at least *five* conference sessions during the semester (out of the seven sessions). Conferences begin in the week of September 27 (Week #5).

The primary goal of conferences is to facilitate an engaged discussion of civil society and their impact on development 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. Participants are expected to know the course materials and seriously engage with the conference discussion. After participating in the meeting, students are required to submit a discussion reflection (see the following section #3-b. "Discussion Reflections").

The weekly conferences are planned to be delivered in-person. The details of the weekly conferences will be provided via MyCourses in the week of September 13 (Week #3).

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 **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) 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.*

Due date: 11:59pm(EST) on the Monday following the week of the conference.

For example, if you are going to write a discussion reflection for the conference in the week of September 27, you must submit your reflection by Monday October 4 (11:59pm EST). Your reflection should be submitted via MyCourses [Assignments – Conference Reflections/Precis].

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 (having attended three conferences), 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. Your précis should be

submitted via MyCourses [Assignments – Conference Reflections/précis]. The submission date is the same as the conference reflection.

Conferences (15%)	
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)
Alternative assignment	Précis (450 words) – one précis for one conference reflection
Submission due for the conference reflection/précis	The following Monday

4. Short Analytical Essay (30%)

The short essay aims to provide a critical analysis of civil society. Your essay should be written in a minimum of 1,600 words and a maximum of 1,800 words excluding the bibliography. Detailed instructions as well as a review session will be provided on October 6.

Due date: Monday, October 25 (11:59pm EST) via MyCourses. The document format should be in a PDF file. If you are unable to meet the due date because of an illness, you must contact Professor Takamura prior to the deadline.

5. Pandemic Film Essay (10%)

Students must write a short analysis of documentary that examines the unique role of civil society actors during the pandemic. The essay should be written in a minimum of 800 words and a maximum of 1,000 words excluding the bibliography. Detailed instructions (a review sheet) will be provided on October 25.

Due date: Monday, November 22 (11:59pm EST) via MyCourses. The document format should be in a PDF file. If you are unable to meet the due date because of an illness, you must contact Professor Takamura prior to the due date.

6. Final Analytical Paper (40%)

Students must write a final analytical paper that examines the distinct effects of civil society in development. The essay should be written in a minimum of 2,200 words and a maximum of 2,500 words excluding the bibliography. The detailed instructions as well as a review session will be provided on November 22.

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

Grade distribution:

Assignments	Requirements	Due	Percentage
Quizzes	Eight (8) required See section #2	The following Monday	5%
Conference Reflections/Précis	Five (5) required See section #3	The following Monday	15%
Short Analytical Essay	See section #4	Monday, October 25	30%
Pandemic film Essay	See section #5	Monday, November 22	10%
Final Analytical Paper	See section #6	Friday, December 17	40%

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.

Academic Integrity:

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 McGill's guide to academic honesty 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/)

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

Part I. Contested Behavior of Civil Society	
Week 1: Introduction #1	
September 1 (Wed)	Introduction – Course Overview
Week 2: Introduction #2	
*September 6 (Monday) – Labor Day (no class)	
September 8 (Wed)	Why does the study of civil society matter?
Week 3: Theoretical Foundation: Associationism	
September 13 (Mon)	The Virtue of Civil Society – Associationism
September 15 (Wed)	Social Capital Theory
Week 4: Contested Behavior of Civil Society	
September 20 (Mon)	Dark Side of Associationism?
September 22 (Wed)	Associationism under Authoritarianism
Week 5 Civil Society in the Age of Neoliberalism	
September 27 (Mon)	Promotion of Civil Society in Neoliberalism
September 29 (Wed)	Neoliberal Imagination of “Empowerment”
Week 6: Resistance and Surveillance	

October 4 (Mon)	Hidden Transcripts
October 6 (Wed)	Review Session (Short Analytical Essay)
Part II. Global Civil Society	
Week 7: Indigenous Rights Advocacy at the UN	
*October 11 Thanksgiving holiday (no class)	
*October 13 Fall break (no class)	
*October 14 follows the Wednesday schedule	
October 14 (Thurs*)	Indigenous Rights Advocacy at the UN Guest Speaker: Kenneth Deer
Week 8 Global Civil Society – Norm Entrepreneurs?	
October 18 (Mon)	Global Civil Society – Norm Entrepreneurs?
October 20 (Wed)	Migrant Rights Advocacy
Week 9: Politics of Deservingness	
October 25 (Mon)	DREAMers: Undocumented Youth Movements and Performing Deservingness
October 27 (Wed)	Refugee Rights Advocacy
Week 10: Religion and Humanitarianism	
November 1 (Mon)	Faith-Based Organizations: Does Faith Matter?
November 3 (Wed)	FBOs and the Moral Politics of AIDS
Week 11: Inequality and Advocacy	
November 8 (Mon)	Transnational Domestic Workers' Movements
November 10 (Wed)	<i>A Will To Dream: Visualizing Vulnerability</i>
Week 12: Environmental Movements	

November 15 (Mon)	Convention on Biological Diversity
November 17 (Wed)	Environmental Indigenous Resistance
Week 13: Social Entrepreneurship	
November 22 (Mon)	Review Session (Final Analytical Paper)
November 24 (Wed)	Agricultural Microinsurance and Female Empowerment in Sub-Saharan Africa
Week 14 Conclusion	
November 29 (Mon)	Advocating Alternatives to Detention during the Pandemic
December 1 (Wed)	Conclusion

Week 1. Introduction #1

September 1 (Wednesday) - Introduction

We will explore the key objectives of the course, the course structure, reading materials, and the course requirements.

Week 2. Introduction#2

***September 6 (Monday) - No Class (Labor Day)**

September 8 (Wednesday) Why does the study of civil society matter?

Readings:

Chandhoke, Neera. 2007. "Civil Society." *Development in Practice* 17(4-5): 607-614.

Week 3. Theoretical Foundation: Associationism

September 13 (Monday) - The Virtue of Civil Society

Readings:

Shils, Edward. 2003 (1997). "The Virtue of Civil Society." In *The Civil Society Reader* (edited by Virginia Hodkinson and Foley Michel). Tufts University Press, pp. 292-305.

September 15 (Wednesday) Social Capital Theory

Readings:

Putnam, Robert. 2003. "Making Democracy Work." In *The Civil Society Reader* (edited by Virginia Hodkinson and Foley Michel). Tufts University Press, pp. 322-327.

Fukuyama, Francis. 2001. "Civil Society and Development." *Third World Quarterly* 22(1): 7-20.

Week 4. Contested Behavior of Civil Society

September 20 (Monday) Dark Side of Associationism

Readings:

Berman, Sheri. 1997. "Civil Society and The Collapse of the Weimar Republic." *World Politics* 49 (3): 401-429.

Buttgieg, Joseph. 1995. "Gramsci on Civil Society." *Boundary 2* 22(3): 1-32.

September 22 (Wednesday) Associationism under Authoritarianism: Collaborative Behavior

Readings:

Lewis, David. 2013. "Civil Society and the Authoritarian State: Cooperation, Contestation and Discourse." *Journal of Civil Society* 9(3): 325-340

Hsu, Carolyn. 2010. "Beyond Civil Society: An Organizational Perspective on State-NGO Relations in the People's Republic of China." *Journal of Civil Society* 6(3): 259-277.

Week 5. Civil Society in the Age of Neoliberalism

September 27 (Monday) Promotion of Civil Society in Neoliberalism

Readings:

Fisher, William. 1997. "Doing Good? The Politics and Antipolitics of NGO Practices." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 26: 439-464.

Mercer, Claire. 2003. "Performing Partnership: Civil Society and the Illusions of Good Governance in Tanzania." *Political Geography* 22: 741-763.

September 29 (Wednesday) Neoliberal Imagination of Empowerment

Readings:

Dolhinow, Rebecca. 2010. *A Jumble of Needs: Women's Activism and Neoliberalism in the Colonias of the Southwest*. University of Minnesota Press, pp.1-43.

Kimura, Aya Hirata. 2016. *Radiation Brain Moms and Citizen Scientists: The Gender Politics of Food Contamination after Fukushima*. Duke University Press, pp. 1-26.

Week 6 Resistance and Surveillance

October 4 (Monday) Hidden Transcripts

Readings:

Scott, James. 1990. "Behind the Official Story." *Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts*. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 1-16.

Choudry, Aziz. 2019. "Lessons Learnt, Lessons Lost: Pedagogies of Repression, Thoughtcrime, and the Sharp Edge of State Power." *In Activists and the Surveillance State* (edited by Aziz Choudry). London: Pluto Press, pp.3-22.

October 6 (Wednesday) Review Session for the Short Analytical Paper

Part II. Global Civil Society: Discursive Impacts

Week 7 Indigenous Rights Advocacy at the UN

October 14 (Thursday) Indigenous Rights Advocacy at the UN

Guest Speaker: Kenneth Deer, Secretary of the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake

Readings:

Morgan, Rhiannon. 2007. "Political Institutions and Social Movement Dynamics: The Case of the United Nations and the Global Indigenous Movement." *International Political Science Review* 28(3): 373-292.

Week 8 Global Civil Society – Norm Entrepreneurs?

October 18 (Monday) Global Civil Society – Norm Entrepreneurs?

Readings:

Clark, Ann Marie. 2010. *Diplomacy of Conscience: Amnesty International and Changing Human Rights Norms*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp.3-20.

Price, Richard. 2003. "Transnational Civil Society and Advocacy in World Politics." *World Politics* 55(4): 579-606.

Optional:

Keane, John. 2003. *Global Civil Society?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp.1-39.

October 20 (Wednesday) Migrant Rights Advocacy: Transformative or Apolitical Roles?

Readings:

Kremers, Daniel. 2014. "Transnational Migrant Advocacy from Japan: Tipping the Scales in the Policy-making Process." *Pacific Affairs* 87(4): 715-741.

Cook, Maria Lorena. 2011. "'Humanitarian Aid Is Never a Crime': Humanitarianism and Illegality in Migrant Advocacy." *Law & Society Review* 45(3): 561-591.

Week 9 Politics of Deservingness

October 25 (Monday) DREAMers: Undocumented Youth Movements and Performing Deservingness

Readings:

Nicholls, Walter. 2016. *DREAMers: How the Undocumented Youth Movement Transformed the Immigrant Rights Debate*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp.1-46 (Introduction and Chapter 1).

October 27 (Wednesday) Refugee Rights Advocacy

Readings:

Week 10 Religion and Humanitarianism

November 1 (Monday) Faith-Based Organizations: Does Faith Matter?

Readings:

Palmer, Victoria. 2011. "Analyzing Cultural Proximity: Islamic Relief Worldwide and Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh." *Development in Practice* 2(1): 96-108.

November 3 (Wednesday) FBOs and the Moral Politics of AIDS

Readings:

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

Week 11 Gender and Activism

November 8 (Monday) Transnational Domestic Workers' Movements

Readings:

Blackett, Adelle. 2019. *Everyday Transgressions: Domestic Workers' Transnational Challenge to International Labor Law*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 1-16.

November 10 (Wednesday) Sex Worker Activism

Readings:

Mgbako, Chi Adanna. 2016. *To Live Freely in This World: Sex Worker Activism*. New York: NYU Press, pp.1-19.

Week 12 Environmental Movements

November 15 (Monday) Convention on Biological Diversity

Readings:

Potvin, Catherine et al. "The Role of Indigenous Peoples in Conservation Actions: A Case Study of Cultural Differences and Conservation Priorities." *Governing Global Biodiversity: The Evolution and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity* (edited by J. Kirton, et al.) London: Routledge, pp. 159-176.

November 17 (Wednesday) Indigenous Resistance

Readings:

Lane, Temryss MacLean. 2018. "The Frontline of Refusal: Indigenous Women Warriors of Standing Rock." *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*. 31(3): 197-214.

Week 13 Social Entrepreneurship

November 22 (Monday) Review Session for the Final Take-Home Essay

November 24 (Wednesday) Agricultural Microinsurance and Female Empowerment in Sub-Saharan Africa

Readings:

Mendoza, Ronald and Nina Thelen. 2008. "Innovations to Make Markets More Inclusive for the Poor." *Development Policy Review* 26(4): 427-458.

Week 14 Conclusion

November 29 (Monday) Advocating Alternatives to Detention during the Pandemic

Readings:

Snyder, Susanna et al. 2015. "Immigration Detention and Faith-based Organizations." *Social Work* 60 (23): 165-173.

December 1 (Wednesday) Conclusion

No readings