

Winter 2024

INTD 354

Civil Society and Development



Instructor

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Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

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Classroom

ENGTR 1090

Class Times

Wednesdays and Fridays 13:05-14:25

*When we have conferences, the lecture times will become 13:05-13:55

Office hours (in-person)

Wednesdays and Fridays between 14:30-16:00

Registration required online

If you would like to set up a meeting outside the office hours, please directly communicate with the instructor.

Teaching Assistant

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Office hours: TBA

The content and evaluation of this course are subject to change in the case of unforeseeable events.

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 1-5) 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 6-13) 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 diplomacy of conscience, indigenous rights, undocumented youth, refugee deservingness, humanitarianism, religion, AIDS crisis, reproductive rights, indigenous women’s resistance, diasporas and politics, statelessness, food justice, and community actions.

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. Lecture arrangements

The lectures will be delivered in person. Please note that we will integrate various in-class activities and small group discussions to encourage students’ proactive learning during the lectures. Students are expected to be ready to discuss the weekly readings.

2.Quizzes (5%) *ten required

Students will be given thirteen (13) weekly quizzes during the semester. Quizzes are always related to the overarching questions of the weekly topics. Please note that some quizzes are based on in-class activities. We will begin this exercise on January 12 (Friday). 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 ten (10) quizzes out of thirteen (13). Your answers should be submitted via MyCourses [Assignments – Quizzes].

Due date: The Tuesday (11:59pm) following the week of the quiz. For example, if you are going to participate in the first quiz based on the lecture on Friday, January 12, please submit your answer by Tuesday, January 16 (11:59pm) via MyCourses.

3. Conferences (10%) *four required

3-a. Logistics

The course will offer four (4) in-person conferences (small-group discussion sessions) during 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. The first conferences begin in the week of January 22

Conference registration: Students are required to sign up for one of the three conference groups on Minerva and attend it throughout the term. The conference registration will be available via Minerva (online) from Monday, January 15.

Format: Each conference meeting will be held for 50 minutes. Your teaching assistant will take attendance at every conference meeting. Please note that a conference is designed to be a student-driven discussion session. Your teaching assistant will provide guiding questions and in-class activities to stimulate the conference discussions. Participating students should not be passive observers during the meeting. You are expected to be an

active and engaged contributor to the class discussions. For your successful participation, you are highly encouraged to prepare one or two questions on the discussion topics (lectures/readings) prior to the meeting.

Themes: Please note that the discussion for the conference will always be based on the topic of the previous week.

After the meeting: After participating in the conference meeting, students are then required to submit a discussion reflection (see the following section #3-b. "Discussion Reflections").

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

Conference schedule

Conference #1 Contested Behavior of Civil Society	Monday, January 22
Conference #2 Civil Society in the Age of Neoliberalism	Monday, January 29
Conference #3 Hidden Transcripts	Monday, February 5
Conference #4 Global Civil Society	Monday, February 12

3-b. Conference Discussion reflections (10 %) - four required

Students are required to submit four *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: The Tuesday (11:59pm) following the conference meeting

*For example, if you are going to write a discussion reflection for the first conference meeting in the week of January 22, you should submit your reflection by Tuesday, January 30 (11:59pm).

3-c. Alternative Assignments - précis

If you are going to miss a conference meeting, you can alternatively write a précis. *One précis is equivalent to one conference participation.* You are allowed to write four précis without attending any in-person conference meetings. A précis is a reading analysis written in at least 450 words discussing one of the assigned weekly readings. In your précis, discuss: (1) the key arguments of the article and (2) your critical thoughts on the reading. Your précis must follow the same weekly themes as the conference meetings. The submission date is the same as the discussion reflection (the following Tuesday).

Required number of conferences	Four
Online conference registration opens	Monday, January 15 (via Minerva)
First conference meetings begin	In the week of January 22
Topic of each conference meeting	The topic of the previous week
Methods 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 Tuesday

4. Short Analytical Essay (35%)

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.

Review Session: Detailed instructions as well as a review session will be provided on Friday, February 2.

Due date: Monday, February 26 (11:59pm) 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 the instructor before the deadline.

5. Two Précis on Norm Entrepreneurs (5%)

Students must write two précis related to any assigned readings between Week 6 and Week 12. A précis is a reading analysis written **in at least 500 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.

Due date: Tuesday, April 2 (11:59pm) via MyCourses. The document format should be a PDF file.

6. Final Analytical Paper (45%)

Students must write a final analytical paper that examines the role 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.

Review Session: Detailed instructions as well as a review session will be provided on Friday, March 22.

Due date: Monday, April 22 (11:59pm) via MyCourses. The document format should be in a PDF file.

Grade distribution:

Assignments	Requirements	Due	Percentage
Quizzes	Ten (10) required See section #2	The following Tuesday	5%
Conference Reflections/Précis	Four (4) required See section #3	The following Tuesday	10%
Short Analytical Essay	See section #4	Monday, February 26	35%
Two Précis on Norm Entrepreneurs	See section #5	Tuesday, April 2	5%
Final Analytical Paper	See section #6	Monday, April 22	45%

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). Chat GPT Praigialism will resut significant penalties.

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

January 5 (Friday)	Introduction – Course Overview
Week 2: Theoretical Foundation: Associationism	
January 10 (Wed)	The Virtue of Civil Society – Associationism
January 12 (Fri)	Social Capital Theory
Week 3: Contested Behavior of Civil Society	
January 17 (Wed)	Dark Side of Associationism?
January 19 (Fri)	Associationism under Authoritarianism
Week 4 Civil Society in the Age of Neoliberalism Conf #1 Contested Behavior of Civil Society	
January 24 (Wed)	Promotion of Civil Society in Neoliberalism
January 26 (Fri)	Neoliberal Imagination of “Empowerment”
Week 5: Hidden Transcripts Conf #2 Civil Society in the Age of Neoliberalism	
January 31 (Wed)	Hidden Transcripts
February 2 (Fri)	Review Session
Part II. Global Civil Society Conf #3 Hidden Transcripts	
Week 6: Global Civil Society – Norm Entrepreneurs	
February 7 (Wed)	Global Civil Society #1 Norm Entrepreneurs
February 9 (Fri)	Global Civil Society #2 Diplomacy of Conscience
Week 7 Indigenous Rights Advocacy at the UN Conf #4 Global Civil Society	
February 14 (Wed)	Indigenous Rights Advocacy at the UN
February 16 (Fri)	The Right to Speak: Ainu Rights Advocacy in Japan
Week 8: Deservingness	

February 21(Wed)	DREAMers: Undocumented Youth Movements and Performing Deservingness
February 23 (Fri)	Construction of Refugee Deservingness
Week 9: Faith and Moral Politics of Protection	
February 28 (Wed)	Faith-Based Organizations: Does Faith Matter?
March 1 (Fri)	FBOs and the Moral Politics of AIDS
Week 10: Gender and Justice	
March 13 (Wed)	Reproductive Justice
March 15 (Fri)	Indigenous Women's Resistance
Week 11: Diasporas	
March 20 (Wed)	Diasporas in Transnational Justice
March 22 (Fri)	Diasporas and Transnational Political Participation
Week 12: Statelessness	
March 27 (Wed)	Stateless Rights Advocacy
March 29 (Fri)	No class (Good Friday)
Week 13: Community of Care	
April 3 (Wed)	Community of Care: Food Justice
April 5 (Fri)	Documenting Community Actions
Week 14 Conclusion	
April 10 (Wed)	Conclusion + Review Session #1
April 12 (Fri)	Review Session #2

Week 1. Introduction

January 5 (Friday) Introduction

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

Part I. Contested Behavior of Civil Society

Week 2. Theoretical Foundation: Associationism

January 10 (Wednesday) The Virtue of Civil Society - Associationism

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.

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

January 12 (Friday) 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 3. Contested Behavior of Civil Society

January 17 (Wednesday) 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.

January 19 (Friday) 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 4. Civil Society in the Age of Neoliberalism

January 24 (Wednesday) 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.

January 26 (Friday) Neoliberal Imagination of "Empowerment"

Readings:

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

Week 5 Hidden Transcripts

January 31 (Wednesday) 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.

February 2 (Friday) Review Session

Part II. Global Civil Society

Week 6 Global Civil Society – Norm Entrepreneurs?

February 7 (Wednesday) Global Civil Society – Norm Entrepreneurs?

Readings:

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

Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 52(4): 887-917.

February 9 (Friday) Global Civil Society - Diplomacy of Conscience

Readings:

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

Week 7 Indigenous Rights Advocacy at the UN

February 14 (Wednesday) Indigenous Rights Advocacy at the UN

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.

Sanders, Douglas. 1989. "The UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations." *Human Rights Quarterly* 11 (3): 406-433.

February 16 (Friday) The Right to Speak: Ainu Rights Advocacy

Readings:

Larson, Erik et al. 2008. "Emerging Indigenous Governance: Ainu Rights at the Intersection of Global Norms and Domestic Institutions." *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political* 33 (1): 53-82.

Week 8 Deservingness

February 21 (Wednesday) 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).

February 23 (Friday) Construction of Refugee "Deservingness"

Guest Speaker: TBA

Readings:

Casati, Noemi. 2018. "How Cities Shape Refugee Centres 'Deservingness' and 'good aid' in Sicilian Town." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 44 (5): 792-808.

Week 9 Humanitarian Faith-Based Organizations

February 28 (Wednesday) 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.

Menjívar, Cecilia. 2006. "Serving Christ in the Borderlands: Faith Workers Respond to Border Violence." In *Religion and Social Justice for Immigrants* (Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo ed.) New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, pp. 104-121.

March 1 (Friday) 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.

*Reading Break between March 4 and March 8

Week 10 Gender and Justice

March 13 (Wednesday): Reproductive Justice

Readings:

Hodzic, Saida. 2016. *The Twilight of Cutting: African Activism and Life after NGOs*. Berkeley: University of California Press. pp. 1- 49 (Introduction).

March 15 (Friday) Indigenous Women's Resistance

Readings:

Barker, Joanne (2006) "Gender, Sovereignty, and the Discourse of Rights in Native Women's Activism." *Meridians* 7(1): 127-161.

Week 11 Diasporas

March 20 (Wednesday) Diasporas in Transitional Justice

Readings:

Koinova, Maria. "Diaspora Mobilisation for Conflict and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Contextual and Comparative Dimension Transitional Justice" *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 44(8): 1251-2369

March 22 (Friday) Diasporas and Transnational Political Participation

Guest Speaker: TBA

Week 12 Statelessness

March 27 (Wednesday) Statelessness Rights Advocacy

Readings

Razali, Rodziana Mohamed et al. 2022. "Digitalisation of Birth Registration System in Malaysia: Boon or Bane for the Hard-to-Reach and Marginalised?" *Journal of Migration and Health* 6: 1-8.

Nah, Alice. 2016. "Networks and Norm Entrepreneurship amongst Local Civil Society Actors: Advancing Refugee Protection in the Asia Pacific Region." *The International Journal of Human Rights* 20(2): 223-240.

March 29 (Friday) No class - Good Friday

Week 13 Community of Care

April 3 (Wed) Community of Care: Food Justice

Readings:

Mares, Teresa (2019) *Life on the Other Border: Farmworkers and Food Justice in Vermont*. Berkeley: University of California Press. pp. 1- 28 (Introduction).

April 5 (Fri) Documenting Community Actions

Week 14 Conclusion

April 10 (Wednesday) Conclusion + Review Session #1

April 12 (Friday) Review Session #2