

## DEVELOPMENT IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

Sociology 98va, Fall 2012  
Professor Jocelyn Viterna  
Wednesdays 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
501 William James Hall

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### Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Mondays 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. and Thursdays 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
(Preferably by appointment)

### Course Overview

Why are some societies wealthier, healthier, and more highly educated than others? And how might we improve the lives of those individuals with the fewest opportunities? The purpose of this course is to investigate whether and how scholarly theories of development map onto the real world practices of development organizations (state development offices, intergovernmental agencies, not-for-profit organizations) and vice versa.

I have three objectives for students in this course. First, students should develop a basic understanding of the general contours of sociological theories of development. Second, students should develop a basic understanding of both the “best practices” and the big challenges faced by development practitioners. Third, students should conduct and present research on development in theory (as preparation for their senior theses) or on development as practice (such as an analysis of a development project), ideally bridging the two sides in their final project.

### Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend every class, read the assigned articles or book chapters prior to class, and participate intelligently in class discussions. In addition, students should complete the following assignments. ***Please note: All assignments should be submitted to me by e-mail attachment ([jviterna@wjh.harvard.edu](mailto:jviterna@wjh.harvard.edu)) as Word documents, and with the e-mail subject line “SOC 98va ASSIGNMENT.”***

**Eight Response Papers:** Response papers are due at the beginning of class for 8 of the 11 weeks of the course. Each response paper should be ***no more*** than one page in length, single spaced, and should address the following questions: (1) What is the author’s research question in this article/book? (2) What method is employed to answer

the research question? (3) What does the author propose as the answer to this question? (4) How satisfied are you with his or her answer? Do you believe that the author used the best possible methods, data, and reasoning to come to his or her conclusion? What alternative conclusions might be warranted? Optionally, you may also discuss what future research the book or article might inspire, or discuss connections between the readings. Response papers should either review one book or three articles (answering the above questions for each article), depending on the nature of the week's assignments. *Please note: I do NOT accept late response papers—no exceptions! If you cannot turn in a hard copy by the start of class, then you should consider that week for one of your "free" skips.*

A Research Question: A 3-4 page research question is due at the beginning of class on September 26. In it, you should introduce a potential research question for your final paper. You may choose from one of two options. The first option is to write a research proposal for a possible senior thesis that you are interested in completing next year. The thesis would have to be on a development topic. The paper should introduce your question, and explain the significance of your question to the existing literature. The paper should include relevant citations and a works cited list. The second option is to write a theoretically-informed evaluation of the development work being completed by an organization or set of organizations of your choice. This paper should introduce the development organization, its work, and provide a brief discussion of how existing development theory helps (or does not help) make sense of its actions and outcomes.

A Research Paper: Research papers should be submitted no later than 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 12. Each paper should be 15-25 pages in length. (They may be longer, but given time constraints for turning in grades, I reserve the right to not give comments on more than 25 pages per student).

For the first option (the research proposal), the first 2-5 pages should propose a scholarly research question and make a strong argument for why it is important to answer that question. The next 8-10 pages should situate that question in a review of the existing literature. This review should be specific and selective, dovetailing neatly to a conclusion that clearly demonstrates how your research question extends the existing literature. The literature review should identify and discuss relevant themes in academic works relating to the research question, and then use examples and citations from the reviewed works to substantiate the existence and importance of these themes. The literature review should *not* consist of a series of miniature "book reviews." Finally, in the remaining 5-10 pages, review your plan for answering your research question. What kind of evidence will you use for your analysis? How will you collect that data? What problems do you expect to encounter "in the field?" This final section should include first drafts of interview questionnaires, field site proposals, etc.

If you choose the second option (the organizational evaluation), please divide the paper in three sections. The first section should introduce the case. What is the organization's mission? Who founded it? What population does it aim to serve? What projects does it carry out? What is its process of choosing project recipients? Where

does it get its money? In the second section, evaluate the case's contribution to "development," however you choose to define development. What works? What doesn't? What "best practices" does the organization promote and enact? Which "areas" of development are promoted? Which are not? Do you anticipate any unintended consequences of their actions? Is their evaluation process rigorous and appropriate? Do the recipients of the projects have any say in project development and disbursement? In the final section, discuss how theories of development would need to be transformed or extended to better evaluate the work of an organization like the one you are evaluating. This final section should only be about 1-3 paragraphs long.

If you choose to do the organizational evaluation, the only outside research required is research about your organization. I anticipate that much of this information will come from the organization's web page. Other than this, you are not expected to do any outside research for this paper. Rather, use course readings and discussions to inform your final analysis of the relationship between development theory and development practice.

I do not read drafts of the final research paper prior to their submission, but I will gladly discuss any questions or concerns you may have about the paper at any time throughout the semester.

### **Grading:**

Your grade for this course will be determined as follows:

Eight Response Papers:	40%
Final Project:	50%
Informed Class Participation:	10%

### **Readings:**

Please purchase or borrow the following four texts for use in this course:

1. Roberts, J. Timmons and Amy Bellone Hite, editors. 2007. *The Globalization and Development Reader: Perspectives on Development and Global Change*. Wiley.
2. Easterly, William. 2007. *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. Penguin Books.
3. Collier, Paul. 2008. *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can be Done About It*. Oxford University Press.
4. Edward, Michael. 2004. *Future Positive: International Cooperation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Routledge.

The remaining texts will be available for download on the course i-site.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### **September 5—Introduction: Big D, little d, Development**

#### IN-CLASS READINGS:

Powell, Alvin. 2008. "Three hours at Nohana: Reaching out to the Heart of the AIDS Epidemic." *Harvard World Media*.  
<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2008/09/three-hours-at-nohana/>

Kamat, Sangeeta. 2003. "The NGO Phenomenon and Political Culture in the Third World" *Development* 46(1): 88-93.

### **September 12—Classic Theories and Modernization**

#### READINGS:

Chapters 1-4 in Roberts/Hite Reader

### **September 19—Dependency and World Systems Theory**

#### READINGS:

Chapters 5-8 in Roberts/Hite Reader

Firebaugh, Glenn. 1992. "The Growth Effects of Foreign and Domestic Investment," *American Journal of Sociology*, 98:105-30.

Firebaugh, Glenn and Frank Beck. 1994. "Does Economic Growth Benefit the Masses? Growth, Dependence, and Welfare in the Third World," *American Sociological Review*, 59:631-53.

### **September 26—Globalization, World Polity, and Beyond (part I of II)**

#### READINGS:

Choose four relevant chapters from Reader

**\*\*RESEARCH QUESTION DUE\*\***

### **October 3 —Globalization, World Polity and Beyond (part II of II)**

- Meyer, John W., John Boli, George Thomas, and Francisco Ramirez. 1997. "World Society and the Nation State," *American Journal of Sociology*, 103: 144-81.
- Smith, Jackie. 2008. Chapters 1-3 and 10 in *Social Movements for Global Democracy*. Johns Hopkins.
- Friedman, Thomas and Ignacio Ramonet. 1999. "Dueling Globalizations: a Debate between Thomas Friedman and Ignacio Ramonet," *Foreign Policy* 116: 110-120.
- Bardhan, Pranab. 2006. "Does Globalization Help or Hurt the World's Poor?" *Scientific American*. 294 (4): 1-16.

### **October 10—Development Actors and their "Best Practices"**

#### Community Driven Development

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPRS1/Resources/383606-1205334112622/5805\\_chap9.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPRS1/Resources/383606-1205334112622/5805_chap9.pdf)

#### Scaling Up

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/Resources/244362-1237844546330/5949218-1237844567860/Scaling\\_Up\\_LCDD\\_Book\\_rfilsize.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/Resources/244362-1237844546330/5949218-1237844567860/Scaling_Up_LCDD_Book_rfilsize.pdf) (Chapter 3 and 5 only)

#### Monitoring and Evaluation

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2004/08/18/000112742\\_20040818172234/Rendered/PDF/2980000182131497813.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2004/08/18/000112742_20040818172234/Rendered/PDF/2980000182131497813.pdf) (Chapter 3 only)

#### Governability

Denizer, Cevdet, Daniel Kaufmann and Aart Kraay. 2011. "Good Countries or Good Projects? Micro and Macro correlates of World Bank Project Performance." World Bank, Policy Research Working Paper No. 5646

#### Governability

Biddle, Stephen, Fotini Christia, J Alexander Thier. 2010. "Defining Success in Afghanistan: What Can the US Accept?" *Foreign Affairs* July/August.

#### Conditional Cash Transfers

Birdsall, Nancy and William Savedoff (2010) *Cash on Delivery Aid: A New Approach to Foreign Aid* Washington, DC: Center for Global Development (Chapter 1: Buying Things Versus Buying Development).  
[http://www.cgdev.org/doc/books/COD\\_Aid/01\\_COD\\_Aid-Ch1.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/doc/books/COD_Aid/01_COD_Aid-Ch1.pdf)

#### Conditional Cash Transfers

[http://www.who.int/health\\_financing/documents/pb\\_e\\_08\\_1-cct.pdf](http://www.who.int/health_financing/documents/pb_e_08_1-cct.pdf)

## Sustainability

Swidler, Ann and Susan Cott Watkins. 2009. "‘Teach a Man to Fish’: The Sustainability Doctrine and its Social Consequences." *World Development*. 37 (7): 1182-1196.

## October 17—Alternatives to Development

Read the following excerpts from the book *The Post-Development Reader*, edited by Rahnama and Bawtree. Zed Books.

### Before Development Paradigms:

The Original Affluent Society, by Marshall Sahlins

Learning from Ladakh, by Helena Norberg-Hodge

The Idea of Progress, by Teodor Shanin

The Making and Unmaking of the Third World through Development, by Arturo Escobar

### Development in Practice:

How the Poor Develop the Rich, by Susan George

The Development Game, by Leonard Frank

### The Post-Development Age:

From Global Thinking to Local Thinking, by Gustavo Esteva and Madhu Suri Prakash

The Searchers after the Simple Life, by David E. Shi

Reinventing the Present: The Chodak Experience in Senegal, by Emmanuel Seni N’Dione, Philippe de Leener, Jean-Pierre Perier, Mamadou Ndiaye, and Pierre Jacolin.

## October 24—Development in Practice Example—Microcredit

Sanyal, Paromita. 2009. "From Credit to Collective Action: The Role of Microfinance in Promoting Women’s Social Capital and Normative Influence." *American Sociological Review* 74 (4): 529-550.

Garikipati, Supriya. 2008. "The Impact of Lending to Women on Household Vulnerability and Women’s Empowerment: Evidence from India." *World Development* 36 (12): 2620-2642.

Corsi, Marcella, Fabrizio Botti, Tommaso Rondinella and Giulia Zacchia. 2006. "Women and Microfinance in Mediterranean Countries." *Development* 49 (2): 67-74.

Mayoux, Linda. 1999. "Questioning Virtuous Spirals: Micro-finance and Women's Empowerment in Africa." *Journal of International Development* 11: 957-984.

Kabeer, Naila, Simeen Mahmud, and Jairo Guillermo Isaza Castro. 2010. "NGO's Strategies and the Challenge of Development and Democracy in Bangladesh." Working Paper #343: Institute of Development Studies.

### **October 31—NO CLASS—PROFESSOR IS OUT OF TOWN**

### **November 7—Development in Practice Example—Gender**

United Nations. 2002. *Gender Mainstreaming: An Overview*.  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/e65237.pdf>

Bose, Ashish. 2007. "Female Foeticide: A Civilisational Collapse." Pp. 80-90 in *Sex-Selective Abortion in India : Gender, Society and New Reproductive Technologies*, edited by Tulsi Patel. Sage.

Dagar, Rainuka. 2007. "Rethinking Female Foeticide: Perspective and Issues." Pp. 91- 134 in *Sex-Selective Abortion in India : Gender, Society and New Reproductive Technologies*, edited by Tulsi Patel. Sage.

Hitt, Jack. "Pro-Life Nation." *The New York Times Magazine*. 9 Apr. 2006: 40.

Jeffreys, Sheila. 2006. "The Traffic in Women: Human Rights Violation or Migration for Work?" Pp. 195-217 in *Migrant Women and Work*, edited by Anuja Agrawal. New Delhi: Sage Publications.

Otto, Diane. 2007. "Making Sense of Zero Tolerance Policies in Peacekeeping Sexual Economies." Pp. 259-282 in *Sexuality and the Law: Feminist Engagements*, edited by Vanessa E. Munro and Carl F. Stychin. New York, NY: Routledge-Cavendish.

Banyopadhyay, Nandinee (with sex worker activists). 2007. "'Streetwalkers Show the Way': Reframing the Debate on Trafficking from Sex Workers' Perspective." Pp. 86-98 (Chapter 7) in *Feminisms in Development: Contradictions, Contestations, and Challenges*, edited by Andrea Cornwall, Elizabeth Harrison, and Ann Whitehead. London: Zed Books.

### **November 14—Social Entrepreneurship**

Readings TBD

**November 21—NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING**

**November 28—Critiquing Development Aid  
(Choose ONE of the two books below)**

Collier, Paul. 2008. *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can be Done About It*. Oxford University Press.

Easterly, William. 2007. *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. Penguin Books.

**December 5 (New Last day of Class)—Ending on a Positive Note.**

Edward, Michael. 2004. *Future Positive: International Cooperation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Routledge.

Sen, Amartya. 1999. "Introduction: Development as Freedom." Pp. 3-11 in *Development as Freedom*. Anchor Books.

**December 12—Final Projects Due by 8:00 a.m.**