

**University of Guelph
Department of Philosophy**

Winter 2015

PHIL 6600 Social and Political Philosophy: *The Ethics of Development*

Class meetings: Thursdays 2:00-4:50, Mackinnon 346

Instructor: Monique Deveaux

Office hours: Tuesdays 1-2 and by appointment

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The Ethics of Development

This course surveys recent ethical reflections on the ideas and practices of development assistance and humanitarian aid. A growing field in applied ethics, the “ethics of development” also intersects with debates in contemporary social and political philosophy about inequality, empowerment, subordination, and obligations to distant others. Most generally, the ethics of development asks about flourishing, justice, power, subordination and agency in the context of global inequality, chronic deprivation, and environmental degradation. This course will not attempt an exhaustive survey of all the leading texts or thinkers in the ethics of development, but rather, will introduce students to some of the main ideas and debates raised by this area of applied and normative ethics. We will take up writing in the emerging field of what is known as “development ethics”, including the most important of these, the “capabilities approach” to human development (and justice) as advanced by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum. We will also address the human rights approach to development, premised on the idea of an internationally recognized “right to development”. Feminist and postcolonial critiques of the practices of development assistance and humanitarian aid will also be explored.

Class Format

Seminar-style. Come prepared to discuss the readings and your thoughts on them.

Course Requirements

You are required to attend and participate in class meetings, lead seminar one class (circulating discussion questions in advance), and to write one final paper of 15-20 pages.

If you do need to miss a class, you are responsible for catching up in the reading. A 3-page reflection piece on the readings missed is required within one week of the missed class.

Course Assessment

Class participation (contributions to discussion): 10%

10 short (1 page) reflection pieces (due *before* class): 15%

Leading 2 classes/seminars (you choose which ones): 15%*

Final research paper (8000-10,000 words): 60% (due date TBA)

**circulate study questions in advance, kick off and moderate part of our class*

Required Readings

There are 3 required books and the remainder of the readings are available on Ares, the university's electronic course reserve system. Please bring the readings to class in an easily accessible form, as we will frequently refer back to them.

Books to purchase:

Serene Khader, Adaptive Preferences and Women's Empowerment (Oxford 2011)
 Martha Nussbaum, Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach (Harvard 2011)
 Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom (Anchor Books, 2000)

For university policies on submission of work, dropping courses, accessibility, academic misconduct and other matters, see:

https://www.uoguelph.ca/philosophy/resources/standard_statements

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Jan. 8

Introduction

Reading:

1. Denis Goulet, "On Moral Imperatives in Development," in Development Ethics at Work: Explorations, 1960-2002 (Routledge 2006).
2. Des Gasper, "What is the Ethics of Development?" and "The Meaning of Development" (chapters 1 & 2) in The Ethics of Development (Edinburgh 2004).
3. Jay Drydyk, "Ethics in Development" (forthcoming, Handbook of International Development).

Jan. 15

The Capability Approach: Nussbaum

Reading:

Martha Nussbaum, Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach (Harvard, 2011), pp. ix-100.

Jan. 22

The Capability Approach: Nussbaum continued

Reading:

1. Martha Nussbaum, Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach (Harvard, 2011), pp. 101-124, 146-149, and 152-157.
2. Martha Nussbaum, Women and Human Development (Cambridge 2000), Ch. 2 "Adaptive Preferences & Women's Options" (pp. 111-166).

Jan. 29

Women, Culture, and Development

Reading:

Serene Khader, Adaptive Preferences and Women's Empowerment (Oxford 2011), Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 3-106)

January 30: Meeting with Prof. Serene Khader (time/place TBA)

Feb. 5 **Women, Culture, and Development continued**

Reading:

1. Serene Khader, Adaptive Preferences and Women's Empowerment (Oxford 2011), Chapters 4 and 5 (pp. 136-205).
2. Alison Jaggar, "Saving Amina: Global Justice for Women and Intercultural Dialogue," Ethics and International Affairs (2005)

Feb. 12 **Development as the Expansion of Freedom: Sen**

Reading:

Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom (Anchor Books 1999): Preface, Introduction, and Chapters 1-4 (pp. xi-xiv, 3-110)

Feb. 19: Winter break

Feb. 26 **Development as the Expansion of Freedom: Sen**

Reading:

Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom (Anchor Books 1999), Chapters 5-8, 10, and 12 (pp. 111-203, 227-248, and 282-298).

March 5 **A Human Rights Approach to Development**

Reading:

1. Peter Uvin, Human Rights and Development (Kumarian 2004), Ch. 6 (pp. 122-166)
2. Arjun Sengupta, "Realizing the Right to Development," Development and Change Vol. 31 (2000): 553-578
3. Amy Allen, "Paradoxes of Development: Rethinking the Right to Development," Ch. 10 in Poverty, Agency, and Human Rights, ed. Diana Tietjens Meyers (Oxford 2014)

March 12 **Development Ethics and Global Justice**

Readings:

1. David Crocker, "Development Ethics and Globalization," Philosophical Topics, Vol. 30, No. 2 (2002): 9-28
2. Nigel Dower, "The Nature and Scope of Development Ethics," Journal of Global Ethics, Vol. 4, No. 3 (December 2008): 183-193
3. Asunción Lera St.Clair, "Global Poverty: Development Ethics Meets Global Justice," Globalizations Vol. 3, No. 2 (2006): 139-157

March 19 **Critical Interventions in Development Theory**

Readings:

1. Nandita Dogra, Representations of Global Poverty: Aid, Development, and NGOs (I.B. Taurus 2014), Chapter 2.
2. Barbara Heron, Desire for Development: Whiteness, Gender, and the Helping Imperative (Wilfred Laurier Press, 2007), selections TBA

March 26 **Interrogating the Category of the “Global Poor”**

Reading:

1. Suzan Ilcan and Anita Lacey, Ch. 3, “Empowering the Poor: Oxfam’s Poverty-Reduction Initiatives,” in Governing the Poor: Exercises of Poverty Reduction, Practices of Global Aid (McGill-Queens Press 2011).
2. Monique Deveaux, “The Global Poor as Agents of Justice,” The Journal of Moral Philosophy (July 2013)
3. Nancy Fraser, “Injustice at Intersecting Scales: On ‘Social Exclusion’ and the ‘Global Poor,’” European Journal of Social Theory Vol. 13, No. 3 (2010): 363-371.

April 2*

Towards Transformed Conceptions & Practices of Poverty Reduction and ‘Development’?

Reading:

1. Ann Cudd, “Agency and Intervention: How (Not) To Fight Global Poverty,” Ch. 8 in Poverty, Agency, and Human Rights, ed. Diana Tietjens Meyers (Oxford 2014)
2. Martin Kirk, “Beyond Charity: Helping NGOs Lead a Transformative New Public Discourse on Global Poverty and Social Justice,” Ethics and International Affairs Vol. 26, No. 2 (2012): 245-263

*This class will need to be rescheduled to Monday, April 6 or Tuesday, April 7, as I am away at a conference on April 2nd.