

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
SOAN*3680 PERSPECTIVES ON DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Lauren Sneyd

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TUESDAYS: 7:00-10:00PM

Required text available in the campus bookstore:

Gardner, K. and Lewis, D. (2015). *Anthropology and Development: Challenges for the Twenty-First Century*. Pluto Press.

All other readings are available electronically on Courselink and Ares.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine theories and ideas relating to international development, largely as seen through the eyes of anthropologists. Drawing from the ethnographic work of anthropologists, complemented by additional social science research and analysis, both audiovisual and written, we will focus on different aspects of the field of international development. This field will include sections on: socio-economic and gender inequality, globalization, corporate social responsibility, environmental degradation and displacement, rural-urban migration and the informal sector, agricultural and environmental sustainability, food security and food sovereignty, participatory research and development, amongst other topics.

The course format will consist of short lectures, audiovisual materials, and classroom discussion. Students are expected to come to class having completed the readings and prepared to contribute to these discussions. There will be two written assignments, a take-home exam, and weekly, group mini-assignments. The assignments and the examination will assume knowledge gained from both the readings and the lectures, so class attendance is highly recommended. We will be using Courselink as an electronic resource for announcements and for the distribution of lecture slides (however, not all lecture material will be available on the slides). All assignments will also be submitted through Courselink using the electronic Dropbox.

First assignment 25%
Second assignment 35%
Take-home Exam 30%
Weekly discussion group mini-assignments (10) 10% In class

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Through lectures, readings, related audio visual materials and discussion, students will learn to *apply* theoretical knowledge to different ‘real life’ development case studies to better understand the application of anthropology, and social science more broadly, to the field of international development. Weekly class discussions and group mini-assignments are designed *to evaluate the application* of knowledge on a regular basis and receive ongoing feedback.
2. The two written assignments require students to *apply* theoretical arguments to development case studies. However, equally importantly, they demand that students create coherent and cohesive arguments to help *analyze and explain* the nature of the cases.
3. The take-home exam requires that students *apply* knowledge acquired *throughout the course* (lectures, readings and audio visual materials).
4. The multiple writing assignments will help students improve their *written communication* and ensure academic integrity.