THE RISE AND FALL OF DEVELOPMENT

A. DAFINGER

FALL 2017:
4 CREDITS (8 ECTS)
MASTER LEVEL

COURSE OUTLINE
This course provides a critical debate of the history, politics and the academic discourse of recent development politics and practice. Development is a major framework for globalization on several levels: questions of economic growth, poverty and inequality are framed in terms of development and international relations being labelled and perceived in terms of development aid and cooperation. Development is no longer merely in the domain of the state, the neoliberal shift has led to the rise of national and international agencies which engage in ‘development’, both in the “Third World”, as well as in the west and postsocialist countries. Recently, however, faith in development and progress has been severely shaken by the environmental crisis, the failure of development programs, and the continuously growing gap between rich and poor. At the same time, the geographic distinction between the ‘developed’ and the ‘developing’ has become increasingly obsolete. The urban centres in the world ‘formerly known as the third’ form hybrid spaces where ‘core’ and ‘periphery’ are intricately intertwined, where ‘developed’ and ‘underdeveloped’ coexist.

COURSE CONTENT
As outlined, this course will discuss the major theories and approaches in the anthropological study of development, and will take a specific look at rural-urban relations in the developing world. The intention is to critically review the history of development theory, with a special attention to the political context and content of each model, alongside anthropological models of culture change. The course will continue by looking at the relation between anthropology and the development machine, and trace the paradigm shifts in development models. The debate will focus on the question if is to draw a line between development cooperation and intervention. A special focus will lie on south-south alliances, which claims to provide development from within. The texts will also provide a methodological toolbox to analyse neo-colonial practice. Extra attention will be paid to the digitization of development and the proliferation of surveillance capitalism under the guise of ‘financial inclusion’. The third part ties the threads together and looks at the anthropological study of urbanization: We will investigate the impact of cities on rural livelihoods, look at informal economies in the shadow of banking towers, and eventually scrutinize the role of cities as the engines in a global development machine.
COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
At the end of the course you will be able to demonstrate a profound knowledge of recent
development politics from a sociological and social anthropological perspective.
Participants will be familiar with the history of development research within these disciplines and
will be able to critically reflect upon the role of development theory and applied anthropology.
Successful participants will also be able to assess the role of development in processes of
urbanization, hybridization of urban spaces and new middle-class formation as part of
development policies.

TEACHING METHOD & REQUIREMENTS
Each class consist of two parts: a lecture style class followed by a seminar. The lecture will
introduce the general topic of the specific week and give an overview of the specific debates
related to it. In the seminar, we get the chance to discuss and address more specific
questions. The seminar will also give space for short, 15-20 minutes student presentations
(one per student). These presentations are accompanied by a paper, which has to be
circulated one week in advance. The final papers should be between 3-3500 words, need to
include the author’s name, title of the seminar and of presentation. All submitted files (.doc)
also have to have the author’s name and short title in the filename.
Presentations are complemented by short (5 minute) critical comment by a fellow student:
Each participant will prepare at least one such critical contribution during this course.
Needless to say, it is obligatory to read the key texts for each class and prepare notes for the
discussion; active participation is part of academic culture.

GRADING
Presentation and handout 35%, paper 35%, critical statement 10%, active participation 20%

CONTACT AND OFFICE HOURS:
Email: DafingerA@ceu.edu
phone 2698
Zrinyi 14, room 401

SUGGESTED BACKGROUND READING
World (Princeton studies in culture/power/history; Princeton: Princeton UP).
[N.C.]: Duke UP
Oxford UP.

Further readings are not necessarily in by the university library. It is your responsibility to
obtain the necessary texts if you prepare for a presentation.
Part One: rise and fall of development ideology

Week 1: Introduction: What is Development? An Overview and an introductory debate

Week 2: Development Theory and Practice until the 1980s, Modernization Theory and Dependency Theory


Further Reading:
Mintz, Sidney Wilfred (1986), Sweetness and Power: the Place of Sugar in Modern History (New York: Penguin): Chapter 2

Week 3: Anthropology and Development: History of a Relationship


Further Reading:

Week 4: The Privatization of Development: Markets, International Trade, and Credit Cultures

Geschiere, P 1992 “Kinship, Witchcraft and ‘the Market’ ” in R. Dilley (ed), Contesting Markets: Analyses of Ideology, Discourse and Practice, 244-259


Rankin, Katharine Neilson 2001 “Governing development: neoliberalism, microcredit and rational economic woman” Economy and Society 30(1)

Further Reading:
Friedland, R and A F Robertson 1990 “Beyond the Marketplace” (Chapter 1 of Beyond the Marketplace: rethinking economy and society), New York, de Gruyter
Hart, K 1999 “The market from a humanist point of view” Ch 5 of The Memory Bank: Money in an Unequal World London, Texere
Part two: subjects of development

Week 5: Development 2.0: “participation”, NGOs and “donor-participation”

- Dafinger, A 2013 “The Economics of Ethnic Conflict” Introduction + Chapter 6 [*]

Further reading:

Week 6: The Silk Road to Africa. South-south alliances and the new development paradigm


Further Reading:

Week 7: Big Data as Development. Financial inclusion, surveillance capitalism and forms of digital governance in the Global South


Further Reading:
Demonetization in India:
2016. Can deposit as much cash as you want in bank, no immunity for black money: Govt. In http://www.hindustantimes.com/
USAID. 2017. USAID, Indian And U.S. Companies To Support India’s Initiative To Extend Financial Services To All Citizens.
Part three: development and the city

Week 8: Urbanization in the Third World


Week 9: Development and the City: the Rural-Urban Ties.


Further reading:

Week 10: Developing the City: migrant communities, urban resources and new informal economies


Further reading:
Week 11: The First World in the Third and the Third World in the First: cites and the production of transnational identities


Further reading:
