

Sustainable Development & the Global Future (ENVI368)

Cross-listed as INTL368 and with Political Science

Macalester College, Spring 2015

Tues/Thurs 9:40am – 11:10am Room 301

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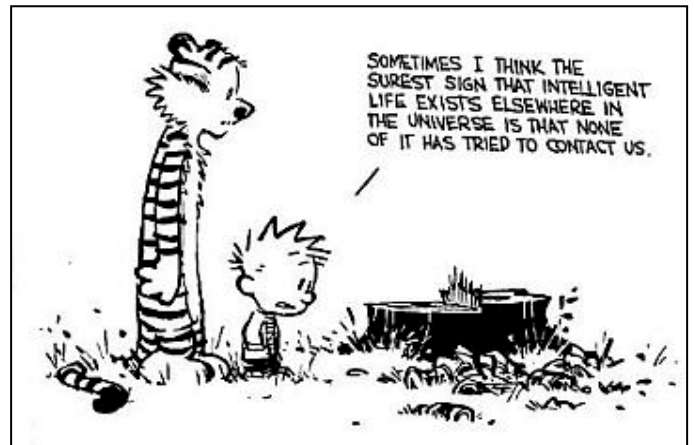
Office hours by appointment

Preceptor: Gabby Queenan - gqueenan@macalester.edu

Course Description

The concept of “development” is as old as ideas of progress and modernization. Driven out of a set of enlightenment ideas about what a “good society” should be, in the post-war era development was mainstreamed through international institutions, economic orders and narratives of inclusion and exclusion. Since the 1970s, activists, scholars and government leaders have drawn attention to a strong tension inherent in development – the marginalization of people and the natural resource base.

This course is focused on critically examining the possibility of “green development”. What does sustainable development mean in theory and practice? Can it be modeled and measured? By whom, with what tools and expectations? We will try to answer these questions by examining sustainable development at the scales of nation, region and community.



Student Evaluation

1) Attendance & participation (20%)

You are expected to attend **every** class and actively participate in class discussion. If you must be absent due to illness or other extenuating circumstance, contact me as soon as possible. More than one absence may result in a reduction in your participation grade. If you are regularly late to class, this may be counted as an absence. You are responsible for checking in with your peers for missed material.

Your participation grade will be based on thoughtful, respectful, and productive engagement in class discussions. Your curiosity and creativity are always encouraged.

2) Submission of 12 short reading reflections over the semester (30%)

Reading reflections are to help you synthesize the reading material and guide our class discussions. Your reflections are **due by 9pm the night before class**. This allows us time to review your pieces before class in the morning. Your reflections should be approximately 300 words in length, about two-three paragraphs. They must be submitted through the course website. **DO NOT e-mail reflections. Late reading reflections will not be accepted because it sets us both back in our coursework.**

Reflections will be graded on a five point scale: **outstanding (A)**, **excellent (A-/B+)**, **good (B)**, **satisfactory (C)** or **unsatisfactory (D)** each submission. Occasionally, I will respond directly to your submission on Moodle. Most times, I will refer to issues raised in reflections in class. See the *Reading Reflections Instructions* document on Moodle for more information.

3) Small group projects (25%)

There are three small group projects spread over the semester: **Foundation Case Study (5%)**, **Microfinance Project (10%)**, and a local **NGO Sustainability Assessment (10%)**. More instructions will follow about each. Because this makes up a significant part of your grade, it is important to make your group process work! In-class time is allocated for working on group projects.

4) Final Paper: Sustainable Development Project Proposal (25%)

For your final project, you will write a 10 page proposal to the Phadke Foundation for a sustainable development project that you would like to implement. You can submit this grant on behalf of a student organization, as a NGO, corporation or government agency. Your project should be in the range of \$50,000-200,000. You can propose a one-time pilot or a multiyear project. Your project can be located anywhere. Your proposal must: 1) provide a working definition of sustainable development based on our class readings, 2) describe the goals of your project and the model you are replicating, scaling or inventing, and 3) describe potential outcomes and how you will measure success.

Your project grade will be based on the clarity and originality of your proposal, the timeliness of your topic and your ability to contextualize the project within the Sustainable Development scholarship. More details will follow. The final paper is due on Moodle on **Monday May 11 at 4pm**.

If you submit any of the above assignments late, you WILL be graded down one full step for each day past the deadline. For example, an assignment handed in one day late will begin with a B+; two days late a C+.

Final Grade Scale: A (95-100); A- (90-94); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82)

Similar ranges for C grades (70-79) and D grades (60-69); Below 60 is a failing grade.

Academic Integrity: It is assumed that all members of the class will act with academic integrity and will not engage in behavior such as plagiarism, academic dishonesty, misrepresentation, or cheating. Please refer to the college's policy on academic honesty.

Laptops, Cell Phones, & Other Electronic Devices: Please turn off all electronic devices before class begins.

Required Books

Please purchase -- E. Callenbach. 1975. *Ecotopia*. Bantam Books. All other readings are on library electronic reserves.

Summary of Topics and Readings

*** Reading response due**

Part I: Defining the Sustainability Paradigm

Thurs Jan 22: Course Introduction

*** Tues Jan 27: Are We Striving for Utopia?**

- E. Callenbach. 1975. *Ecotopia*. Bantam Books. (*book to be purchased*)
- S. Timberg. 2008. "The Novel that Predicted Portland," *NY Times*.

Part II: Sustainable Development Paradigms and Institutions

***Thurs Jan 29: What does development mean?**

Read in the following order:

- W. M. Adams. 2001. "Chapter 1: The Dilemma of Sustainability" in *Green Development*. London: Routledge Press. Pp. 1-21.
- G. Rist. 2002. "Chapter 4: The invention of development," in *The History of Development: From Western Origins to Global Faith*. London: Zed Books, pp. 69-99.
- W. Sachs. 1999. "Chpt 1: The Archaeology of the Development Idea" in *Planetary Dialectics*. London: Zed Books. Pp. 3-23.

***Thurs Feb 3: The MDB Campaign**

- B. Rich. 1994. "The Emperor's New Clothes" and "What is to be done with the World Bank," in *Mortgaging the Earth*. Boston: Beacon Press. Pp 148-181; 301-318.
- Watch the film *The Burning Season* (1994) (two copies on reserve in Media Services – please note there is a more recent movie with the same title – we are watching the one from 1994)

*** Thurs Feb 5: The Rio Summit and Rio+20**

Read in the following order:

- W. M. Adams. 2001. "Chapter 4: The Rio Machine" in *Green Development*. London: Routledge Press. Pp. 55-101.
- P. Schabecoff. 1996. "At the Summit," in *A New Name for Peace: International Environmentalism, Sustainable Development, and Democracy*. Hanover, NH: Univ. of New England Press, pp. 160-177. *SKIM this one for a feel for what the meeting was like.*
- H. Bulkeley et al. 2013. "Governing Sustainability: Rio+20 and the road beyond," *Environment and Planning C* Vol 31: 958 – 970.

*** Tues Feb 10: Measuring Sustainability**

- T. Parris, M. Thomas, and R. W. Kates. 2003. "Characterizing and Measuring Sustainable Development," *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 28: 559-586.
- Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy. 2010. *EPI Summary for Policy Makers*. Pp. 1-4.

*** Thurs Feb 12: Greening the Multilaterals**

Read in the following order:

- R. L. Hicks et al. 2008. "Have the multilaterals been greened? Major trends and cases," in *Greening aid? Understanding the Environmental Impact of Development Assistance*. London: Oxford University Press, pp. 184-210.
- M. Goldman. 2005. "Chapter III: Producing Green Science," in *Imperial Nature*. Pp. 100-150.
- B. Rich. 2013. "What Does It Take?," *Foreclosing the Future*. Boston: Island Press. Pp 220-240.

Tues Feb 17: Millennium Development Goals and the Global Compact

- UN. 2014. Millennium Development Goals Progress Report. Pp. 1-45.
- M. Clemens and T. Moss. 2005. "What's Wrong with the MDGs? Pp. 1-4.

+Introduction to first group project

Part III: Social Change Models for Sustainable Development

*** Thurs Feb 19: Philanthropy and Development**

- R. Reich. 2013. "What are foundations for?," Boston Forum. Pp. 1-9.
- M. Dowie. 2001. "Introduction", "Chapter 1: History" (SKIM), and "Chapter 11: Democracy" in *American Foundations*. Cambridge: MIT Press. Pp. ix-xi; 1-21; 247-263.
- R. Marten and J. Witte. 2008. "Transforming Development?: The role of philanthropic foundations in international development cooperation". GPPI Research Paper No. 10. Pp. 2-40.

In class time to work on group project

Tues Feb 24: In-class group reports on Foundation case studies

*** Thurs Feb 26: Participatory Development/Participation as Tyranny with guest Paul Dosh**

- W. M. Adams. 2001. "Chapter 12: Development from Below," in *Green Development*. London: Routledge Press. Pp. 334-367.
- S. Hickey et al. 2005. *Participation--From Tyranny to Transformation?: Exploring New Approaches to Participation in Development*. Zed Books. Pp. 3-20; 159-170.
- U. Kothari. 2001. "Power, Knowledge and Social Control" in *Participation: the New Tyranny*. Zed Books. Pp. 139-152.

Tues March 3: Sustainable Livelihoods led by Gabby Queenan '15 and Charnelle Etti '15

- M. A. Brocklesby and E. Fisher. 2003. Community development in sustainable livelihoods approaches – an introduction," *Community Development Journal* Vol 38 No 3 July pp. 185–198.
- K. E. McNamara. Understanding sustainable livelihoods in the Pacific: Case study of Soso village, Naviti Island, Fiji. Pacific Centre for Env and Sustainable Development. Pp. 12-27.

+ Intro to second group project

Thurs March 5: In-class group project worktime

***Tues March 10: Social Entrepreneurs and Development Change**

- P. Polak. 2009. "Chapter 2: Great Poverty Myths"; "Chapter 3: Making More Money" and "Chapter 8: Creating New Markets" in *Out of poverty: What works when traditional approaches fail*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers. Pp. 27-48; 51-61; 137-157.
- W. Moseley. 2014. "The limits of new social entrepreneurship", Op-ed. Aljazeera. Dec 22.

***Thurs March 12: Microfinance model**

- R. Sengupta and C. A. Aubuchon. (2008). "The Microfinance Revolution: An overview." Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Review, 90(1), pp. 9-30.
- T. Dichter and M. Harper. 2007. "Chpt 13: Microfinance: Some Conceptual and Methodological Problems" in *What's Wrong with Microfinance*. Intermediate Technology Publications. Pp. 149-162.

*****SPRING BREAK March 16-20*****

Tues March 24: Microfinance model - workshop with Elyse Gordon '08

- A. Roy. 2010. "Preface" and "Chapter 1" in *Poverty capital: Microfinance and the making of development*. Routledge. Pp 1-38.

In-class group project worktime

Thurs March 26: In-class group presentations - Lending Decisions

Tues March 31: Appropriate Technology - guest Ross Donihue '11, founder of Maps for Good

- B. Bilger. "Hearth Surgery", *The New Yorker*. Dec 21 & 28, 2009. Pp. 84-91+
- Visit the honey bee network at: http://www.sristi.org/hbnew/honeybee_innovation.php

+ Intro to third group project

***Thurs April 2: Fair trade and Commodity Case Studies**

- S. Lyon and M. Moberg. 2010. "What's Fair: The Paradox of Seeking Justice through Markets" in *Fair Trade and Social Justice: Global Ethnographies*. NY: NYU Press. Pp. 1-23.
 - Students will be assigned an additional commodity specific chapter to read on bananas, flowers and coffee (See Moodle for your assignment).
- In class screening of *Chocolate Country*

***Tues April 7: Critical engagements with ecotourism with Amy Damon**

- M. Honey. 2008. "Part I" in *Ecotourism and Sustainable Development: Whose Paradise?* Boston: Island Press. Pp. 3-71.

Thurs April 9: Time to work on group projects and conduct meetings with NGO leaders

***Tues April 14: Sustainable Living**

- J. Blewitt. 2008. "Envisioning a Sustainable Society" in *Understanding Sustainable Development*. London: Earthscan. Pp. 150-172.
- A. Weisman. 1998. "Gaviotas! An Oasis of the Imagination," *Yes* Fall 1998. Pp. 1-14.
- Lerner, J. 2013. "Our Urban Dream". *The Cairo Review*.

Thurs April 16: In-class group presentations – NGO Assessments

Part IV: Bringing Sustainability Home

Tues April 21: Guest lecture from Shelley Shreffler, Program Officer, Margaret A Cargill Foundation

Thurs April 23: Individual meetings with Gabby about your projects

Tues April 28: Your Sustainability Grant Proposal – workshop in class

Thurs April 30: Wrap up class - Can/Should I have a career in sustainable development?

- B. Moseley. 2011. "What I Tell My Students," in *Peace Corps at 50*, (eds) J. Albritton et al.
- Letters home from recent ENVI368 alumni working in development

Final Paper due in hard copy to ES office on Monday May 11 by 4pm