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 300-400 words in length, about 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 one a five point scale: outstanding (A), excellent (A-/B+), good (B), satisfactory (C) or unsatisfactory (D). 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.

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.
Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please meet with Allison Quinn, Director of Disability Services. You can reach her at aquinn2@macalester.edu. Additional information regarding the accommodations process for students with disabilities can be found at: http://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/

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

Required Books

Summary of Topics and Readings

* Reading response due

Tues Sept 5: Course Introduction

* Thurs Sept 7: Are We Striving for Utopia?

(optional) Thurs Sept 7 4pm CARN 305 – Econmoics talk with A. Mushfiq Mobarak ’97 (Professor of Economics, Yale University)

Part I: Sustainable Development Paradigms and Institutions

*Tues Sept 12: What does development mean?*
Read in the following order:

*Thurs Sept 14: The MDB Campaign*
- Watch the film The Burning Season (1994) (a DVD copy on reserve in Library Media Services – please note there is a recent movie with the same title on Indonesia– we are watching the 1994 on Brazil)
* Tues Sept 19: The Rio Summit and Rio+20  
Read in the following order:  
- 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.*  

Thurs Sept 21: In class guest Professor Judy Carney, Department of Geography, UCLA  
We will be joining up with Prof. Moseley’s class  

* Dr. Carney is also giving an EnviroThursday presentation at 12-1 in Olin 301 and you are expected to attend that as well*

Tues Sept 26: Measuring Sustainability  
Read in the following order:  

*Thurs Sept 28: Greening the Multilaterals*  
Read in the following order:  

* Tues Oct 3: MDGs and SDGs*  

+Introduction to first group project

**Part II: Social Change Models for Sustainable Development**
Thurs Oct 5: Philanthropy and Development  
+In class time to work on group project

Tues Oct 10: In-class group reports on Foundation case studies

*Thurs Oct 12: Participatory Development/Participation as Tyranny with guest Paul Dosh  

*Thurs Oct 12 -- Roundtable event 4:45 pm-6:15 pm JBD Selective Empathy: Resistance and Resilience with Aminatta Forna

*Tues Oct 17: Sustainable Livelihoods – Led by Chris Pieper  
+ Intro to second group project

Thurs Oct 19: Attend Dr. Amadei will be giving an EnviroThursday 12-1pm Olin Rice 250.  
If you can’t go to the noon talk, you can attend his class visit to Amy Damon’s 9:40am course.
+In-class group project worktime

*Tues Oct 24: Social Entrepreneurs and Development Change  

Thurs Oct 26: No class Fall Break

Tues Oct 31: Microfinance model  
+In-class group project worktime
Thurs Nov 2: Microfinance model continued
- Selections from L. Karim’s 2011 Microfinance and Its Discontents: Women in Debt in Bangladesh.
  + In-class group project worktime

Tues Nov 7: In-class group presentations - Lending Decisions

*Thurs Nov 9: The NGO Sector and Appropriate Technology
  + Intro to third group project

Tues Nov 14 and Thurs Nov 16: Time to work on group projects and conduct interviews Roopali at COP23

*Tues Nov 21: Fair trade and Commodity Case Studies
- Students will be assigned an commodity specific chapter to read
In class screening of Chocolate Country

Thurs Nov 23: No Class Thanksgiving Break

Tues Nov 28: In class group presentations – NGO Assessments

Part III: Making Personal Meaning of Sustainability

*Thurs Nov 30: Sustainable Living

Tues Dec 5: Pitching your Idea with Kate Ryan Reiling Bring your grant abstract to class

Thurs Dec 7: Your Sustainability Grant Proposal workshop with your revised abstracts

Tues Dec 12: Wrap up class - Can/Should I have a career in sustainable development?
- Letters home from recent alumni working in development

Final Paper due in hard copy to ES office on Monday December 18.