

Sustainable Development & the Global Future (ENVI368)

Cross-listed as INTL368 and with Political Science

Macalester College, Fall 2017

Tues/Thurs 1:10-2:50pm Room 301

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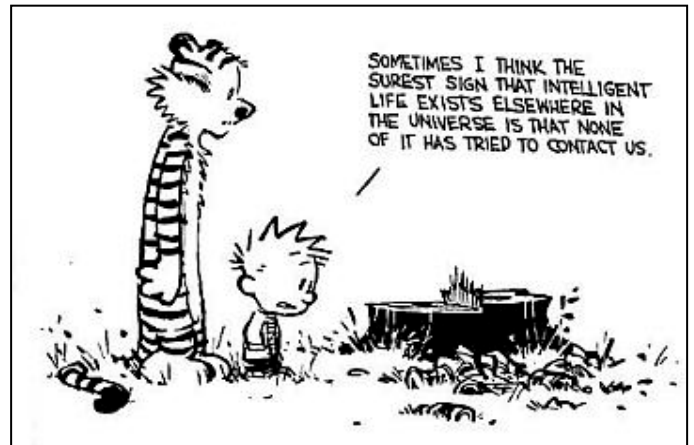
Office hours by appointment

Preceptor: Chris Pieper cpieper@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 300-400 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 on 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

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

Summary of Topics and Readings

* Reading response due

Tues Sept 5: Course Introduction

* **Thurs Sept 7: 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*.

(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:

- 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 Sept 14: 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. *Skim these chapters for background on the World Bank's model of development and Brazilian context*
- 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:

- 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.

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

- J. Carney. In press. "Academic Journeys in the Black Atlantic".
- J. 2016. "The Mangrove Preserves Life: Habitat of African Survival in the Atlantic World. *Geographical Review*. 1-19. OPTIONAL

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:

- J. Sachs. 2015. "Chpt 2: An Unequal World", *The Age of Sustainable Development*. NY: Columbia Univ. Press. Pp 45-60.
- T. Parris, M. Thomas, and R. W. Kates. 2003. "Characterizing and Measuring Sustainable Development," *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 28: 559-586.

***Thurs Sept 28: 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.
- B. Rich. 2013. "What Does It Take?," *Foreclosing the Future*. Boston: Island Press. Pp. 220-240.

*** Tues Oct 3: MDGs and SDGs**

- J. Sachs. 2015. "Chpt 14: Sustainable Development Goals ", *The Age of Sustainable Development*. NY: Columbia Univ. Press. Pp. 481-511.
- W. Easterly. 2015. "The SDGs should stand for Senseless, Dreamy and Garbled," *Foreign Policy*. Sept 28.

+Introduction to first group project

Part II: Social Change Models for Sustainable Development

Thurs Oct 5: 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 Oct 10: In-class group reports on Foundation case studies

***Thurs Oct 12: 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.

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**

Selections from: I. Scoones. 2015. *Sustainable Livelihoods and Rural Development*.

+ 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**

- 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 Oct 26: No class Fall Break

Tues Oct 31: 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.

+In-class group project worktime

Thurs Nov 2: Microfinance model continued

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

- M. Mascarhenas. 2017. Chapters 1 and 4. *New Humanitarianism and the Crisis of Charity: Good Intentions on the Road to Help*.
 - B. Bilger. "Hearth Surgery", *The New Yorker*. Dec 21 & 28, 2009. Pp. 84-91+
- + 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**

- 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 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**

- 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*.

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?

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

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