Institute for the Study of International Development
McGill University
Fall 2019

INTD 200
Lecture: Introduction to International Development
(3 credits)

Class Times
Tuesdays and Thursdays 14:35-15:55

Please note that
- Weekly lectures will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 14:35 and 15:25 from the
  week of September 23 (Week 4)

Lecture Hall
MCMED (McIntyre Medical Building) Room 504

Instructor
Kazue Takamura
Office: Peterson Hall, Room 232, 3460 McTavish Street
Email: kazue.takamura@mcgill.ca
Office Hours: Mondays 14:30-16:00

Teaching Assistants

Shawn Deng
Email: shawn.deng@mail.mcgill.ca

Melody Lynch
Email: melody.lynch@mail.mcgill.ca

Alexandra Sakellariou
Email: alexandra.sakellariou@mail.mcgill.ca

Lily Maya Wang
Email: ling.y.wang@mail.mcgill.ca

Course Description

This introductory course is designed to familiarize students with key theories, approaches, actors, issues, and critiques that are integral to international development. The course is divided into two main sections. The first part of the course (Weeks 1-7) will cover the macro picture of international development. In the first week, we will discuss broad goals, issues, actors, and dilemmas that are at the core of international development, especially Human Development. In the second and third weeks, we will begin with colonialism as key historical
background to development; then we will explore major theories of development, including modernization theory, dependency theory, neoliberalism, and the developmental state. In the fourth week, we will address the emerging critiques of development, including the post-development discourse and foreign aid effectiveness. In the fifth week, we will examine one of the most central development dilemmas, the tension between state sovereignty and human rights. We will look at this tension through the territorial state sovereign system and indigenous justice. In the sixth week, we will look at key actors of development. These include international human rights regimes and civil society. In particular, we will discuss the R2P (Responsibility to Protect) and its implications for humanitarian crises. We will also pay attention to the capacity of civil society actors in illiberal political contexts. In the seventh week, we will examine the significance of gender in development through the lenses of female empowerment, microfinance, and feminization of labor.

The second part of the course (Weeks 9-13) will focus on three broad themes: globalization, systemic inequalities, and human rights. Within these themes, we will address the following topics: mass atrocities and transitional justice, statelessness, health and culture, health justice, environmental protection, mining extraction, international human rights regimes, refugee crises, food insecurity, and politics of water.

During the course of the semester, we will invite practitioners and scholars who are directly involved in specific development issues. Through dialogue with a wide range of guest speakers, we will gain first-hand insight and perspectives on key development problems. By the end of the course, students should be familiar with the historical background, concepts, theories, complexities, debates, and controversies that are part of the broad field of international development.

Required course materials

All the required readings available on the Internet or as electronic journals at the McGill library will be made available to you through MyCourses.

Course Requirements:

1. Class participation
Students are expected to come to class having done the required readings beforehand in order to engage with the topics and key ideas in the lectures. Please note that the lectures are not recorded for this course. However, powerpoint slides will be provided after the lectures.

2. Conferences
Conferences begin in the third week (the week of September 16) of the semester. Students are required to sign up for one of the conference groups via Minerva and attend it throughout the term. We will announce when the online conference registration will be available. Please note that attendance of these weekly conferences is mandatory.

Conference structure:
The primary goal of conferences is to facilitate an engaged and thoughtful discussion of development issues based on the lectures and weekly readings. The format provides you with an opportunity to participate actively in class and to deepen your understanding of theory and
practice in the field of international development. In the first four conference sessions (Weeks 3-6) we will mainly review key development ideas, norms, theories, and approaches. These sessions are meant to facilitate students’ understanding of the macro picture of development. From the week of October 28 (Week 9), we will begin group presentations in conferences (see the section on “group oral presentation” below).

Active Conference participation:
Conference grading will be based on your attendance as well as your active participation. In order to ensure active participation, we highly encourage you to identify one concept or central idea from the weekly readings that you find especially significant. Be prepared to discuss the concept or idea and explain why you have chosen it. Your TA will ask for the concept at the beginning of each conference meeting.

Students are required to participate consistently and thoughtfully throughout the semester. If a conference is missed because of illness, a doctor’s note must be provided to the TA.

No conferences: Please note that there will be no conferences in the weeks of October 14 and October 21.

3. Group oral presentation
Students are required to make an oral presentation in conference by working in a group comprised of 3-4 students (Maximum 4 students in a group). Each group is assigned to a specific week to discuss the given theme of that week. Within that week, students will choose a case study to deepen the analysis of that week's particular theme. The central goal of this group exercise is to facilitate and deepen one's understanding of an important development problem. We will begin this exercise from the week of October 28 (Week 9).

Requirements of the group presentation
(a) Topic:
Each group has the freedom to choose a case study that engages with the given weekly theme. For example, if your group presents on the theme of the environment, you could discuss the effects of water pollution on the Amazonian indigenous communities in Brazil. However, you must integrate some of the broader points/ideas addressed in assigned readings or in lectures.

(b) Analysis:
To demonstrate a solid understanding of the given case study, each group must address the following four macro questions: (1) why is this development issue significant? (2) what are the main variables/factors that affect the issue? (3) who are the key development actors and what are their roles? (4) what are your policy recommendations, if any? In order to visualize the contextual complexities of the given development issue, the analysis should be done based on a regional or a country case study. Each group should integrate relevant academic and non-academic sources (including course readings) in the analysis.

(c) Format:
Each week, we will have one group presenting in conference. Each group will have 15 minutes maximum to present. After the presentation, we will proceed to a 10 minute Q&A and further class discussion over the issue. Your group is required to provide a powerpoint presentation (or an equivalent format) to your conference TA by 5pm the day before the conference meeting.
(d) Discussion questions and class interaction
Each group should prepare at least two discussion questions during the presentation. Your discussion question could be a debate or an overarching question that engages with the presentation theme. Group members should interact with the audience through deepening discussion questions.

(e) Division of labor
In order to ensure equal group participation, your group should clarify the division of labor among the group members in the beginning of the presentation. Each member should play a clear role in the group presentation.

(f) Post-presentation comments (10 points)
Students are required to submit post-presentation comments (individual) in 500-600 words after the group presentation. You should discuss your main role in the group as well as your additional reflections on the specific development theme from the presentation. For example, you could address critical issues/dilemmas about which you would like to further elaborate. You could also discuss certain questions that you could not include in the presentation. You must submit the post-presentation comments to your TA by 11:59pm on the next day following the presentation. Your comments will count for 10 points of the total presentation grade (100 points)

(g) Scheduling:
In the first and second conference meetings, we will discuss and clarify the arrangement of this exercise, including weekly topics, group members, and presentation schedule. This group exercise will count for 15% of course credit including the post-presentation comments. You are also highly encouraged to talk to your TA in order to deepen your understanding of the specific issues and dilemmas in development practice.

(h) Grading criteria:
- “A” or “A-“ presentation: Elaborates on original, coherent, and forceful arguments that advance our critical understanding of the given development topic.
- “B+“ presentation: Demonstrates interesting and clear argument(s) but lacks elaborated analysis.
- “B”, “B-“, or “C+“ presentation: Provides a list of points/ideas without articulating main argument(s)

4. Midterm exam

The midterm exam will be scheduled in class on Thursday, October 24 between 14:35 and 15:25 (50 minutes). The exam is based on a combination of short answers and identification questions. The exam questions will focus on concepts discussed between week 1 and week 7. Each identification must be explained in at least three paragraphs. Further details will be announced in class. A review session will be offered on Tuesday, October 22.

If you are unable to take the midterm exam due to illness, you must inform Professor Takamura prior to the exam and must then provide an official medical note. Failure to notify of your absence prior to the exam will result in a “0” for the midterm. Only medical problems will be
considered legitimate excuses for taking the makeup exam. Only one makeup midterm exam date will then be scheduled about one week after the midterm exam.

*Re-grading policy for the midterm exam:
Please respect the following procedures concerning any re-grading of the midterm exam.

1. If it is an obvious and simple error in grading, please talk directly to your conference TA and show your TA your exam.

2. If your request for a re-grade involves more substantive issues, then you must explain in writing the matter for which you are requesting a re-grade. In your written document, you must provide a substantive explanation as to why you believe you deserve more points. This document must be provided to Professor Takamura during office hours. Please note that any re-grade will entail a re-assessment of the whole exam, which can mean that the grade of the exam may go up or down. Please also note that you must hand in a document requesting a re-grade no later than 2 weeks after your exam has been returned to you.

5. In-class quizzes (between week 9 and week 13)
Students will be given a total of eight in-class quizzes between week 9 (Transitional Justice) and week 13 (Politics of Water). Each quiz is based on a specific lecture. Students are required to take the quiz during the lecture. The details will be announced in class.

6. Final take-home research paper
Students must write a final research paper based on an empirical development issue in 2,100 – 2,400 words excluding the bibliography (about 7-8 double-spaced pages, Times New Roman) due on Thursday, December 12. Your final research paper should engage with one of the broader development dilemmas that are discussed during the semester. The details will be announced in class.

Title and an abstract
Students must submit the title of one’s essay and an abstract discussing the main ideas of the paper in 250-300 words. You must submit the title and an abstract in a PDF format by Friday, November 22 via MyCourses. Please note that the submission of the title and an abstract counts for 5 points of the final take-home paper grade (100 points).

Submission
The due date for the final take-home essay is Thursday, December 12 by 11:59pm. Submit your final essay via MyCourses. The document format should be in a PDF file.

If you submit the final paper after the deadline, your mark will be automatically deducted 10 points per day. Only valid medical issues will be granted exception to the penalty deduction. If there is a medical issue, you must inform me prior to the deadline for the exam and must later provide a written medical note.

Grade Distribution:
10% Conference participation
15% Group presentation (including post-presentation comments in 500-600 words)
25% Midterm exam
5% In-class quizzes (a total of 8 quizzes)
45% Take-home final research paper (including the title and an abstract in 250-300 words)

**Plagiarism:**

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information)

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l’on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/)).

**Policy on Languages:**

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

*Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue)*

**Course Evaluations:**

End-of-course [evaluations](#) are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available on Mercury, the online course evaluation system. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

**General Information**

If you have a hearing, visual and mobility impairment, please contact the instructor immediately (in advance of any evaluations or other class requirements).

**N.B.**
In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

**Key Dates**
- Conferences begin in the week of September 16
- Review session: Tuesday, October 22
- Midterm in-class exam: Thursday, October 24
- Group oral presentations begin in the week of October 28 (week 9)
- In-class quizzes begin in the week of October 28 (week 9-1)
- Final take-home essay title and an abstract due: Friday, November 22
- Final take-home essay due: Thursday, December 12

**Course Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Conference</th>
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<td><strong>Week 1: Introduction</strong></td>
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<td>No Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 3 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Development as Freedom? (Human Development)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2: Theories of Development 1</strong></td>
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<td>No Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Colonial Legacies</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Modernization and Dependency Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3: Theories of Development 2</strong></td>
<td><em>Conferences will begin this week</em></td>
<td>Conference #1 Development Theories</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17 (Tuesday)</td>
<td><em>No class</em> (the lecture hall is unavailable due to an event)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 19 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Neoliberalism and The Developmental State</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4: Emerging Critiques</strong></td>
<td><em>Lecture times will become for 55 minutes (14:35-15:25)</em></td>
<td>Conference #2 Development Theories</td>
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<td>September 24 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Post-Development Discourse</td>
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<td>September 26 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Foreign Aid Effectiveness</td>
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<td><strong>Week 5: Politics of Territoriality</strong></td>
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<td>Conference #3 Post-Development</td>
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<td>October 1 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Indigenous Justice</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 3 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Politics of Territoriality</td>
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<td><strong>Week 6: Development Actors and Values</strong></td>
<td><strong>Politics of Territoriality</strong></td>
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<td>October 8 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Responsibility to Protect</td>
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<td>October 10 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Civil Society</td>
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<td><strong>Week 7: Gender</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Conferences</strong></td>
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<td>October 15 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Gender and Contested Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 17 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Feminization of Labor and Remittances</td>
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<td><strong>Week 8: Midterm Exam</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Conferences (Midterm Exam)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Review Session</td>
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<td>October 24 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Midterm In-Class Exam</td>
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<td><strong>Week 9: Transitional Justice</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conference #5: 1st group presentation</strong></td>
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<td>October 29 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Transitional Justice</td>
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<td>October 31 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Statelessness</td>
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<td><strong>Week 10: Health</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conference #6 2nd group presentation</strong></td>
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<td>November 5 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Health and Culture</td>
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<td>November 7 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Health and Justice</td>
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<td><strong>Week 11: Environmental Protection</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conference #7 3rd group presentation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 12 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Environmental Protection</td>
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<td>November 14 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Mining and Indigenous Justice</td>
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<td><strong>Week 12: Humanitarianism</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conference #8 4th group presentation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 19 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Refugee Crises and the Role of the UNHCR</td>
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<td>November 21 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Humanitarianism</td>
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<td><strong>Week 13: CONCLUSION</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conference #9</strong></td>
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COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

Goal: Introduce the macro picture of the study of international development, including key definitions, measurements, actors, and approaches. We will interrogate what development is, who defines it, and why and how the study of development matters. We will also discuss moral dilemmas that are at the core of contemporary international development.

Monday, September 3
Week 1-1. Introduction: Orientation

Introduce the main learning goals of the course. We will clarify the key structure of the course, including course schedule, assignments, readings, conference requirements, as well as other logistical matters.

Wednesday, September 5
Week 1-2. Development as Freedom?

Readings:


WEEK 2: THEORIES OF DEVELOPMENT 1

Tuesday, September 10
Week 2-1. Colonialism: Long-Lasting Hegemony?

Readings:

Thursday, September 12
Week 2-2. Modernization and Dependency Theory

Readings:


WEEK 3: THEORIES OF DEVELOPMENT 2

Tuesday, September 17
No class (the lecture hall is not available due to an event)

Thursday, September 19
Week 3. Neoliberalism and The Developmental State

Readings:


WEEK 4: EMERGING CRITIQUES

Tuesday, September 24
Week 4-1. Post-Development Discourse

Readings:


Thursday, September 26
Week 4-2. Foreign Aid Effectiveness

Readings:

WEEK 5: Politics of Territoriality

Tuesday, October 1
Week 5-1. Indigenous Justice
Guest Speaker: Kenneth Deer, Secretary of the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake

Readings:

Optional:

Thursday, October 3
Week 5-2. Politics of Territoriality

Readings

WEEK 6: DEVELOPMENT ACTORS AND VALUES

Tuesday, October 8
Week 6-1. Responsibility to Protect

Readings:


Thursday, October 10
Week 6-2. Civil Society

Readings:


WEEK 7: GENDER
**Tuesday, October 15**

**Week 7-1. Gender and Contested Empowerment**

Readings:


**Thursday, October 17**

**Week 7-2. Feminization of Labor and Remittances**

Readings:


**WEEK 8: MIDTERM EXAM**

**Tuesday, October 22**

Review Session

**Thursday, October 24**

Midterm In-Class Exam

**WEEK 9: TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE**

**Tuesday, October 29**

**Week 9-1. Transitional Justice**

Readings:


**Thursday, October 31**

**Week 9-2. Statelessness**

Readings:

Optional:

**WEEK 10: HEALTH**

**Tuesday, November 5**
Week 10-1. Reproductive Health and Human Rights

Readings:


**Thursday, November 7**
Week 10-2. Health and Justice

Readings:

**WEEK 11: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, November 12**
Week 11-1. Environmental Protection

Readings:

Optional:

**Thursday, November 14**
Week 11-2. Mining and Indigenous Justice in Latin America

Readings:

WEEK 12: HUMANITARIANISM

**Tuesday, November 19**
Week 12-1. Refugee Crises and the Role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Guest Speaker: Denise Otis, Legal Officer, UNHCR Montréal

Readings:

**Thursday, November 21**
Week 12-2. Humanitarianism
Readings:

WEEK 13: CONCLUSION – Production of Vulnerability

**Tuesday, November 26**
Week 13-1. Whose Hunger?

Readings:


**Thursday, November 28**
Week 13-2. Politics of Water

Readings:
