INTD 200
Introduction to International Development

Instructor
Kazue Takamura
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Email: kazue.takamura@mcgill.ca
Office Hours: Fridays 13:30-15:30

Lecture Hall
McIntyre Medical Building room 522

Class Times
Week 1-3 (September 5 - 21, 2017)
Tuesdays and Thursdays 14:35-15:55 (80 minutes per session)

Week 4-13 (September 26 – November 30)
Tuesdays and Thursdays 14:35-15:25 (50 minutes per session)

Please note that conference meetings begin in the fourth week (the week of September 25). The location and times for the weekly conferences will be announced in class.

Course Description
This introductory course is designed to familiarize students with key theories, approaches, ideas, actors, issues, and critiques that are integral to international development. The course is divided into two main sections. The first part of the course (between week 1 and week 5) will cover the macro picture of international development. In the first two weeks, we will discuss broader issues, challenges, and dilemmas that are embedded in international development. In the following weeks, we will examine colonialism as key historical background to development as well as the major theories of development, including modernization, dependency, neo-liberalism, the developmental state, and human development. We will also discuss the significance of international human rights norms as well as emerging development dilemmas in humanitarianism.

The second part of the course (week 7-13) will look at a wide variety of development issues with a strong emphasis on human rights dilemmas and social justice. These include indigenous justice, gender, reproductive rights, civil society and accountability, environmental justice, corporate social responsibility, resource extraction, ethnicity and violence, transitional justice, refugee crises, migrant rights, and
global health crises. During the course of the semester, we will invite practitioners and scholars who are directly involved in particular development issues. Through dialogue with a wide range of guest speakers, we will gain first-hand insight and perspectives on key development agendas. 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 are available on **MyCourses**.

NOTE: There is no course-pack available for this course.

**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.

2. **Conferences (commence in the week of September 25)**

10% of the course credit is allotted for conference participation. Teaching Assistants will take attendance for the weekly conferences, which they will facilitate. The full participation grade will be granted to those students who have maintained an active and analytical engagement with the lectures and the course materials.

Conference registration:
Conferences begin in the fourth week (the week of September 25) 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. Attendance of these weekly conferences is mandatory.

Conference structure:
The key aim of conferences is to facilitate an engaged, critical discussion of issues raised in the lectures and 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 three conference sessions (Week 4, 5, 7) 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 23 (week #8), we will begin group presentations in conferences. The key goal of group presentations is to deepen students’ understanding of topics based on empirical case studies (please see the section on “group
presentation” below). Please note that there will be no conference in the week of October 9 (week 6) due to the midterm exam.

Active Conference participation:
Conference grading will be based on your attendance and your active participation. Please note that the points for the group presentation are separate from the conference points. Students are required to participate consistently and thoughtfully throughout the semester. If a conference is missed because of illness (besides the one conference you are allowed to miss without penalty), a doctor’s note must be provided to the TA.

Students should refer to conference schedules on the INTD 200 MyCourses website for details about the readings and topic for each conference.

3. Group presentation in conference
Students are required to make an oral presentation in conference by working in a group comprised of 4-5 people. 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 key goal of this group exercise is to facilitate and deepen our understanding of actual development issues and practice. We will begin this exercise from the week of October 23 (Week 8).

Requirements:
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 (week 10), you could discuss the effects of water pollution on China’s rural poor. However, you must integrate some of the broader points/ideas addressed in assigned readings or in lectures.

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 variable/factors that affect the issue? (3) who are the key development actors and what is their role? (4) what are your policy recommendations?

In order to visualize the local 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.

Format:
Each week, we will have one group present in conference. Each group will have 15-20 minutes (not exceeding 20 minutes) to present. After the presentation, we will proceed to 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.
Division of labor:
In order to ensure equal group participation, you have to make clear the division of labor among the group members. Each member should play a clear role in the group presentation. Please specify each role during the presentation.

Scheduling:
In the first conference meeting (the week of September 25), 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. You are also highly encouraged to talk to your TA as well as to our guest speakers – who would be familiar with your research topic – in order to deepen your understanding of the issues and dilemmas in development practice.

4. Midterm in-class exam

The midterm exam will be scheduled in class on **Thursday, October 12, 2017**. The exam will be a combination of short answers and identification questions. The identification questions will be related to concepts and substantive issues discussed in the course. Each identification must be explained in at least one paragraph. We will provide the potential IDs at the beginning of each lecture. Further details will be announced in class.

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 Professor Takamura 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 reassessment 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.
4. Final take-home exam

Students must write a final exam paper discussing a specific development question in 7-8 double-spaced pages, excluding references and endnotes. We will announce the essay question in our last class. The due date for the final take-home exam is on **Tuesday, December 12, 2017 by midnight**. Submit your final essay via MyCourses. The document format should be in a PDF file.

**Grade Distribution:**

- 10% Conference participation
- 15% Group presentation (conference)
- 30% In-class midterm exam
- 45% Take-home final exam

**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 week 4 (the week of September 25)
- Review session on Tuesday, October 10
- Midterm in-class exam on Thursday, October 12
- Group presentation (conference) begin in week 8 (the week of October 23)
- Review session on Friday, December 1
- Final take-home exam due on Tuesday, December 12

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Conference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: Introduction</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
<td>No Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Introduction: orientation (course outline and requirements)</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Interrogating Development: What is Development? Who Defines it? Why and How Does Development Matter?</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
<td>*An information session provided by the Arts Internship Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: Development Approaches and Dilemmas</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
<td>No Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Development Actors and Development Goals</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
<td>*An information session provided by the IDS program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 14 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Critical Lenses to Development</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3: History of Development</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>No Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 19 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Colonialism and Development</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Modernization and Dependency Theories</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4: Contemporary Theories of Development</strong></td>
<td><em>Conferences will begin this week</em></td>
<td>Conference #1: Development Theories</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 26 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Neoliberalism and the Developmental State (1970s-Current)</td>
<td>Erik Martinez Kuhonta</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 28 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Human Development</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 5: Humanitarianism</strong></td>
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<td>Conference #2: Development Theories</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 3 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Human Rights and Humanitarianism</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 5 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Canada’s Approach Toward Development</td>
<td>Patrick Brennan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 6: Midterm exam</strong></td>
<td><em>No conferences this week</em></td>
<td>No Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Review Session</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Midterm in-class exam</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 7: Indigenous Justice</strong></td>
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<td>Conference #3: Humanitarianism</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 17 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>International Indigenous Rights</td>
<td>Paul Joffe</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 19 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Indigenous Justice and Activism</td>
<td>Kenneth Deer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 8: Gender and Development</strong></td>
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<td>Conference #4: Indigenous Justice (1st group presentation)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 24 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Gender in Neoliberal Development</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 26 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Gender and Reproductive Justice</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
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<td><strong>Week 9: Civil Society and Accountability</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 31 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Civil Society and Democracy</td>
<td>Philip Oxhorn</td>
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<td>November 2 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Corporate Social Responsibility</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
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<td><strong>Week 10: Environmental Justice</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 7 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Climate Change and Vulnerability</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
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<td>November 9 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Mining and Indigenous Justice</td>
<td>Steven Schnoor</td>
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<td><strong>Week 11: Violence</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Statelessness Ethnic Minority</td>
<td>Takamura</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 16 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Transitional Justice</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td><strong>Week 12: Refugee Crises and Migration</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 21 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Refugee Crises and the Role of the UNHCR</td>
<td>Denise Otis</td>
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Course Outline

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

Tuesday, September 5, 2017
Introduction

Goal: 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. We will also discuss McGill’s rules regarding plagiarism.

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Goal: Introduce the macro picture of the study of international development, including key definitions, measurements, actors, and approaches. In particular, we will interrogate what is development, who defines it, and why and how does the study matter. We will highlight the significance of the multidimensional, interdisciplinary, and bottom-up approach.

Readings:

Optional:


**WEEK 2: DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES AND DILEMMAS**

**Tuesday, September 12, 2017**

**Development Actors and Development Goals**

Goal: Explore the key development actors and goals in contemporary international development. We will examine the significance of major development actors including the state, international organizations, private sectors (NGOs and business corporations). We will also assess the impact of the current Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030) in terms of addressing the realities and complexities in developing countries.

**Readings:**


Optional:


Hanushek, Eric and Ludger Woessmann. 2015. “Why the UN Sustainable Development Goals Should Focus on Education.” *Foreign Affairs* (August 20)

**Thursday, September 14, 2017**
Critical Lenses to Development

Goal: Examine the emerging critiques toward international development. We will identify the central dilemmas and structural issues that hamper the current development outcomes.

Readings:


Optional:


WEEK 3: HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, September 19, 2017
Colonialism and Development

Goal: Examine the complex linkages between colonialism and development. We will examine the long-term effects of colonization in developing countries through political and socio-cultural aspects. In particular, we will pay attention to the root causes of socio-economic inequalities and ethnic violence in post-colonial societies.

Readings:


Thursday, September 21, 2017
Modernization and Dependency Theories

Goal: Explore the significance of Modernization Theory and Dependency Theory. We will examine the main arguments of as well as key weaknesses of each theory.

Readings:


**WEEK 4: CONTEMPORARY THEORIES OF DEVELOPMENT**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2017**
Neoliberalism and Developmental States
**Guest lecturer: Erik Martinez Kuhonta, Department of Political Science, McGill University**

Goal: Analyze two dominant, contrasting schools of thought in contemporary development theory and practice.

Readings:


**Thursday, September 28, 2017**
Human Development: Multidimensional Lens to Development

Goal: Explore how the idea of human development emerged as an alternative development approach beyond the conventional income-driven approach. Discuss how a bottom-up approach is emerging in the field of development. Assess the effectiveness of the participatory development approach.

Readings:


**WEEK 5: HUMANITARIANISM**

**Tuesday, October 3, 2017**

**Human Rights and Humanitarianism**

Goal: Explore the significance of international human rights norms and standards. We will also discuss the central dilemmas surrounding humanitarianism and development actions.

Readings:


**Thursday, October 5, 2017**

**Canada’s Approach toward Development**

**Guest Lecturer: Patrick Brennan, Executive Director, ISID, McGill University**

Goal: Provide an overview of Canada’s distinct role in international development. We will examine the background, liberal norms and values, ideas, and geopolitical complexities that shape Canada’s role in international development.

Readings:


WEEK 6: MIDTERM EXAM

1. No conferences this week
2. Midterm Exam is scheduled on Thursday, October 12 between 14:35 and 15:25 in McIntyre Medical Building room 522

Tuesday, October 10, 2017
Review Session

Thursday, October 12, 2017
Midterm in-class exam

WEEK 7: INDIGENOUS JUSTICE

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
International Indigenous Rights
Guest Lecturer: Paul Joffe, Human Rights Lawyer

Goal: Explore the recent efforts for indigenous rights and justice in Canada.


Thursday, October 19, 2017
Indigenous Justice and Activism
Guest Lecturer: Kenneth Deer, Secretary of the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake

Readings:


WEEK 8: GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, October 24, 2017
**Gender in Neoliberal Development**

Goal: Examine the neoliberal meanings of gender equity and empowerment in dominant development discourse. We will pay particular attention to oversimplified ideas and assumptions about gender equity and empowerment through an empirical case study of microfinance practice in Bangladesh.

Readings:

**Thursday, October 26, 2017**

**Gender and Reproductive Justice**

Goal: Explore the recent debates concerning reproductive health and birth control policies in development discourse. We will pay particular attention to the multilayered social effects of China’s mass population control known as the one-child policy.

Readings:

**WEEK 9: CIVIL SOCIETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Tuesday, October 31, 2017**

**Civil Society and Democracy**

**Guest Lecturer: Philip Oxhorn, Department of Political Science, McGill University (Founder of the Institute for the Study of International Development)**

Goal: Explore the significant role played by civil society actors in shaping democracy and development. Professor Oxhorn will provide an analysis of the linkage between civil society and democracy through empirical cases in Latin America.

Readings:
Williams, Andrew and Jennifer Taylor. 2013. “Resolving Accountability Ambiguity in

Optional:

**Thursday, November 2, 2017**

**Corporate Social Responsibility**

Goal: Examine the emerging business moral norm that is increasingly integrated by private sectors especially multinational corporations and local business actors in low-income countries and emerging economies. We will discuss the significance of Corporate Social Responsibility as well as the limitations and complexities that are surrounding such norm.

Readings:

Film screening: TBA

**WEEK 10: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**Tuesday, November 7, 2017**

**Climate Change and Vulnerability**

Goal: Examine the detrimental effects of climate change on local livelihoods in low-income countries.

Readings:


Optional:
Thursday, November 9, 2017
Mining and Indigenous Justice in Latin America
Guest Lecturer: Steven Schnoor, Concordia University

Goal: Explore Canada’s resource extractive practices in developing countries and the negative impact of these practices on indigenous peoples. We will examine the political meanings of indigenous resistance against Canada’s mining companies in Guatemala.

Readings:

WEEK 11: Violence

Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Stateless Ethnic Minority Groups

Goal: Understand the conditions of marginalized ethnic minority groups in Asia. Examine the deprivation of rights and freedoms that is experienced by stateless ethnic minority groups in Asian countries.

Reading:


Thursday, November 16, 2017
Transitional Justice
Guest Lecturer: TBA

Goal: Explore the significance of transitional justice in development. We will engage with the emerging debates and dilemmas surrounding the contemporary experiences of transitional justice.

Reading:


**WEEK 12: REFUGEE CRISES AND MIGRATION**

**Tuesday, November 21, 2017**

Refugee Crises and the Role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Guest Lecturer: Denise Otis, Legal Office, UNHCR Canada

Goal: Provide an overview of the current refugee crises and the role of the UNHCR. We will pay attention to the current complex dilemmas surrounding humanitarian action for forcibly displaced populations.

Readings:


**Thursday, November 23, 2017**

Rights of Non-Status Migrants

Goal: Explore the overlooked human rights of non-status migrants in development. We will examine the fundamental discrepancies between international human rights law and the normative denial of the human rights of “irregular” migrants.

Readings:


Optional:


**WEEK 13: CONCLUSION**
Tuesday, November 28, 2017
Global Health Crises
Guest Speaker: Rachel Kiddell-Monroe, International Board Member of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), Board Member of the Universities Allies for Essential Medicines

Goal: Explore the central development issues that are surrounding the contemporary global health governance and management.

Reading:

Thursday, November 30, 2017
Conclusion