Institute for the Study of International Development
McGill University
Winter 2018

INTD 350-001
Lecture: Culture and Development
(3 credits)

Mondays and Wednesdays 10:05-11:25am
Location: STBIO S3/3

Instructor: Kazue Takamura
Office: Room 232 Peterson Hall, 3460 McTavish Street
Email: kazue.takamura@mcgill.ca
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of culture in development. Development policy makers and agencies have long assumed that successful development interventions are direct results of positive economic behavior, while perceiving culture as an inappropriate variable. In recent years, however, development agencies and economists have looked to culture as a significant resource explaining the success of development outcomes.

Building on this new paradigm of culture and development, this course pays particular attention to the controversial and multifaceted issues surrounding culture and development. Culture is a broad, and at times, ambiguous concept. It is generally understood to be a system of shared beliefs, values, customs, behavior, knowledge, and artifacts among members of society. This course views culture as a dynamic and socio-political process rather than a static entity. Thus, we pay critical attention to cultural systems that shape asymmetrical power relations in society.
The course will mainly employ sociological and anthropological perspectives to understand the dynamic socio-political meanings attached to the intersection between culture and development. We will look at a variety of themes, including human rights, multiculturalism, colonial legacies, the politics of identity, cultural hegemony, neoliberalism, Asian Values, indigenous development, social capital, media, consumption, transitional justice, genocide, gender, reproductive health, the commodification of bodies, statelessness, refugees, the environment, resistance, and globalization. Through the readings, we will explore complexities, controversies, and debates surrounding culture and development. The readings span almost all the major regions of the developing world.

**Course Requirements:**

1. **Lectures**
   Students are expected to come to class having done the required readings beforehand in order to contribute to class discussion in lectures or in conferences. Readings will average 60 pages per week. Students are strongly encouraged to actively engage with lectures and contribute ideas in class.

2. **Conferences**
   Conferences start in the **fourth week of the semester** (the week of January 29th). Please sign up for one of the conference groups on Minerva and attend it throughout the term. Attendance of conferences is **mandatory**. Please note that weekly lectures will be held between 10:05-10:55am once conference sessions commence.

   The primary goal of conferences is to deepen students’ understanding of development issues addressed in the lectures and readings. The format provides you with an opportunity to participate in actively and to facilitate an engaged and critical discussion of development issues and dilemmas. We will achieve this goal through class discussion and oral group presentations.
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, a doctor’s note must be provided to your TA.

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 (one group presentation per 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 knowledge of actual development issues. We will begin this exercise from the week of February 19th.

Requirements of the group presentation

(a) Topic:
Each group has the freedom to choose a case study that engages with the given weekly theme. 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. For example, if your group presents on the theme of gender, you could discuss the negative effects of microfinance on low-income rural women through a case study of Bangladesh.

(b) Analysis:
To demonstrate a solid analysis of the given case study, each group must address the following four macro questions: (1) How does this development issue interact with culture? (2) What are the main variables/factors that shape the issue? (3) Who are key actors and what is their role (in terms of exacerbating or mitigating the problem)? (4) What is the overarching dilemma surrounding the issue?

(c) Sources:
Each group should integrate relevant academic and non-academic sources (including course readings) in the analysis.
(d) Division of labor and peer evaluation:
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 in the
beginning of the presentation. In addition, each member should provide
confidential peer evaluations to your TA via email after the presentation. In
the evaluations, you should briefly discuss your fellow group members’
contributions as well as your own contributions.

(e) Presentation format:
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.

(f) Scheduling:
In the first conference meeting, we will discuss and clarify the arrangement
of this exercise, including weekly topics, group members, and presentation
schedule.

4. Midterm in-class exam
The midterm exam will be scheduled in class on Wednesday, February 14th.
Students must answer identification questions. These identifications will
focus on concepts discussed in the course. Each identification must be
explained in at least two paragraphs. Potential identification questions will
be given in class. If you are unable to take the midterm exam due to an
illness, you must inform me prior to the exam and must then provide me
with an official medical note. Failure to notify me 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 official 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 (such as a miscalculation or a typo), please talk directly to your conference TA.

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 #7 and week #12)
Students will be given a total of five in-class quizzes between week #7 and week #12. 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 exam
The final exam is a take-home paper of ten double-spaced pages due on Monday, April 23rd. Students will be given a question to answer in the last week of the course based on some of the themes addressed during the semester. The question will require the use of lecture notes and course readings, as well as external materials. I will provide more detailed instructions on the final take-home exam. The exam paper must be submitted via MyCourses by 11:59pm on Monday, April 23rd. If you submit the final paper after April 24, 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:**
1. Conference participation: 10%
2. Group presentation: 15%
3. In-class quizzes: 5%
4. Midterm exam: 30%
5. Final exam: 40%

Course Materials:
All the assigned articles will be placed on MyCourses. NOTE: There is no coursepack available for this course.

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/ 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/).

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)

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).

**Notare Bene:**
This course syllabus is subject to change in case of unforeseen circumstances.

**Course Schedule**
*Key dates:*
- Conferences: begin in the week of January 29th
- Oral presentations (conferences): begin in the week of February 19th
- Midterm In-class exam: February 14th (Friday)
- Final take-home exam: April 23rd (Monday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1: Introduction</th>
<th>Conferences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 8</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>Cultural Debates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2: Cultural Dilemmas</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Cultural Dilemmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Contested Multiculturalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3: Politics of Identity</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Construction of Identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>Politics of Difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4: Hegemony</strong></td>
<td><em>Conferences begin!</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>Hegemony of Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>Neoliberalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 5: Politics of Culture</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>Asian Values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>Indigeneity and Development (Guest Speaker: Kenneth Deer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 6: Local Knowledge (Midterm Exam)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Local Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>Midterm In-Class Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 7: Consumption</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>Religion and Consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>New Information Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 8: Transitional Justice</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>Contextualizing Transitional Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>Memory of Mass Atrocities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Note: no lectures and conferences in the week of February 27th!</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 9: Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Gender and the State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Reproductive Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 10: Commodification of Bodies</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Commercial Surrogacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Organ Trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Week 11: Statelessness</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Statelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Week 12: Environmental Activism</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>No Class (Easter Monday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Theme: Statelessness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Environmental Activism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Week 13: Resistance and Globalization</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Subalterns and Resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Globalization and Labor Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Week 1**

**Introduction**

January 8: Introduction

*Discuss the key objectives of the course, the course structure, reading materials, and the course requirements.

January 10: Cultural Debates

Readings:

Week 2
Dilemmas in Culture and Development

January 15: Cultural Dilemmas

Readings:


January 17: Contested Multiculturalism

Readings:


Optional:
Week 3
Politics of Identity

January 22: Construction of Identity

Readings:


Optional:

January 24: Politics of Difference

Readings:


Week 4
Neoliberal Hegemony

*Conferences begin this week. Lectures will now be 50 minutes from 2:35 to 3:25pm

January 29: Hegemony of Development
Readings:

Optional:

January 31: Neoliberalism

Readings:


Optional:

Week 5
Politics of Culture

February 5: Asian Values

Readings:

February 7: Indigeneity and Development
Guest Speaker: Kenneth Deer

Readings:

Optional:

Week 6
Local Knowledge
*No conferences this week

February 12: Local Knowledge

Readings:


Optional:

Johnson, Hazel. “Local Forms of Resistance.” In Culture and Global Change (edited by Tracey Skelton and Tim Allen), New York: Routledge, pp.159-166.
February 14: Midterm In-Class Exam

Week 7
Consumption

February 19: Religion and Consumption (Pious Consumption)

Readings:


February 21: New Information Technology (Call Center Workers)

Readings:


Optional:
Week 8
Transitional Justice

February 26: Contextualizing Transitional Justice

Readings:


Optional:

February 28: Memory of Mass Atrocities

Readings:

*Note: no lectures and conferences in the week of February 27th – Spring Break!

Week 9
Gender and Development

March 12: Gender and the State

Readings:

March 14: Reproductive Health

Readings:


Week 10
Commodification of Bodies

March 19: Commercial Surrogacy

Readings:


March 21: Organ Trade
Film screening: TBA

Readings:
Week 11
Statelessness

March 26: Statelessness

Readings:

March 28: Refugees

Readings:

Week 12
Environmental Activism

April 2: No Class (Easter Monday)

April 4: Environmental Activism

Readings:

Week 13
Resistance and Globalization

April 9: Subalterns and Resistance

Readings:

April 11: Globalization and Labor Rights

Readings:


April 16: Conclusion

*No readings