Culture and Development

International Studies 407/507
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 to 11:50 AM
Winter 2016

Syllabus and Course Policy Statement

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Wooten

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Office Hours: Mondays, 1-2 pm and Thursdays, 1-2 pm or by appointment: please email to set up a good time.

Prerequisites: None; although it is assumed that you have had prior introductory coursework in international/development studies and/or socio-cultural anthropology. If you have not, please speak to me after class.

Course Description: This course explores the dynamic interplay between culture (understood as human creativity in the realms of values and actions) and globalization (understood as visions of and activities related to large-scale socio-economic change or development - both planned and spontaneous). The course offers an in-depth analysis of cultural interaction within an increasingly integrated world. We will read and discuss influential scholarship in this important realm (classic and contemporary contributions) and will develop important insights into the way people around the world use culture to understand and engage the complex processes of globalization and how globalization affects cultural life. In addition to providing a window into these key issues and themes, the course is designed to help you develop critical reading, writing, and oral presentation skills.

Course Structure: Class will function in a seminar style* and will involve extended discussion and analysis of the assigned readings. On occasion I may use a video to supplement my lectures. In order to flourish and to get the most out of the class, you will need to keep up on your assigned readings, think critically about what you read, take good reading notes, use your notes to make meaningful contributions to in-class discussions, and produce thoughtful, robust work for your required essays and project. (*Note: http://www.evergreen.edu/advising/seminars.htm)

Readings/Text: The assigned readings in this course are all included in one amazingly rich text: Development: A Cultural Studies Reader, edited by Susanne Schech and Jane Haggis (2002). The reader is collection of some of the most influential writings on the themes of culture, development and globalization. It includes “classic” contributions that laid the foundation for subsequent scholarship as well as contemporary pieces that explore emerging themes. The book is available at the UO Bookstore.
Requirements: Your performance in this course will be evaluated in three principal arenas:

1) Minute Papers: At the beginning of each class you will complete a “minute paper” in which you offer a brief comment on: 1) a significant thing you learned in the assigned reading or 2) what you thought was the “muddiest point” in the reading. The minute paper technique has been shown to be a very effective mechanism for helping students to engage readings and to be ready to participate in class discussions. You will be rewarded well for taking this aspect of the course seriously – you will learn more and you can earn easy points toward your final grade. These will function as attendance records as well. If you are not present you may not turn in a paper. You may miss up to 2 of these assignments without penalty. (20% of your grade)

2) Take-Home Exams: You will be assigned two take-home essay exams during the quarter. For these assignments, I will provide a series of focus questions on topics or themes addressed in discussions, readings and/or video presentations. Using knowledge and information gleaned in readings and in class, undergraduates will prepare a 3-4 page response and graduate students will prepare a 5-6 page response for each assignment. (50% of your grade)

3) Case Studies: You will undertake a case study of culture and globalization dynamics in a specific country, cultural area or region of the world. For this assignment, you will need to identify and consult relevant scholarly literature. You will use the literature to gain insights into the way in which themes and concepts from the course play out in a case study context of your choice. Undergraduates will prepare 5-6 page papers based on their research and graduate students will prepare 10-12 page papers and all will present brief (10-15 minute) overviews of their projects to the class in the closing weeks of the term. All case study papers will be due by the officially designated final period and will serve as your final assignment for the course. (30% of your grade)

Grading: Grades will be assigned on a straightforward scale, e.g. 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, etc. Plus and minus notations will be used.

Policies:
• Missed Assignments
No make ups will be offered for minute papers or exams EXCEPT in the case of a significant illness, injury, or family emergency. If you should run into one of these exceptional situations, you are required to notify me by email BEFORE the scheduled exam or assignment. We will discuss your situation and any possible accommodations that might be warranted.

• Attendance and Participation
In order to engage the assigned material thoroughly you must be present in class. Also, I expect you to contribute to our discussions on a regular basis. Your comments need not be extensive – but they need to be relevant and informed.

• Classroom Culture
In order to create and maintain a focused and productive learning environment we need to agree on some basic elements of classroom etiquette. Ideas for things to include or address?

________________________________;  __________________________________;  __________________________________;

________________________________
• Cheating and Academic Dishonesty
All assignments in this class are designed to assess your individual knowledge and understanding of the material covered/presented in the course. Thus, cheating or plagiarism -- in any form -- will not be tolerated. The work you present must be entirely your own. All individuals involved in an act of academic dishonesty will fail the course and will be reported to the proper University contacts as required. I do not expect to encounter any problems in this area, but feel you should be forewarned.

• Diversity and Equity
The University is a place where people from different cultures and experiences learn together; understanding and respecting these differences are critical for the University to be a place of open-minded inquiry where, in challenging the boundaries of knowledge, we include and value all members of our community. If you should ever feel that we are falling short on this goal, please let me know or contact the Office of the Vice President for Equity & Inclusion (1 Johnson Hall; Telephone: 541 346 3175; Email: vpincclusion@uoregon.edu).

• Accessible Education
If you have a condition that inhibits learning or evaluation under customary circumstances, please let me know. In addition, please request a letter from the Accessible Education Center (346-1155, 164 Oregon Hall) that verifies your disability and states the accommodations that I can make. I will make any reasonable adjustments necessary to improve your learning environment.

Class Outline and Schedule
(Details of this program may change depending on the extent of our class discussions and/or video additions. Be sure to keep abreast of our progress and make amendments as necessary.)

Key Themes and Concepts

Tuesday, January 5
Syllabus and Introductions

Thursday, January 7
Haggis and Schech “Introduction: Pathways to Culture and Development”

Modernizing Cultures

Tuesday, January 12
Lerner “The Grocer and the Chief: A Parable”
Myrdal “Modernization Ideals”
Weller “Divided Market Cultures in China: Gender, Enterprise, and Religion”

Thursday, January 14
* No Class – Independent Video Assignment *
Huntington “A Universal Civilization? Modernization and Westernization”
Watch Samuel Huntington interview http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SNicJReUqs
Watch Edward Said’s lecture (in 4 parts) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boBzrqF4vmo&list=PL9E819E328683F1A8
Culture/Power/Knowledge

Tuesday, January 19
Said “Orientalism”
Hall “The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power”

Thursday, January 21
Gilman “Black Bodies, White Bodies: Towards an Iconography of Female Sexuality in the Late Nineteenth Century”

Development as Discourse

Tuesday January 26
Escobar “The Problem of Poverty: The Tale of Three Worlds and Development”

Thursday January 28
Shrestha “Becoming a Development Category”
World Bank “Knowledge for Development”

*Exam One Distributed by 11 pm on Thursday, January 28 *

Development, Culture and Human Rights

*Exam One Due at Start of Class (10 am) on Tuesday, February 2 *

Tuesday February 2
Laclau “Universalism, Particularism, and the Question of Identity”
Preis “Human Rights as Cultural Practice: An Anthropological Critique”

Thursday February 4
Jolly “Women’s Rights, Human Rights, and Domestic Violence in Vanuatu”

Global/Local

Tuesday February 9
Appadurai “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy”
Pred “Capitalisms, Crises, and Cultures II: Notes on Local Transformation and Everyday Cultural Struggles”

Thursday February 11
Margold “Narratives of Masculinity and Transnational Migration: Filipino Workers in the Middle East”
Wilk “Learning to be Local in Belize: Global Systems of Common Difference”

Place and Space

Tuesday February 16
McIntyre “Geography as Destiny: Cities, Villages, and Khmer Rouge Orientalism”
Narayan “Contesting Cultures: Westernization, Respect for Cultures, and Third World Feminists”
Escobar “Gender, Place, and Networks: A Political Ecology of Cyberculture”
Thursday February 18
Nelson “Maya Hackers and the Cyberspatialized Nation-state: Modernity, Ethnonostalgia, and a Lizard Queen in Guatemala”
Fandy “CyberResistance: Saudi Opposition Between Globalization and Localization”

**Multiple Modernities**

Tuesday February 23
Ranger “The Invention of Tradition Revisted: The Case of Colonial Africa”
Mani “Contentious Traditions: The Debate on Sati in Colonial India”
Sunindyo “When the Earth is Female and the Nation is Mother: Gender, the Armed Forces, and Nationalism in Indonesia”

Thursday February 25
Abu-Lughod “The Objects of Soap Opera: Egyptian Television and the Cultural Politics of Modernity”
Pigg “The Credible and the Credulous: The Question of ‘Villagers’ Beliefs’ in Nepal”
Stivens “Modernizing the Malay Mother”

* Exam Two Distributed by 11 pm on Thursday, February 25 *

**Presentations**

* Exam Two Due by at start of class (10 am) on Tuesday, March 1 *

Tuesday March 1 – Graduate Students
Thursday March 3 – Undergraduates – first third of alphabet
Tuesday March 8 – Undergraduates – second third of alphabet
Thursday March 10 – Undergraduates – last third of alphabet

**Final**

Research papers due no later than the scheduled final: 8 am on Wednesday, March 16th.