Class information

Dr. Lucas Savino
lsavino2@uwo.ca
@Prof_Sav

Office Hours (A208)

Mondays 11:30 – 12:30pm
Wednesdays 11:30 – 12:30pm
or by appointment

This class meets twice a week, every Monday from 12:30pm to 2:30pm and Wednesday from 1:30 to 2:30pm in room V208

In the event of unexpected class cancellations, the instructor will post such notice on OWL. Please check regularly.

Course description and objectives

This course examines how certain “problems” in global development emerge as such. In a world where extreme poverty and deep material inequalities persist, this course aims at recognizing how a number of pressing contemporary issues are part of people’s lives around the world and are ingrained in historical power imbalances.

By adopting a critical and interdisciplinary framework of reference to study “development,” this course examines the connections between global capitalism, development policy efforts, and specific issues that relate specifically to poverty and land: rural development; political ecology and the lives of women; food sovereignty, and resource extractivism. The course engages with alternative and radical models of development that place social justice concerns at the core of community efforts to overcome oppression.
There is no required book for purchase.

*Links to all required readings will be posted on OWL.*

In preparation of the research assignments, I strongly recommend you use the following book:


Classes will be conducted under the assumption that we have completed and studied the readings before class.

Please note that the course calendar is subject to change. Appropriate notice will be given in class and OWL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong> (Sep. 10, 12) (Re)Introducing global development</td>
<td><strong>Course Outline</strong> Esteva et al (2013) Murray Li (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong> (Sep. 24, 26) The poverty problematic: constructing the poor</td>
<td>Poku &amp; Whitman (2011) Hickel (2016) <em>Article Presentations</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Fall Reading Week (Oct. 8 – 12)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 8</strong> (Nov. 5, 7) The land question: extractivism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 9</strong> (Nov. 12, 14) Gender equality: Sustainable Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 10</strong> (Nov. 19, 21) Another development: “from within and below”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 12</strong> (Dec. 3, 5) Conclusion(s) and Exam Preparation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This course requires ongoing reading, writing, collaborative work and class discussion.

**Article Presentation 15% (ongoing)**

Each student will present a review of a scholarly article to the rest of the class. The reviewed article, chosen by the presenter, will be related to the theme of that week. I’m happy to assist in the selection process.

The goal of this assignment is to give you the opportunity to be proactive in your learning experience. These presentations offer you the opportunity to explore an area of research interest and share it with the rest of the class.

Presentations will take place during assigned dates (see course calendar). The sign-up list for presentations will be available during the first and second weeks of class. Number of presentations per week will be determined upon enrolment.

**Handout # 1 (“Presentations”)** provides additional details on the structure of this assignment. Handout will be available in OWL.

*Students who miss their presentation without prior arrangement with the instructor will be given a grade of zero.*

**Research Proposal 15% (Week 5)**

The research proposal is the first step in your ongoing preparation of a final research essay. Its goal is to narrow down a topic of interest and present relevant bibliography that addresses such topic in order to support a main argument.

**Handout # 2 (“Proposal”)** offers additional guidelines for this assignment (available in OWL). This handout also offers a list of essay topics related to course themes.

**Research Essay 40% (Week 11)**

The main objective of the research essay is to give students an opportunity to elaborate a clear argument and provide strong scholarly evidence to support it. The final essay must draw from the research proposal and feedback provided by instructor.

**Handout # 3 (“Essay”)** provides additional guidelines for the preparation of this assignment (available in OWL).

**Presentation Engagement 10% (ongoing)**

During Article Presentations, students who are not presenting are expected to evaluate the presentation and prepare a question for each one of the presenters.

**Handout # 1** also offers additional guidelines for this assignment (available in OWL).
High Attendance (Bonus): up to 3 marks

Attendance to class is highly expected and your absence will make us miss the potential contributions you can make. However, we cannot decide for you what your priorities or needs as a student are.

Students with a high class attendance record (i.e., 20 or more) and significant participation will have up to 3 marks added to the final grade.

Please note: In case of absences justified under university norms, contact your academic advisor. Attendance records will be updated accordingly after receiving confirmation from academic counselling.

Final Critical Response 20%

You are required to write a final critical response to a set of questions that I will bring to our last class. These questions will be created in reference to the required readings, lectures, and Case Presentations through the term.

This assignment will be graded according to the organization of ideas, the clarity of the response and the quality of your own assessment of the material. Formal citations are expected.

This final response (1200-1500 words) must be submitted electronically, via OWL on Dec. 12, 2018 (before 4:30pm).

---

Course Requirements Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation Engagement</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week 5 (Oct. 17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Week 11 (Nov. 28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Critical Response</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Dec. 12 (via OWL)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate critical awareness on specific issues affecting development thinking and practice
  - Article Presentations, Research Essay, Final Critical Response

- Explain the connections between global capitalism, development efforts, and the emergence of issues identified as “problems.”
  - Proposal and Research Essay, Final Critical Response

- Assess the critical importance and impact of “development from below” movements on development thinking
  - Lectures, Article Presentations, Research Essay

Nowadays the ambition to ‘change the world’ meets with cynicism – because of the dismal record of several development decades, doubts about modernism and its utopian belief that society can be engineered – and media triviality.” J. Pieterse (2009)
**Email policy**
The best way to reach me is via email:

lsavino2@uwo.ca

I will do my best to reply as soon as possible. If you do not get an immediate reply, please allow at least 48 hours if you need to send me a reminder.

I usually do not check my emails after 5pm or on weekends.

**Important!** Please use the course number as part of the subject line for your emails. This will ensure a faster reply as my electronic correspondence gets sorted automatically.

Due to privacy guidelines, you should use your university email account for contacting me.

**Make an appointment**
If you want to meet in person and you are unable to meet during office hours, please contact me and make an appointment.

---

**A note on returned assignments and appeals**

Frequently students wish to discuss the results of their assignments immediately upon receiving their grade and feedback. Every effort will be made to provide substantial feedback on assignments with the intention of making the grading clear, and also to help you improve regardless if the assignments receive an “A” or a “C.”

If you still have questions or concerns about the results of your assignment, please make an appointment to see me and discuss further. You must also wait 24 hours after receiving your assignment and grade before contacting me to discuss your results. In addition, you must set up an appointment no later than 7 days after receiving your grade if you wish to meet and discuss, or appeal.

You may also appeal your overall grade, or the grade of any specific assignment.

There are several steps to appeal a grade:

1. Have an informed discussion with me. This step must be initiated (i.e. set up an appointment) within 7 days of receiving your grade.

2. If you still find the explanation of your grade unsatisfactory, you may appeal your grade in writing. This written submission must be sent to me within 14 days of receiving your grade. You are to write a formal letter indicating the ways in which believe your assignment met the requirements – with evidence cited – as well as the grade you believe you deserve for your work.

Please keep in mind that the onus is on you to demonstrate that your work meets the requirement set out for the assignment, and not for me to defend the mark allocated.

No grade change will be considered without submitting a formal appeal in writing. Please be aware that the formal appeal process may result in your grade going up or down.

---

For more information about the University’s appeal guidelines visit: uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf

---

“The in our dreams we have seen another world, an honest world, a world decidedly more fair than the one in which we now live.” Subcomandante Marcos

The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site