

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**SOCI 3523: SOCIOLOGY OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Instructor: **Alekhyia (“Baba”) Das** [known mostly as “Baba”]

Email: adas@unb.ca

Office hours & location: to be announced

**Course description**

This course is designed to provide a critical analysis of the impact of international as well as transnational development strategies on the social structure of developing world. The following questions will be raised and examined in this course: what is the nature of international development programs and what are their underlying philosophy as well as politics? Is progress equal to modernization and modernization equal to westernization? What is the role of state and civil society organizations (NGOs) for growth in the developing and underdeveloped world? What is the function of international agencies in providing developmental aid and why is there resistance to such form of assistance? A multidisciplinary focus is adopted in this course, with substantial sections on anthropological and sociological writings on social development. The initial section deals with theoretical literature on socio-economic growth and the focus in the later part is on specific developmental issues such as NGOs and poverty. Concrete instances from South Asia will be discussed.

**General Instructions**

- Please **check your emails** and **UNB Blackboard** system **regularly** for updates, instructions and information regarding this course.
- Students will NOT be informed individually about changes and notifications. I will assume that if any information is posted on the Blackboard – OR – has been sent through ‘group email’, it has been read and followed by all students.
- Please feel free to ask me if you have any confusion regarding instructions for this course.
- Completion of all course requirements is necessary to pass this course.
- Assignments must conform to the criteria given in this outline – or - written instructions handed out in class - or - put up in ‘UNB Blackboard’ system – or - circulated through emails.
- If you are absent, please make arrangements with classmates to follow up on class notes and instructions.
- Due dates and grades are fixed and non-negotiable. However, I am always open to discussion of your work.
- ALWAYS keep a copy (electronic as well as printed) of your assignments and on a regular basis make back-up copies. I will not entertain excuses such as “hard disk crash”, “pet spoiled the assignment”, “accidentally deleted the file”, etc.
- Students with special needs or situations [*any kind*] should speak to me such that where possible and appropriate, accommodations can be made to meet those needs.
- Students are advised to familiarize themselves with the university regulations concerning plagiarism found in the undergraduate calendar. Please note that the University has very strict policies on plagiarism.
- Please use proper citation procedures and writing styles (e.g.: ‘APA’ or ‘ASA’ style) to write your answers / essay for final term paper. Please consult UNB library for more information on citing resources. Use of resources without proper citation will result in deduction of points.
- **Please feel free to meet me if you have any query or concern.**

## **Course Materials**

- The materials for this course are a combination of readings given in the course outline as well as my lectures in the class.
- All required readings for the course are 'electronic' and are available online [accessible ONLY through the UNB library system]. All resource materials are also available in 'UNB Blackboard'.
- In general, the readings are of three kinds: basic, intermediate and advanced based on the level of complexity.
- Please note that the course deals with a diversity of subjects and issues. Therefore, there is no 'one or two' major readings; instead a combination of assorted smaller readings.
- Also note that my lectures are the framework for this course. Following my lectures is necessary to connect the divergent readings recommended in this course.
- My lectures are based on the readings given in this outline. However, they also consist of information from various other sources which go beyond the scope of the given readings. Please feel free to enquire about the source of any part of my lectures.
- Participants of this course must use the readings given in this course outline. I strongly recommend that students go through the readings before they attend each class. This will greatly help you to understand my lectures.
- The main points of my class lectures will be available in Adobe Portable Document Format ['pdf'] files on 'Blackboard' after each class.
- Students are welcome to use other resources, provided they are 'academic' in nature. Please use materials which are 'valid, reliable, social-scientific and scholarly' or from governmental sources. Non-scholarly /popular sources such as 'wikipedia' or 'blogs' will be considered invalid.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS**

### **[A] 06 January & 11, 13 January 2011**

**Themes: Introduction & overview** [Modernity; colonialism; westernization; development; international development; indicators of development: technological and social; under-developed & developing; agrarian societies; industrial societies; westernization: capitalism and communism; governmental & non-governmental organizations; transnational developmental institutions; sociological theories of development]

- A1) 'Sociological theories of Modernization', International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, 2001.
- A2) 'History of Colonization and Colonialism', International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, 2001.
- A3) 'Third World', International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, 2001.
- A4) 'Development: Political Economy', Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online, 2007.
- A5) Escobar, Arturo. (1994). *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. Ewing, NJ, USA: Princeton University Press. 3-20. E BOOK

### **[B] 18, 20 January 2011**

**Themes: Modernization theory of development**

- B1) Harrison, David. (1988). *Sociology of Modernization and Development*. Routledge. 1-32. E BOOK
- B2) 'Modernization', Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online, 2007.

**[C] 25, 27 January 2011**

**Themes: Dependency theory of development**

- C1) 'Dependency', Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online, 2007.  
 C2) 'Dependency Theory', International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, 2001.  
 C3) Harrison, David. (1988). *Sociology of Modernization and Development*. Routledge. 61-82. E BOOK

**[D] 01, 03 February 2011**

**Themes: World-system theory of development**

- D1) 'World-system', Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online, 2007  
 D2) 'World System Theory', International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, 2001  
 D3) Harrison, David. (1988). *Sociology of Modernization and Development*. Routledge. 84-97. E BOOK

**[E] 08, 10 February 2011**

**Theme: Poverty, marginalization & Development**

- E1) Mookherjee, Dilip; Banerjee, Abhijit Vinayak; Benabou, Roland. (2006). *Understanding Poverty*. Cary, NC, USA: Oxford University. p xiii-li. E-BOOK  
 E2) Narayan, Deepa; Glinskaya, Elena. (2006). *Ending Poverty in South Asia: Ideas That Work*. Herndon, VA, USA: World Bank Publications. 199-218. E-BOOK

**[F] 15, 17 February 2011**

**Themes: Gender & Development**

- F1) 'Development and Gender'. Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online, 2007  
 F2) Ruth Paterson. (2008). Women's empowerment in challenging environments: a case study from Balochistan. *Development in Practice*; 18(3): 333-344.

**[G] 22, 24 February 2011**

**Theme: Health & Development**

- G1) 'Health in Developing Countries: Cultural Concerns'. International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, 2001.  
 G2) David H. Peters & V.R. Muraleedharan. (2008). Regulating India's health services: To what end? What future? *Social Science & Medicine*; 66: 2133-2144

**[H] 01, 03 March 2011**

**Themes: Non-governmental organizations & Development**

- H1) 'Non-governmental Organizations'. The Oxford companion to the Politics of the world in Oxford Reference Online. 2001.  
 H2) Alnoor Ebrahim. (2001). NGO Behavior and Development Discourse: Cases From Western India. *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*; 12(2): 79-101.  
 H3) Kapoor, D. (2005). NGO Partnerships and the Taming of the Grassroots in Rural India. *Development in Practice*; 15(2): 210-215

**[07 – 11 March 2011]: Winter Term Break ('Spring Break')**

**15 March 2011: Midterm examination**

- Please update yourself with further instructions on midterm examination, which will be put on the Blackboard – or circulated through email - in future.
- Please thoroughly go through the instructions for midterm examinations as given later in this outline.
- This is an 'open book' exam.

Topic for Midterm examination: **Theories of Development.**

Resources for Midterm examination: Readings specified in this outline (as given above in sections 'B', 'C' & 'D').

**17, 22, 24, 29, 31 March & 5, 7 April 2011: Seminar presentations**

- Please update yourself with further instructions on seminar presentations, which will be put on the Blackboard - or circulated through email - in future.
- Please thoroughly go through the instructions for seminar presentations as given later in this outline.
- Theme: ***to be announced shortly***
- Articles for presentation, assignment of articles to presenters (students) and dates of presentation will be ***announced shortly***.
- The theme for presentations & topic for Final Term Paper is same.

Last Class: 07 April 2011

**Final ('take-home') Term paper**

- Please update yourself with further instructions on writing Term Paper, which will be put on the Blackboard - or circulated through email - in future
- Please thoroughly go through the instructions for Term Paper as given later in this outline.
- Topic: ***to be announced shortly*** [the theme for presentations & topic for Final Term Paper is same]
- Topic will be intensively discussed during seminar presentations.
- All compulsory materials (4 to 6 articles from e-journals) for writing Term Paper will be presented in the Seminar presentations.
- Last date for submission – **18<sup>th</sup> April 2011** [till 4 pm]

**EVALUATION**

**Please read the following instructions VERY CAREFULLY; students will be evaluated by the parameters laid down in the following instructions**

- 1] ONE ('open-book') **mid-term examination:** 25%
- 2] ONE **seminar presentation:** 25%
- 3] ONE ('take-home') **term paper:** 40 %
- 4] **Class participation** [class attendance; participation during seminar presentations; interaction in class]: 10 %

## 1] Mid-term examination

- Please update yourself with further instructions on midterm examination, which will be put on the Blackboard in future.
- The midterm examination will be one hour in length
- There will be two questions with equal marks.
- The examination will be a 'conventional / in-class / hand-written' examination (except for students with 'special' needs [*any type*]).
- The topic: **Theories of Development.**
- Resources for the exam: Readings specified in this outline (as given above in sections 'B', 'C' & 'D').
- Students are allowed to bring hardcopies [prints] of the readings for the examination; (thus it is an '**open book**' examination).
- I strongly recommend that students comprehensively read the articles beforehand and mark the sections they think are important. They are also advised to write their own comments on a separate sheet or on the printed copies of the article and bring it to the examination. This will significantly help while writing the answers.
- Please remember that you have ONLY 1 hour for writing your answers. Therefore, please do not try to fit everything that is there in the articles in your answers. Instead: select intelligently from the resources and write as much as can be feasibly written in an hour.
- Please try to give equal time to both questions, so that you don't end up with two answers that are exceptionally imbalanced in size.
- While writing your answer please see to it that you are NOT plagiarizing from the articles. Please use proper citation procedures and writing styles (e.g.: APA or ASA style) to write your answers. Please consult UNB library for more information on citing resources. Use of resources without proper citation will result in deduction of points from your answer.

## 2] Seminar presentation

- Please update yourself with further instructions on seminar presentations, which will be put on the Blackboard – OR - circulated through email - in future.
- Each student will do **ONE** seminar presentations.
- The presentation will be 'traditional' in character (VERBAL ONLY). Presenters CANNOT use visual aids (such as Over Head Projection).
- The main reading for the presentation will be one article from an e-journal.
- Articles for presentation, assignment of articles to presenters (students) and dates of presentation will be **announced shortly**.
- Articles (from e-journals subscribed by UNB Library system) for the presentations will be uploaded on the Blackboard.
- The subject for presentations: **to be announced shortly**. [*The theme for presentations & topic for Final Term Paper is same*]
- Please try to use theoretical concepts which are discussed in the classes as well as from readings referred in the course outline.
- I encourage students to use other relevant readings from UNB library system as well as take a critical and innovative interpretation of the article.
- Please focus on the core argument(s) of the article; details such as numerical data can be skipped (unless you are trying to make a point through them). You may also skip sections such as 'methodology' or 'sample selection' [unless it is extremely important for explaining the article].
- The presentation should have a brief introduction, a 'body' comprising of the core argument(s) and other essential points, conclusion, and followed by your remarks.
- As we progress through the course, I will provide more details regarding the content of your presentations as well as how to present.
- It will be the student's responsibility to facilitate a discussion among the audience after his/her presentation. This is a part of the evaluation of the presentation.
- There are points for style of presentation, audience engagement, eye contact, clarity of speaking, preciseness of expression and timing.
- I will inform about the time limit of each presentation subsequently. Please update yourself.

- Please practice to speak within the given time limit. There will be other speakers after you who have to present within class hours. If you do not speak within the allotted time, the subsequent speakers will not have enough time to talk. Points will be deducted if the allotted time is significantly overshot and I will be forced to halt the presentation. Please time your presentation while practicing. I strongly suggest you read it out before someone/audience and watch over the time.
- Students who are not presenting (**audience**) should read the articles being presented beforehand. It will help you to understand the presentation properly as well as enable you to ask questions to the presenter. This is the minimal reward an audience can give to all the hard work of the presenter. This involvement will also add to your points for 'participation in classes'-aspect of your final grades.
- Students who are presenting for the first time or are hesitant about public speaking or have any other form of apprehension about presentations, **please feel free to meet me.**

### 3] Term Paper

- I will provide detailed instructions about the final Term Paper shortly.
- Please update yourself with further instructions on term paper, which will be put on the Blackboard OR - circulated through email in future
- Each student will submit ONE final term paper.
- You must drop your completed term paper in my mail box (labeled as "Das") at the administrative office of the Department of Sociology (Room 20: Tilley Hall, 13 MacAulay Lane; Fredericton, NB Canada E3B 5A3).
- Please drop your term papers during regular office hours of the university; otherwise you will not be able to access the mail box since the office will be closed. Term Papers dropped anywhere else apart from the designated spot will not be considered.
- Those of you who will be out of station; they can send me their term paper via postal service or courier at the above given address (Department of Sociology).
- **I will NOT accept term papers sent through email.**
- Subject for Term paper: **to be announced shortly.** [*The theme for presentations & topic for Final Term Paper is same*]
- Topic for Term Paper will be intensively discussed during seminar presentations. All compulsory materials (4 to 6 articles from e-journals) for writing Term Paper will be presented in the Seminar presentations
- As we progress through the course, I will provide more details regarding the content of your Term Paper Essay. **Please check for the updates.**

### 3] Participation

- Participation in class is an extremely important part of the course. I would like the course to be interactive rather than instructional. For this goal, everyone's critical involvement is vital.
- Please feel free to ask me any question, clarify any doubt or discuss anything that pertains to this course. Please remember: **there are no stupid questions** in social sciences.
- Please make yourself thoroughly familiar with the study materials.
- Participation is also crucial in the discussions following the students' presentations. Please read the articles which will be presented and ask as many questions as you can.
- Please remember there is **NO 'one correct-answer'** in social sciences.
- **Please feel free to contact me if you have any kind of query or concern. Please do not hesitate.**

---

**Alekhya "Baba" Das** [Instructor]

[Department of Sociology - & - International Development Studies (IDS) Program (Faculty of Arts)]