Indigenous Development in the Fourth World

Class Time: T 11:30-2:30  
Location: VH 1152

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Course Description
The notion of the Fourth World first appeared in the early 1970s in an effort to explain and describe the oppressive condition confronted by Indigenous peoples in Canada. At the time, the term was viewed as part of a strategy for indigenous liberation or decolonization. Hence it was representative of the indigenous struggle not only against colonialism but also for recognition and emancipation. Since that time the indigenous struggle has been aimed at achieving freedom and equality. A fundamental part of that struggle has included “development.” But, what is the purpose of development? What is the indigenous experience of development? In search for answers to these and other similar questions, this course considers theories of development in light of the practical experiences and challenges confronted by indigenous people.

Focused on the peoples of the Fourth world, the objective of this course is to examine and further develop the analytic tools necessary to understand the role of indigenous development in the global economy. Central analytic questions to be addressed include the changing relationship between capitalism and indigenous peoples, between capitalist and non-capitalist modes of production and the role of the state. Drawing on different community, country and group experiences, topics to be considered include: the globalization of indigenous issues; First Nations, trade liberalization and state restructuring; resource development, the UN and indigenous rights; and, forms of resistance. The course also investigates the legal, cultural and environmental implications of development strategies.

Course Requirements

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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Paper (5-7 pages)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Essay (15-20 pages)</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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Professionalism

Students will be assigned one week in which they are responsible for presenting the readings on the topic. They will synthesize the readings and present their analysis of them to the class. They will lead class discussion and provide an overview of key themes, linking them to practical or contemporary examples and debates. Students will be marked not just on their participation in the class discussion but on their level of overall professionalism (preparedness, performance, punctuality, etc…).

Seminar Paper - DUE: 11 February 2012

Students are required to critically review and evaluate one (or more) of the readings from one of the weeks in the first section (Weeks 2-5). The focus here is primarily on theoretical questions of development. Your task is to highlight and review the strengths/weaknesses of a theoretical argument/analysis/approach and to test its relevance against a contemporary example in Canadian/indigenous politics. Is the argument persuasive? If so, why? If not, why not? And is it still relevant or useful today? Be sure to connect your theoretical analysis to your example (rather than have them stand alone). You do not have to give equal weight to all the readings and can focus on one or two authors.

Essay – DUE: MONDAY 8 April 2012

Students are required to prepare a comparative study/analysis that answers the question: is development colonizing or decolonizing? The essay must examine the experiences of a Canadian indigenous group, community or issue with one from another country studied within the course. The study should provide analysis in light of the themes and topics covered in the course, including issues arising in political, economic and cultural development. Potential topics include gender and development; mining and development; land conflicts and/or ecological dilemmas.
COURSE OVERVIEW:

Week 1: 8-Jan  INTRODUCTION – What is the Fourth World?
Week 2: 15-Jan  Imperialism and Indigenous Methodology
Week 3: 22-Jan  Theorizing Indigenous Development
Week 4: 29-Jan  Colonialism, Capitalism and Class
Week 5: 5-Feb  Nationalism and Neoliberal Globalization
Week 6: 12-Feb  Economics of Dev. I: Non-Renewable Resources
Week 7: 19-Feb  Reading Week – no classes
Week 8: 26-Feb  Economics of Development II: Alternatives (Tourism)
Week 9: 5-Mar  Politics of Development I: Institutional Representation
Week 10: 12-Mar  Politics of Development II: Social Movements
Week 11: 19-Mar  Cultural Development I: Gender
Week 12: 26-Mar  Cultural Development II: Ecological Challenges
Week 13: 2-Apr  Development: Colonization or Liberation?
Weekly reading assignments

THEORETICAL TOOLS AND ANALYTIC CONCEPTS

Week 1:  8-Jan      INTRODUCTION – What is the Fourth World?


Preparatory Background Reading:

• Abele, Frances. 2001. “Small nations and democracy’s prospects”, Inroads 10. PP. 137-149.

Week 2:  15-Jan   Imperialism and Indigenous Methodology


STRONGLY Recommended you review these key documents:


Week 3: 22-Jan Theorizing Indigenous Development


Recommended:

- Conway, Dennis and Nikolas Heynen. 2002. “Classical Dependency Theories: from ECLA to André Gunder Frank” The Companion to


Week 4: 29-Jan  Colonialism, Capitalism and Class


Week 5:  5-Feb  Nationalism and Neoliberal Globalization

Canada-


OR


United States-


Central/South America-


Recommended:


DEVELOPMENT TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE CONTEXT

Week 6: 12-Feb  Economics of Development I: Non-Renewable Res.

Canada-


Central/South America-


New Zealand/Australia-


Recommended:


**Week 7: 19- Feb  Reading Week (no classes)**

**Week 8: 26–Feb  Economics of Development II: Alternatives (Tourism)**

**General/Comparative –**


**Central/South America –**


**Northern Europe –**

Week 9:  2-Mar  Politics of Development I: Institutional Representation

Canada-


New Zealand/Australia –


Central/South America-


Northern Europe –


Week 10:  12-Mar  Politics of Development II: Social Movements

General-


Canada-


**United States**-


**Central/South America**-


Recommended:


Week 11: 19–Mar  Cultural Development I: Gender

**Canada**-


**New Zealand/Australia**-

Central/South America-


Recommended:


Week 12: 26–Mar  Cultural Development II: Ecological Issues

Canada-


Central/South America-

**New Zealand/Australia –**


Recommended:


Week 13  2-Apr  Development: Colonization or Decolonization?


Recommended: