

Boston University in Niger

SED IE 490E: Introduction to Development Studies

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Course Overview

The aim of this course is to enable students to analyze development both as a concept and in practice within the social, economic, political and cultural contexts of Niger and more generally Africa. Students will develop an understanding of how social, economic, political and environmental systems interact. The course seeks also to contribute to students' awareness about the interrelations between the local, regional and global processes and issues.

Methodology

Lectures, field experiences, guest speakers, documentaries and class discussions constitute the methodological approach in this course.

Grading Criteria

30% 3 short reports on course material (5 pages each)

30% project, presentation and discussion

30% final exam

10% attendance and participation

Plagiarism

All students are responsible for having read the 'Boston University Statement on Plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University program for cheating on examinations or for plagiarism may be 'expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the Dean.'

Course Program

Week 1: Conceptual framework

Definition, Approaches and Perspectives; Development; Development Studies

Reading:

- 1- Frans J. Schuurman, "Paradigms Lost, Paradigms Regained? Development Studies in the Twenty first century," *Third World Quarterly*, 21, 1 (2000): 720.
- 2- A.B. Assensoh. "Africa, Third World Studies and Our Responsibilities as Researchers," 2004 Presidential Address, Association of Third World Studies, *Journal of Third World Studies*, vol. XXII, no. 1 (2005): 1320.
- 3- *Eaters of the Dry Season*, David Rain, chap 1.
- 4- *Anthropology and development*, J-P. Olivier de Sardan, chap 3

NB: visit Kandadji.

Week 2: Engaging Colonialism, Modernization, Neoliberalism and Globalization in Context

Readings:

- 1- John Brohman, "Universalism, Eurocentrism, and Ideological Bias in Development Studies: From Modernisation to Neoliberalism," *Third World Quarterly*, 16, 1 (1995): 121-40.
- 2- Kate Manzo, "Modernist Discourse and the Crisis of Development Theory," *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 26, 2 (Summer 1991): 336.
- 3- Sally Matthews. "PostDevelopment Theory and the Question of Alternatives: A View from Africa," *Third World Quarterly*, 25, 2 (April 2004): 373-84.
- 4- Stefan Andrensson. "Orientalism and African Development Studies: The 'Reduction Repetition' Motif in Theories of African Underdevelopment," *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 26, Issue 6 (September 2005): 971-86.
- 5- Morgan Brigg, "PostDevelopment, Foucault and the Colonisation Metaphor," *Third World Quarterly*, 23, 3 (2002): 421-36.
- 6- Aran Ziai. "The Ambivalence of PostDevelopment: Between Reactionary Populism and Radical Democracy," *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 25, Issue 6 (September 2004): 1045-60.

NB:

Week 3: Underdeveloped, developing and what else?

Readings:

1. Samir Amin, "Underdevelopment and dependence in Black Africa: Origins and Contemporary Forms," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 10, 4 (December 1972): 503-24.
2. *Development*, 1997, 'Forty years in development: the search for social justice', *Development*, Vol 40 No 1
3. *Ideas for development: reflecting forwards*, Chambers.
4. 'From Economicist to Culturalist Development Theories: How Strong is the Relation Between Cultural Aspects and Economic Development?' *European Journal of Development Research*, Volume 16, 4, pp. 868-891. 2004.

5. 'UN contributions to development thinking and practice,' Dharam Ghai. *Development in Practice*,18:6,767-73.

NB: Research topics.

Week 4: Dealing with Poverty

Readings:

1. SRP
2. Taylor, L., 1997, 'Editorial: the revival of the liberal creed – the IMF and the World Bank in a globalized economy', *World Development*, Vol 25 No 2: 145–52.
3. Robert Hunter Wade. "Is Globalization Reducing Poverty & Inequality?" *World Development*, 32, 4 (2004): 5675-89
4. *Anthropology and Development*, J-P Olivier de Sardan, pp. 166-84.
5. Poverty Unperceived: Traps, Biases and Agenda, Working Paper, Chambers, July 2006.

NB: visit UNDP, Risk and Disaster

Week 5: Aid or No Aid

Reading:

- 1- *Dead Aid*, Moyo
- 2- Development assistance on the brink, Thearrien & Lloyd, *Third World Quarterly*, Vol 21, No 1, pp 21± 38, 2000.

Week 6: Gender, Inequality and Marginality

Readings:

- 1- 'Shea butter: connecting rural Burkinabè women to international markets through fair trade', Greig, Delaney(2006), *Development in Practice*,16:5,465-475.
- 2- James H. Mittelman. "Globalization: Captors and Captive," *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 21, 6 (2000): 91729.
- 3- Globalization and Nepad's Development Perspective: Bridging the Digital Divide With Good Governance, Ngwainmbi, *Journal of Black Studies*, Vol. 35, No. 3 (Jan., 2005), pp. 284-309.
- 4- Gender and Human Rights Dimensions of HIV / AIDS in Nigeria. Aniekwu, *African Journal of Reproductive Health / La Revue Africaine de la Santé Reproductive*, Vol. 6, No. 3 (Dec., 2002), pp. 30-37.

NB: Guest speaker, Ministere du plan / Visit Mecref
Submission of Research Project Outline

Week 7: Producing, Re-Producing, Recycling the informal sector

Readings:

1. The Informal Sector in Developed and Less Developed Countries: A Literature Survey. Gërxfhani, *Public Choice*, Vol. 120, No. 3/4 (Sep., 2004), pp. 267-300.
2. Population Growth and the Environment in Africa: Local Informal Institutions, the Missing Link. Mazzucato and Niemeijer, *Economic Geography*, Vol. 78, No. 2 (Apr., 2002), pp. 171-193.
3. Local Government Support for Women in the Informal Economy in Durban, South Africa. Skinner and Valodia, *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, Vol. 16, No. 3, Toward Gender Equity: Policies and Strategies (Spring, 2003), pp. 431-444.

NB: visit Katako / Wadata / Tourakou / looking for China in Habou Bene.

Week 8: Care and Management / Health and Environment

Readings:

- 1- Sustainability and Sahelian Soils: Evidence from Niger, Resource Room.
- 2- Resource Management under Climatic Risk: A Case Study from Niger, *Nancy McCarthy; Jean-Paul Vanderlinden Journal of Development Studies*, 1743-9140, Volume 40, Issue 5, 2004, Pages 120 – 142.

NB: Country Coordinating Mechanism of Niger For The Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Week 9: Policies, Reform, Transformations

Readings:

- 1- Niger: Regime Change, Economic Crisis and Perpetuation of Privilege, M. Gervais. Resource Room.
- 2- Learning and teaching participation: exploring the role of Higher Learning Institutions as agents of development and social change, Peter Taylor and Jude Fransman, IDS Working Paper.
- 3- Agricultural Crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa: Development Constraints and Policy Problems, Morgan and Solarz, *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 160, No. 1 (Mar., 1994), pp. 57-73.

Research Projects' Presentations begin

Week 10: Concluding Comments and Final Exam

Readings:

1. Paul Burkett and Martin HartLandsberg. "A Critique of 'CatchUp' Theories of Development," *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, vol. 33, no. 2 (2003): 147-71.
2. Dickson Eyoh. "From Economic Crisis to Political Liberalization: Pitfalls of the New Political Sociology for Africa," *African Studies Review*, vol. 39, no. 3 (December 1996): 43-80.