

Eckstein
So242
Fall 2008
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Office Hours:
Tu: 2:00-3:00
Th: 2:00-4:00

100 Cummington St.
Sociology Dept, Room 279

The purpose of this course is to broaden your economic, cultural, political, and social knowledge of the poorer countries and poorer people of the world, in contemporary and historical perspective. I plan to highlight cross-national and cross-regional similarities and differences. I hope you leave the course not only well informed, but also with a new interest in and commitment to the majority of the world's people less fortunate than us. Hopefully in your own way you will, in the future, help make the world a better place, inspired by the course.

BOOKS (available at the BU Barnes & Nobles Bookstore & in the Reserve Room of the library)

Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Paul Farmer*
Sachs, *The End of Poverty*
Perkins, *Confessions of An Economic Hit Man*
Bumiller, *May You Be the Mother of 100 Sons*
Beah, *Long-Way Gone*
Broad, *Plundering Paradise*

All articles are on reserve in the library and on the web. PLEASE NOTE THAT I WILL ADD A FEW READINGS AS WE PROCEED THROUGH THE COURSE

The dates listed below are approximate. Dates are likely to be modified somewhat, depending on student interest and discussion.

I. Concepts (Sept. 2-9)

II. On Being Poor and Trying to Do Something About It (Sept 9)

Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*

ASSIGNMENT: DISCUSSION OF THE BOOK. Submit 3 questions at the start of class. Be prepared to discuss the book in class. (Sept 9)

III. Development Overview: Historical Shifts in Strategies of Development, Regional Variations, and Theoretical Explanations (Sept 11-Sept 23)

Sachs, *The End of Poverty* **Sept 23** [NOTE: This is a lengthy, serious book. Budget your time to complete through page 209 by the time of class discussion]

ASSIGNMENT: DISCUSSION OF THE BOOK. SUBMIT 3 QUESTIONS AT THE START OF CLASS. Be prepared to discuss the book in class

IV. Theories of Development (Sept. 25-30)

V. Globalization: For Whom? (Oct 2)

Perkins, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* **Oct 2**

ASSIGNMENT: SUBMIT 3 QUESTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK, TURN THEM IN AT THE START OF CLASS, FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

VI. Strategies for Improving the Lives of People in Poor Countries (Oct 9-16)

Sachs, *The End of Poverty*, Pp 209--368
Boston Globe articles [on-line]
Yanus, "Gramean Bank," *GI*, 191-94

VII. Culture and Education (Oct 21-23)

Galeota and Legrain, "Is the World a Victim of American Cultural Imperialism?," *Taking Sides* 237-50
Inglehart & Norris, "The True Clash of Civilizations," *Developing World*, 197-203
Marglin, "Development as Poison," *Developing World 2005*: 15-19
The Economist, "A Political Awakening," *Global Politics 2005*: 98-101.

Be prepared to discuss these issues in class on Oct. 21

Bumiller, *May She Be the Mother of 100 Sons* (read from a cultural perspective) **(Oct 23)**

ASSIGNMENT: SUBMIT 3 QUESTIONS FOR IN-CLASS DISCUSSION OF THE BOOK)

FIRST EXAM TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR OCT 28—PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A TENTATIVE DATE

VI. Religion and Social Change (Oct 30)

Virginia Garrard-Burnett and David Stoll (ed), *Rethinking Protestantism in Latin America* ,
Stoll, Introduction, 1-19
Garrard-Burnett, "Conclusion," 199-210
Woodward, "The Changing Face of the Church," *Newsweek* 46-51
Bulliet, "The Crisis Within Islam," *DW* 2003/04, pp 84-88
Levitt, *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape* [pages to be assigned]

VIII. Drugs, Development, and U.S. Foreign Policy (Nov 6)

Mayor, "Winning the Fight Against Drugs," *Taking Sides*, 186-95
Bertram et al, *Drug War Politics*, 9-31

VII. Global Political Issues (Nov 11-13)

Regional Patterns

*Jost and Ives-Halperin, "Democracy in the Arab World," *Global Issues*, 181-204
*Masci, "Trouble in South America," *Global Issues*, 207-27
*Masci, "Aiding Africa," *Global Issues*, 229-49

Familiarize yourself with similarities and differences between conditions in the Arab, South American, and African world.

ASSIGNMENT: SUBMIT 3 QUESTIONS FOR IN-CLASS DISCUSSION OF BEAH, LONG WAY GONE (Nov. 13)

VIII. Urbanization and Immigration (Nov 18-20)

IX. Social Aspects of Development

A. Environment (Nov 25)

Globalization and the Environment, 9-12, 21-28

Broad, *Plundering Paradise*

ASSIGNMENT: SUBMIT 3 QUESTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK: BRING AT THE START OF CLASS, FOR CLASS DISCUSSION NOV 25

A. Women and Children (Dec 2)

Nelson, "Violence Against Women," GI, 200-04

Bumiller, *May You Be the Mother of 100 Sons* (reread, from a gender perspective)

Yanus, "Gramean Bank," GI, 191-94 [REREAD]

Masci, "Human Trafficking and Slavery," *Global Issues*, 251-69

Coleman, "The Payoff from Women's Rights," *Developing World 2005*

C. Population, Food, and Health Welfare (Dec 4-9)

Bearak, "Why People Starve," *Developing World 2005*: 25-32.

Siegel, "Withholding the Cure," *Developing World 2005*: 184-87

Cowley, "Medicine without Doctors," *Global Issues 2005*: 169-71

McKibben, "Special Moment in History," *Global Issues 2005*, 3-7

DEBATE

McNamara and Mosher, "Should the International Community attempt to Curb Population Growth in the Developing World?," *Taking Sides*, 2-21

SECOND AND LAST EXAM will be on DEC. 11—THIS IS NOT A FINAL EXAM. IT WILL MAINLY COVER THE SECOND PART OF THE COURSE

Course requirements:

Written requirements

2 exams--[the main basis of your grade]

6 short assignments

1 optional, bonus assignment: interviewing people who emigrated from the Third World

Attendance

In choosing to take So242 you are expected to abide by all Boston University policies regarding plagiarism. If you are unfamiliar with those regulations, please contact me.

Also, in electing to take So242 you are expected to attend classes regularly. Attendance may be a factor in your final grade. Classes cover different materials than readings, and you are responsible for both sets of materials. Please notify me in writing when you expect to miss a class.