

SOCIOLOGY 77:369

SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPING SOCIETIES

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9.30-10.20 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. J. Kwong

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Office hours: Wednesday, Friday 10.30-11.30 a.m.

All societies are changing, and yet we associate the term 'developing countries' only with the third world. The designation of European and North American societies as mature and the rest as developing reflects the bias in our everyday understanding of development. This course will question some of our assumptions, debunk our misconceptions, and examines the processes of development.

This course focusses on contemporary changes in the third world with examples taken mainly from Asian countries. It examines concepts of globalization and development. It studies the role of transnational companies, world trade, the changing world of work, media, and how these social changes shape the lives of individuals in these societies. It explores how the process of globalization affects the role of third world governments, social equality and particularly the lives of women.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Mitchell A. Seligson & John T. Passe-Smith, Development and Underdevelopment: the Political Economy of Global Inequality Boulder: Lynne Rienner 1998

Robin Cohen & Paul Kennedy, Global Sociology, New York: New York University Press 2000

Other readings on development will be put on reserve in the library.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are expected to attend class and read the assigned materials ahead of time so that they can participate intelligently in the class discussions. Students are required to do individual/group presentations in class. Assignments and quizzes may be given in class. There will be no make-up assignments or quizzes; students who miss them will not get any credit.

2. Students have to do a term paper on a topic approved by the professor. A one page abstract of the term paper together with the bibliography has to be handed in on October 22. The term paper should be about 5-7 double space typed pages, but not more than 7 pages. Students should use the referencing style in Seligson & Smith, Development and Underdevelopment. The papers have to be handed in on November 14. No late assignment will be accepted.

3. There is no final examination. Instead three tests worth 20 percent each will be given. These tests are scheduled tentatively the last week of each month, and the dates will be announced in class.

A student will be allowed to have a make-up test only if he/she misses the test for a legitimate reason (i. e. illness), informs the professor as soon as possible, and presents a medical certificate. A student who fails to make such a request within a week after the test will not be eligible for a make-up test and will get a zero for the test.

Class participation/

Quizzes/Assignments/

Presentation 15%

Paper 25%

3 tests 20% each

The following letter/percentage scale will be used:

A+ 90-100 Exceptional

A 80-89 Excellent

B+ 76-79 Very good

B 70-75 Good

C+ 66-69 Satisfactory

C 60-65 Adequate

D 50-59 Marginal

F 49 & below Failure

ACADEMIC ETHICS

All assignments have to be carried out individually unless otherwise stated. Students are reminded that plagiarism or any forms of cheating on term papers or assignments are serious breaches of academic regulations and those found guilty are subject to serious academic penalty, including suspension or expulsion from the faculty or university. Students are advised to read the university regulations on academic ethics.

November 14 is the last date for voluntary withdrawal without academic penalty.