Anthropology of Global Health & Development
ANTH 463
Spring 2015, MW 1:30-2:45
University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

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Office Hours: Tue 10:00-12:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This seminar explores the definitions and histories of development and global health initiatives in the global South, often referred to as developing countries. “Development” is defined as a set of interventions by governments, NGOs, and multilateral organizations to alleviate global poverty and poor health. We will discuss anthropology’s critical analysis of development and global health alongside some popular recent examples of inspirational books that propose solutions to global poverty. Reading materials consist of scholarly articles, an ethnography, and selections from two prominent books that have inspired widespread public debate in recent years.

3 credit hours. Prerequisites: ANTH 152 or ANTH 425.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Think analytically about various approaches to global poverty and suffering and express their thoughts clearly and effectively in written and oral formats.
- Analyze the cultures of development and humanitarianism in ways similar to how one would analyze the cultures of a geographical region, for example, India.
- Understand the theoretical or disciplinary divides in perspectives on development by drawing on anthropological theories and modes of inquiry to analyze popular representations of solutions presented to the mainstream “Western” public.
- Discuss the roles of gender and power in global development, humanitarian, and health initiatives.

EVALUATION
This course requires intensive reading, analysis, and preparation for the oral presentation of ideas. Evaluation of student learning will be based on a discussion leader presentation, an oral presentation on a development or humanitarian project, active participation in the classroom, and a final exam. Further details for all assignments will be provided.

- Class Participation 20%
  Participation is defined as contributing regularly to class discussions with relevant and insightful comments grounded in the reading materials. Preparation for this part of the course involves coming to class with at least three points or comments that you would like to make about the readings for that
day along with a copy of the readings. This portion of the grade may include brief exercises and unannounced reading quizzes in class.

- **Discussion Leader 20%**
  Pairs of students will sign up for a particular topic on the syllabus; present the main argument, supporting evidence, and any potential critiques of the text; provide background on the author and his/her research program; provide background on the topic; and pose discussion questions and manage the class discussion.

- **Oral Presentation on a Development or Humanitarian Project 25%**
  It is always easier to criticize than to improve, create something better, or develop a solution. So that we don’t fall into the intellectual trap of always taking the easy path (i.e. merely criticizing unsuccessful projects), independently research a development or humanitarian project in the Global South that has been at least partially successful. Find a project or organization that you admire and that relates to topics discussed in class. Present the background and contextual information, the methods and theories used, and analyze why you think it was successful. You are likely to find successful examples among small-scale, creative projects that have limited and focused goals, thus don’t confine your research to government-initiated projects.

- **Final Exam 35%**
  The final exam will be an opportunity to synthesize and reflect upon the concepts and debates raised and discussed in class and in the assigned books and articles.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Farmer, Paul et al

Maternowska, M. Catherine

Sachs, Jeffrey

An assortment of chapters and articles available through Laulima.
PART I. INTRODUCTION
Is it possible to end world poverty, or just a dream? What would it take? One economist, Jeffrey Sachs, claims that it is within reach.

A Tale of a Better World: *The End of Poverty*
M January 12

W January 14  
- Intro, Chapter 1 in *The End of Poverty*

M January 19  
- HOLIDAY

W January 21  
- Chapters 2, 3, 4 in *The End of Poverty*

M January 26  
- Chapters 12, 13 in *The End of Poverty*

W January 28  
- Chapters 15, 16, 17 in *The End of Poverty*

M February 2  
- Chapter 18 in *The End of Poverty*
- “Why Some Countries Go Bust” Davidson

PART II. DEVELOPMENT
Are good intentions good enough? What are the criticisms of Development, in theory and in practice, over the past few decades? Likewise, what are the fundamental assumptions and criticisms of humanitarianism? What types of relationships are established between global North donors and “developing country” or global South receivers?

W February 4  

M February 9  
- “Anthropology and Its Evil Twin: ‘Development’ in the Constitution of a Discipline” Ferguson
- For further reading: “The Rise and Fall of Development Theory” Leys

W February 11  
- “Preface” and “Chapter 1: Development and the Anthropology of Modernity” Escobar

M February 16  
- HOLIDAY

W February 18  
- “Chapter 2: The Problematization of Poverty” Escobar
PART III. GLOBAL HEALTH
What is anthropology’s relationship with global health? Is it possible to engage in global health initiatives without taking a paternalistic stance towards local peoples? What role does inequality play in health statuses?

Anthropological Evaluations of Global Health Initiatives

W March 4
- “Anthropology and Global Health” Janes & Corbett
- “Preface” and “Introduction” Nichter

M March 9
- “Perceptions of Ethnophysiology Matter” Nichter
- “Why is Research on Local Illness Categories Important?” Nichter
- “Perceptions of Pharmaceuticals and Quality of Care” Nichter

W March 11
- “Representations that Frame Health and Development Policy” Nichter
- “Representations of Health Status and Social Formations” Nichter
- “NGOs, Social Capital, and the Politics of the Possible” Nichter

M March 16
- In Reimagining Global Health: Chapters 1-2

W March 18
- In Reimagining Global Health: Chapter 3

M March 30
- In Reimagining Global Health: Chapter 4

W April 1
- In Reimagining Global Health: Chapter 6

M April 6
- In Reimagining Global Health: Chapter 7

W April 8
- In Reimagining Global Health: Chapter 9
M April 13
- In *Reimagining Global Health*: Chapter 10

W April 15
- **Oral Presentations**

M April 20
- In *Reimagining Global Health*: Chapter 11

**A Political-Economic Approach to Global Health**

W April 22
- **Oral Presentations**

M April 27
- Foreword, Chapters 1-2 in *Reproducing Inequities: Poverty and the Politics of Population in Haiti*

W April 29
- Chapters 3-4 in *Reproducing Inequities: Poverty and the Politics of Population in Haiti*

M May 4
- Chapters 5, 6, 7 in *Reproducing Inequities: Poverty and the Politics of Population in Haiti*

**PART IV. CONCLUSIONS**

W May 6
- “Toward a Next Generation of Social Science Research in Global Health” Nichter
- **Graduate Student Oral Presentations**

**FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 15th 2:15-4:15**