GEOGRAPHY 230

**Geographies of Global Inequality**

Victoria A. Lawson Fall, 2013

Office: Smith 303-D Office hours:

tel: 543-5196 By Appt.

e-mail: lawson@uw.edu

Homepage: http://faculty.washington.edu/lawson/

## Geographies of Inequality

One of the most pressing challenges facing us in the 21st century is increasing global inequalities. **This course examines the paradox of expanding and deepening levels of inequality after sixty years of ‘development’ in the post-war era**. Extremes of wealth and poverty in both global South and North underlie differences of health and illness, educational opportunity and illiteracy, land ownership and forced migrations, employment protections and unregulated work. The World Bank states that: “…2.8 Billion people – almost half the world’s population – live on less than $2/day” and that: “… the average income in the richest 20 countries is 37 times the average income in the poorest 20 – a gap that has doubled in the last 20 years”. The Human Development Report (2010) finds decades of growing inequality -- within and between countries across the world. The richest 10 percent of the world's population's income is roughly 117 times higher than the poorest 10 percent (data from the International Monetary Fund) and this is a huge jump from the ratio in 1980, when the income of the richest 10 percent was about 79 times higher than the poorest 10 percent.

**Purpose and Scope**

This course examines three big questions:

* **What are the relationships between economic globalization, the development industry, and rising global inequality?**
* **What is the history and record of the international development project?**
* **What do we learn if we question the assumption that rich countries are the norm that the rest of the world should follow?**

*Learning goals*:

I have two learning goals for this course. First, students will learn a political-economy analysis of development. Second, students will understand the ways in which Global South places and peoples are represented and understood in the United States.

Course Readings:

*A World of Difference. Encountering and Contesting Development*. Edition #2. E. Sheppard, P. Porter, D. Faust and R. Nagar. 2009. London: Guildford Press.

Reading packet articles available on the course website.

**Course Requirements:**

1) Students are expected to attend all lectures and to complete all assigned readings.

2) You will have a **midterm exam** worth 25% of your final course grade. **Midterm is Tuesday October 29th in class**.

3) There will be **three in-class map exercises** during the quarter that combine to be worth 15% of your final course grade. **IMPORTANT**: We will drop your lowest exercise score at the end of the quarter. There **WILL NOT** be an opportunity to make up if you miss section.

4) You will do **three online group discussions** during the class that will be worth 10% of your grade. These discussions provide a chance for you to learn from each other and also will provide us with a sense of your questions throughout the class.

4) You will do **two credit/no credit assignments** worth 10% of your grade. These assignments are designed to help you work through the ideas of the class for your final research assignment.

5) **Final graded research assignment** worth 15% of your grade. You will spend a great deal of time in section engaging with relevant ideas from readings and lectures for your final project. **Final assignment due Friday Dec 6th by 5:00pm in TA mailbox**

6) You will have a **second midterm** worth 25% of your course grade on **Wednesday, December 11th @ 10:30 – 12:20 in our classroom**

**Grading Policy:**

If you feel that we have made an error in grading, please bring this to your TA’s attention in the following way:

1. Carefully read the comments.
2. Wait at least 24 hours and re-read the comments.
3. Write a clear and specific statement (typed), highlighting specific illustrations of why you believe you were graded unfairly. This should be a compelling argument that both fairly assesses your exam/paper, and objectively compares your exam/paper to the expected response.
4. Bring the exam/paper and your written concerns to your TA’s office hours to discuss.
5. If warranted, your TA will re-read the exam/paper and return it to you during the next section. Your TA may also choose to have the other course TA evaluate your exam/paper.
6. If all of these steps have been followed and you are still unable to resolve your concerns, your TA can jointly present your exam/paper to me. **Please note that I will not read your exam/paper grade complaint unless you have spoken to your TA first.**
7. The statute of limitations on grade complaints is 1 week after the return of the exam/paper.

**Plagiarism & Academic Misconduct:**

Plagiarism is a serious offense that can lead to significant consequences. Please see the definition of plagiarism below from the University of Washington website on plagiarism and academic misconduct: [*http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm#plagiari*s](http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm#plagiaris)

You are guilty of cheating whenever you present as your own work something that you did not do. You are also guilty of cheating if you help someone else to cheat.

**Important Dates:**

**Tuesday October 29th: Midterm – in class.**

Monday, Nov 11th, Veteran’s Day

November 28th and 29th Thanksgiving Day – no class

Friday December 6th, last day of class

**Wednesday, December 11th: Second Midterm @ 10:30 – 12:20 in classroom**

**OUTLINE OF TOPICS**

1. **IMAGINING DEVELOPMENT**

**Weeks 1 and 2: Sept. 25th – Oct 4th**

*Introduction*: Global patterns of inequality; development as idea and practice; political-economy approach to development

*Geographical imaginaries of development:* Shift from Cold War developmentalism to post 1990s focus on philanthropy and non-governmental organizations

*Bringing the learning home*: understanding the United States in contemporary times

*Readings*: **Sheppard**, et. al. Chapter 2 (pages 18-51); **Online readings:** White South Africans Move to Black Township; Barefoot – The Other Side of Life; In hard times, Americans blame the poor; America’s Primal Scream; Since when is it a crime to be poor?; ‘Hopeless Africa’; and ‘What Hopeless Continent’.

1. **RE-EXAMINING DEBATES OVER 'DEVELOPMENT'**

**Week 3: Oct. 7th – 11th**

*Politics of population and over-consumption*: Examine the politics of shifting debates over ‘overpopulation’ to focus on terror/security; immigration and climate change

*Readings*: **Sheppard**, et. al. Chapter 6 (pages 117-147); **Online readings:** ‘The Last Taboo’; ‘What’s your consumption factor?’; view the Story of Stuff

1. **COLONIAL HISTORIES AND THE INVENTION OF DEVELOPMENT**

**Week 4: Oct 14th – 18th**

*Pre-colonial urbanization*: Sub-saharan Africa example of urbanization and indigenous

knowledges lost

*Readings*: **Sheppard**, et.al. Chapters 13 and **Online readings:** ‘All the Way to Timbuktu’ (On Orientalism video), view Lakota Story Project Links

**Week 5: Oct 21st – Oct 25th**

*Colonial Imprint and Impacts*: mercantile colonialism, the Berlin Conference, industrial colonialism and global cities

**Readings**: **Sheppard**, et.al and 14 and **online readings**: ‘Constructing the Dark Continent’, Black/White inequality and the home foreclosure crisis; view Traces of the Trade website.

**Week 6: Oct 28th – Nov 1st**

*Invention of economic development:* Bretton Woods and the post-war order; World Bank, International Monetary Fund -- development for whom?

***Readings***: **Sheppard**, et.al. Chapter 15 (pages 377-382); **Online readings:** ‘The First Fifty Years’ and ‘Fifty Years is Enough’

# IV. DEBT AND A NEW WORLD ORDER: GLOBALIZATION

**Week 7: Nov 4th  – Nov 8th**

*Debt and a New World Order*: Urban/industrialization, debt, crisis, and the International Monetary Fund

*Readings*: **Sheppard**, et.al. Chapter 17 (pages 431-440) and chapter 22 (pages 539-550); **Online readings:** ‘Introduction to Debt and Jubilee’; ‘Jubilee 2000 USA’; ‘Odious and Illegitimate Debt’. Cochabamba: water war in Bolivia; history of Bolivian colonization article: (*Movie*: ‘Even the Rain’ considers histories of political and economic colonization, representations of those colonized and continuing inequalities – the case of Bolivia).

**Weeks 8 and 9: Nov 11th – Nov 22nd**

*Structural Adjustment and US Welfare Reform, European Debt*

*Readings*: **Sheppard**, et.al. Chapter 23 and Appendix (pages 559-593); **Online readings**: ‘Vulnerable Women and Neoliberal Globalization’ and ‘‘How the middle class became the underclass’; ‘Foreclosure Narratives’.

## V. REMAKING ‘DEVELOPMENT’

**Weeks 10 and 11: Nov 25th – Dec 6th**

*Politics and civil society:*  global networks, transnational alliances, UW USAS Alta Gracia Campaign and unionism, anti-globalization movement, fair trade movement (Santiago’s story on fair trade coffee – video: ‘This is what democracy looks like’).

*Readings*: **Sheppard**, et.al. Chapter 24 (pages 594-608); **Reading Packet articles:** ‘The Other Davos’; ‘Women Behind the Labels’;‘Factory Defies Sweatshop Label, but can it survive?’; Video at: <http://altagraciaapparel.com/story>; investigate workers rights consortium website at: <http://www.workersrights.org/>; view World Social Forum website at: <http://fsm2011.org/en/wsf-2011>

**LAST CLASS**

*Millennial Development*: Poverty as a global concern, but inequality still obscured; paradox between economic growth to ‘solve’ poverty and consumption as causing climate change. Development is paradoxical, how does Millennial Development become democratic? Explore the website: <http://ghanathinktank.org/>

**Geography 230 Section Schedule FALL 2013**

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| **Friday Section** | **Assignments** | **Other** | **Quizzes** | **TA Section Plan** |
| WEEK 1: Sept. 27th  |  |  |  | Hand out Syllabus, Map Prep #1. Online discussion #1 |
| WEEK 2: Oct 4th  |  |  | Map Quiz: Africa | Quiz #1Hand out/discuss Assignment #1. |
| WEEK 3:Oct 11th  |  Assignment #1 DUE |  |  | Pass Back Quiz #1.Hand out Map Prep#2.In-class activity for Assignment #1. |
| WEEK 4: Oct 18th  |  |  | Map Quiz: South/S.E. Asia | Quiz #2.Pass back Ass #1.Online discussion #2 |
| WEEK 5:Oct 25th  |  |  |  | Pass Back Quiz #2.**Midterm Review** |
| WEEK 6:Nov 1st  |  |  |  | Hand out and discuss Assignment #2.  |
| WEEK 7:Nov 8th  |  |  |  | Discuss midtermBegin final project work |
| WEEK 8:Nov 15th  | Assignment #2 DUE |  |  | In-class Activity Assignment #2.Hand out Map Prep#3. |
| WEEK 9:Nov 22nd  |  |  | Map Quiz: Latin America | Quiz #3.Pass back Ass #2.Work on final project |
| WEEK 10:Nov 29th   |  |  |  | **Thanksgiving Holiday – no section**Online discussion #3 |
| WEEK 11:Dec 6th  |  |  |  | Pass back quiz #3**Final Review** |