

ANTHROPOLOGY 2281F-650

Anthropology of International Development

COURSE OUTLINE

Summer 2022

Distance Studies

Version date: April 13, 2022

This course runs for 6 weeks from May 9 – June 17, 2022.

Instructor: Dr. Kelly Linton (she/her)

Email: kelly.linton@uwo.ca

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Prerequisites: None

Antirequisites: None

Course Description:

With an emphasis on critical development theories and approaches, this course seeks to illuminate the historical and sociopolitical contexts of the development paradigm and the ethical and moral dilemmas surrounding intervention by international aid organizations, NGOs, states, and civil society actors. We will explore issues related to the impact of neocolonialism and globalization, how relationships between states are shaped by development policy, and how different sociocultural contexts shape our understandings of development around the globe. Specific questions addressed in this course may include: What does “development” mean to different people in the world today? How are plans for “improving” marginal communities implemented in the world today, and what does anthropological research concerning these communities reveal about this process? How might critical perspectives on international development contribute to alternative ways of providing support to marginalized communities? What has anthropological research revealed about the complexities of working with, for or around international development organizations?

The structure of the course consists of online instruction, and as such, includes content that will be shared virtually on OWL on a weekly basis. Content for each week will be released on Sundays.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Critically reflect on the historical relationship between colonialism, development, and globalization.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the systems of oppression and privilege that exist at both local and global levels.

3. Describe the key debates surrounding international aid and global development.
4. Identify some of the impacts (both intended and unintended) of development intervention.
5. Describe how anthropologists can contribute to our understandings of development.
6. Identify key theoretical debates, methodological issues, and ethics associated with anthropologies of development.
7. Demonstrate a critical understanding of how cultural context shapes perceptions of global issues.

Course Materials:

There is no textbook for this course.

In this course short article readings, blog posts, and videos will be assigned. These additional materials will be made available for download through the Course Readings tool on the course's OWL site and in the weekly lesson page.

Registered students will be able to access additional course readings through the course site in OWL before the first day of class.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

- Weekly Reading Quizzes – 25%
- Weekly Forum Participation – 25%
- Film Review – 20%
- Final Research Essay – 30%

Quizzes – 25% (6 quizzes – one per week, drop lowest 1, each quiz 5.0%)

There will be six quizzes throughout the course (one each week). Quizzes will be released on Sundays of each week. Quizzes will be completed online, and each one must be completed by Wednesday of each week. Quizzes will focus on the main ideas in the week's readings. They are meant to motivate you to complete all of the assigned readings. There will be no make-up quizzes but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Each quiz will be worth 5.0% for a total of 25% of your final grade.

Note: Each quiz will only be open for a one-week period. If you miss a quiz deadline, you will not be able to complete that quiz

Weekly Forum Participation – 25%

Questions/Comments: Students are required to post to the discussion forum weekly regarding the assigned readings/resources. Students should pose two questions/comments that demonstrate critical analysis, engagement with content and connection to other resources or current events. Please note that you are not expected to always agree with the readings as they are assigned to enable you to think critically and form your own opinions. Further, critical thinking does not necessarily imply critiquing, but rather engaging with the material in an intersectional and meaningful way. Questions/comments should be 100-200 words each and be posted no later than the Sunday of each week.

Responses: Students are required to respond to at least one student post through critical discourse. This can be through engaging with posed questions, supporting ideas or respectfully challenging the posted comments. Responses should foster further discussion by asking relevant questions, contributing relevant resources or sharing relevant knowledge and experience. While students are only required to respond once per week (deadline of Sunday), the forum is to act as an ongoing discussion to help generate knowledge, understanding and dialogue regarding course content and current events.

Film Reflection - 20%

Students will hand in a short (1000-1200 word) reflection paper based on a documentary film featuring a topic of relevance to the course. A list of potential films with links will be provided or students can discuss a film of their choosing. Students will be asked to reflect critically on the film, including an analysis of the motivations and messages being conveyed, what may be ignored or missing, who benefits from the message, etc. Concepts from the course should be referenced and analysis should reflect critical engagement with the topic. The Film Reflection Paper is due during Week 3 on Sunday May 29th and all submissions must be reviewed by Turnitin plagiarism software. More information will be made available to students on the course OWL site.

Note: Unless a student receives academic consideration through the Counselling office of their home Faculty, paper assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5%/day late for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days. Students who are unable to submit this paper on-time due to circumstances that warrant use of a “self-reported absence” will be expected to submit their paper within 24hours of the end of their absence period.

Final Research Essay - 30%

Students will hand in a research essay (2500-3000 words) that explores a particular development issue within one specific society. Your papers should demonstrate critical engagement with the course material and the core content of the paper should include both problem analysis and critical reflection on proposed solutions. The research paper should be well organized, clearly written, and persuasively argued. Students must include a minimum of 6 peer-reviewed sources beyond the course materials.

The Research Essay is due during Week 6 on Friday June 17th and all submissions must be reviewed by Turnitin plagiarism software. More information will be made available to students on the course OWL site.

Note: Unless a student receives academic consideration through the Counselling office of their home Faculty, paper assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5%/day late for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days. Students who are unable to submit this paper on-time due to circumstances that warrant use of a “self-reported absence” will be expected to submit their paper within 24hours of the end of their absence period. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

In order to pass an essay course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.

In order to pass this essay course, students must submit both writing assignments and receive a passing grade on at least one of them. Note that you must write a minimum of 2500 words in essay assignments at the 2000-level to meet the requirement for an essay-designated course.

Course Specific Statements and Policies:

Statement on Engaging in the Online Learning Environment

This course relies on the OWL site to connect you with the syllabus, assignment outlines, content, and other course material. Here, you will engage with me, the TAs, and your peers as we progress through the course. Please keep track of weekly tasks and contribute respectfully to online activities.

Statement on Email

You may contact me by email, but it may take up to 24 hours for a response. If I cannot provide an immediate response, or if the matter is something we cannot address quickly, I will direct you to meet with me through Zoom. Please ensure that your emails are worded professionally and include the course number (2281F) in the subject line.

Statement on Student Success

If you need support with your academic writing skills, please visit the [Writing Support Centre](#) in person or online. The Centre aims to (1) enhance your writing and communication skills and build your confidence, (2) equip you with tools, resources and knowledge to effectively communicate through writing,

(3) increase your critical analysis abilities to effectively communicate scholarly ideas, (4) convey university level writing expectations, and (5) provide you with the skills you need to navigate academic transitions.

The staff at [Learning Skills Services](#) support your development as an excellent student by answering your questions and

providing advice on how to succeed in your studies at Western. They can help you to develop new skills or strengthen existing academic skills. You can make an individual appointment with a learning skills counsellor, attend learning skills presentations, drop by the Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Centre, or receive helpful information via e-mail. Information on important learning skills topics is also available online.

Visit the [Wellness Education Centre](#) if you need support in navigating any kind of mental health issue (e.g., anxiety, stress, etc.) WEC provides free assistance in connecting you with wellness services and resources on and off campus.

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

Academic Success Program

During first term, this course is participating in the Academic Success Program. The program runs in parallel to our course and is designed to facilitate connections with your online classmates, enhance your academic skills, and communicate tools and campus resources that can assist in your successful transition to Western. Each registered student has been placed in a group, and each group has been assigned a Peer Leader, an upper year student who has completed this course in the past. If you haven't already heard from your Peer Leader, you can expect to hear from them in the coming days. Your active participation in weekly programming with your group and Peer Leader is encouraged; please plan to participate for 1-1.5 hours each week of first term, excluding the Fall Reading Week. Please send any questions regarding this program to your Peer Leader or ase@uwo.ca.

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined in Western's academic policies by using this link: [Western's academic policies](#).