International Development

Spring 2027

International Development 001

URPL 6650

Spring 2027 - Tuesday 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Chris Allan

Zoom link: https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/95684573019

Meeting ID: 948 4980 1246

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International Development Planning: Theory and Practice introduces students to the histories, debates, actors, and approaches that shape development planning and practice in the Global South. The course will take a largely practitioner's view of the field, focusing on how people "doing development" view their work and what tools they use. The course will review shifting approaches over the past half century, and introduce the basic planning and evaluation tools in use today. It will also look at alternative views of development paradigms, including feminist, Indigenous, human rights, and environmental approaches to the issues.

The course will use a combination of classic and contemporary readings, online resources, and guest lectures from specialists. Some class sessions will be done in a workshop format. Class participation will be very important, in that the most valuable learning opportunities will involve engaging actively in the methods and concepts presented.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please refer frequently to this Canvas page to view the most up-to-date version.

Learning Objectives

If you fully engage in this course, meaning that you 1) read and reflect on assigned materials, 2) actively participate in seminar discussions and activities and 3) complete your assignments with care, you should be able to:

1. Describe the trajectory of development thinking in the 20th and early 21st centuries;
2. Identify the actors and institutions in development at the international, national, regional, and local scales;
3. Critically examine some of the major development challenges facing planners in developing countries;
4. Analyze development projects or initiatives to assess their underlying assumptions, fact basis, strategies for intervention, and evaluative criteria;
5. Evaluate both the successes and failures of development planning processes;
6. Understand the range of knowledge that informs development planning and the assumptions that underlie data;
7. Develop your own knowledge and expertise about an area of development planning and effectively communicate your findings to your colleagues.

Course Materials

There are no required textbooks for the class - all materials will be provided on Canvas.

Course Requirements

Attendance: As a member of this seminar, you will be expected to attend each class and to arrive on time and well prepared. If you cannot attend class because of an illness or emergency, please email me ahead of the class period.

Participation: Your participation is critical to the success of the class (see assignment "classroom participation" below). I expect you to participate in ways that you find comfortable and rewarding. I also expect you to treat other seminar participants with courtesy and respect, and you should expect the same from me.

The class aims to facilitate learning, not dispense knowledge. Students are peers who each bring an invaluable set of experiences and knowledge to the class. Therefore, your active engagement and willingness to share and learn from your classmates is critical. The class

values your experience and view of the world, so please bring your full self into this class. Your presence depends on you being fully focused on the class activities, and not multi-tasking by checking your email, talking on the phone, or browsing the internet.

Assignments & Grading Policies

There are three assignments for this course:

1. **Seminar Papers (due throughout the semester)**

Seminar papers are short written assignments that focus on some aspect of that week's class. For example, a seminar paper assignment might ask you to critically reflect on that week's readings, do original research on some aspect of international development, or apply a tool or method to a question or problem. There are 10 seminar papers for the semester, and you are required to do 7. The choice of which ones to do are up to you.

For each seminar paper assignment, I will provide a prompt that includes questions to guide your response.

The papers should be 400-500 words (about 2 pages double-spaced). You do not need to include a bibliography unless you are citing sources from outside the syllabus. Your papers must be uploaded to Canvas by 5 p.m. on the day before class to receive full credit.

2. Concept Paper and Peer Review (proposal due March 16; presentation and final paper due May 11)

Your final assignment is to write a Concept Paper that frames and analyzes a planning challenge and proposes a development intervention(s). A concept paper is the step that precedes an actual proposal. You should first choose an area of planning (i.e., housing, improved governance, economic development, disability rights, water and sanitation, disaster risk reduction, human rights, gender equality, etc.) and a place that experiences major challenges in that area.

Your assignment should be written in proposal format (an outline is provided in the details under the assignment). Your Concept Paper should be 3,500-4,000 words in length, excluding figures, illustrations, footnotes/endnotes, and references. You should include a full bibliography. You will also present your idea to the class at the end of the semester. Your presentation should be clear and convincing. You may prepare additional materials such as a PowerPoint or video to support your presentation.

You will also act as a peer reviewer for one other presentation, giving verbal feedback right after the presentation.

3. Classroom Participation

Robust classroom participation is an essential part of successful and rewarding seminars. I will evaluate your participation based on your 1) class attendance and punctuality; 2) preparation; and 3) participation in seminar discussions, activities, small group discussions, peer-review sessions, and course evaluations. There is a rubric for how I will assess class participation in the Assignments section.

Grading Policies

Your course grade will be determined by:

Assignment	**Share of Grade**
Seminar Papers	35%
Concept Paper Proposal	5%
Concept Paper	40%
Concept Paper Presentation and Peer Review	15%
Classroom Participation	5%

Assignment Formatting and Submission

Your written assignments should be composed in 12-point Times New Roman or Cambria font. Please be sure to include page numbers on longer assignments. Late assignments will be marked down one full grade per day.

For assignments, if you want to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs to assist in preparing your papers, please include the AI conversation and a brief paragraph describing how you adapted the AI output for your paper. Also include specific references to the reading.

How to Get in Touch: Office Hours, Phone, and Email

If you have any questions or want to talk about an assignment, please write me at christopher.allan@ucdenver.edu, or text or call me at 720-841-0277. I am happy to meet over Skype, Zoom, or by phone.

Weekly Readings

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Jan 21	Introduction & Overview	No assigned readings.	
Jan 28	The Origins of International Development	• King, Anthony (2014) "Colonialism and Urban Development." In Faranak Miraftab and Neema Kudva (Eds) *Cities of the Global South Reader*. London and New York: Routledge. • Rist, Gilbert (2002). Chapter 4: The Invention of Development. In: *The History of Development, from Western Origins to Global Faith*. • Dos Santos, T. (1970). The Structure of Dependence. *The American Economic Review*, 60(2): 231-236. • Escobar, Arturo (1997). The Making and Unmaking of the Third World Through Development. In *The Post Development Reader*. Recommended • Massey, Doreen (1999). Cities Interlinked. • W.W. Rostow (1960). The Five Stages of Economic Growth. The Economic History Review. • Listen to the Planet Money podcast episode "The Dollar at the Center of the World."Links to an external site. (19 minutes)	• Seminar Paper #1: Origins of International Development

Feb 4	Actors and Institutions in Development	• Stiglitz, Joseph (2002). *Globalization and Its Discontents*. Chapter 1 "The Promise of Global Institutions" (pp. 3-22). • Banks, N. (2021). The Role and Contributions of Development NGOs to Development Cooperation: What Do We Know?. In: Chaturvedi, S., et al. The Palgrave Handbook of Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda. • Hobbes, Michael (2014). Stop Trying to Save the World: Big Ideas Are Destroying International Development. *The New Republic. (Links to an external site.)* Links to an external site. *or download the pdf of the Hobbes article here* • Gore, C. (2000). *The Rise and Fall of the Washington Consensus. World Development, 28(5): 789-804.* • PBS Newshour, *Is U.S. foreign aid for health care being used effectively?Links to an external site.*, Jan 8, 2025 – note the role of private sector contractors, especially those based in the Global North (YouTube, 9:29 minutes) • Robert Kuttner, *The Import of Exports*, New York Review of Books, December 19, 2024 Recommended • Fisher, William F. (1997). Doing Good? The Politics and Anti-Politics of NGO Practices. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 26: 439-464. • Goldman, Michael (2014). Development and the City. In *Cities of the Global South Reader.* • Raymond Lang, *"The Role of NGOs in the Process of Empowerment and Social Transformation of People with Disabilities,", pp 1-21* • Stiglitz, Joseph (2002). *Globalization and Its Discontents*. Chapter 2 "Broken Promises" (pp. 23-52).	• Seminar Paper #2: Actors and Institutions

Feb 11	Alternative Concepts of Development	• Watch Djimon Hansou perform Binyavanga Wainaina's *How to Write About Africa*, (Granta, 92, Winter 2005, pp. 91-96) at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYVvEa3dSeULinks to an external site. (3 minutes) • Laura Bohannan, Shakespeare in the Bush Links to an external site. • Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, Introduction, Chapters 1-2 • Development and Complexity, Links to an external site. slide and audio lecture by Owen Barder, Center for Global Development (45 minutes) • Elinor Ostrom, *Beyond Markets and States: Polycentric Governance of Complex Economic Systems*, The American Economic Review, JUNE 2010, Vol. 100, No. 3 (JUNE 2010), pp. 641-67 • Oxfam, Decolonize! What Does It Mean? , 2022 • Watch videoLinks to an external site. of Dr Lwazi Lushaba, University of Cape Town, on decolonizing education in South Africa, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xestqqmz600Links to an external site. (7:41) • Kimmerer, The Serviceberry Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World	• Seminar Paper #3: Alternative Concepts of Development
Feb 18	Informal Settlements	• Davis, Mike (2006). *Planet of Slums*. Chapters 1-3 (1-69). • Mukhija, Vinit (2012). Cities with Slums. *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Planning*. • Perlman, Janice (1986). Six Misconceptions about Squatter Settlements. *Development: Seeds of Change*, 4 (40-44). • Bhan, Gautam (2009). 'This is no longer the city I once knew.' Evictions, the urban poor and the right to the city in millenial Delhi. *Environment and Urbanization* 21(1): 127-142. Recommended	• Seminar Paper #4: Informal Settlements

		• Gilbert, Alan (2007). The Return of the Slum: Does Language Matter? *IJURR*, 31(4): 697-713. • Case Study: Shatkin, Gavin (2004). Planning to Forget: Informal Settlements as "Forgotten Places" in Globalizing Metro Manilla. *Urban Studies*, 41(2): 2469-2484. • Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity, by Katherine Boo (not available on Canvas. Available at Auraria Library, https://go.exlibris.link/ZwVBtYKk Links to an external site.)	
Feb 25	Informal Economies	• Anjaria, J. (2006). Street Hawkers and Public Space in Mumbai. *Economic and Political Weekly*, May 28 (2140-2146). • Chen, Martha Alter. (August 2012) The Informal Economy: Definitions, Theories and Policies. WIEGO Working Paper No 1. Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) • Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok, Marginal Revolution University, Introduction to Microfinance (Portfolios of the Poor)Links to an external site., 7 minute video, opens to YouTube • Kanwal Sidhu, Microfinancing Links to an external site., 10 minute video, opens to YouTube Recommended • Tipple, G. (2005). The Place of Home Based Enterprises in the Informal Sector: Evidence from Cochabamba, New Delihi, Surabaya, and Pretoria. Urban Studies, 42(4): 611-632 • Field Guides: ○ IRC FACILITATOR GUIDE Village Savings and Loans Association VSLA	• Seminar Paper #5: Informal Economies

		○ VSL Associates - Simplified Field Officer's Training Guide Village Savings and Loan Associations VSLAs	
Mar 4	Planning Tools I – strategic planning, logical frameworks	• Netting, Ellen, Mary Katherine O'Connor & David Fauri (2008). Rational Planning and Prescriptive Approaches. In: *Comparative Approaches to Program Planning* (59-113). • The MEAL DPro Model Starter -- Read the text and watch the videos under Design Project Logic Models: Theory of ChangeLinks to an external site. and Results Framework and LogframeLinks to an external site. • Humentum, *A Guide to the MEAL DPRO: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for Development Professionals*, Version 1.0, April 2019, Chapter 2. • Planning Examples • United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)Links to an external site. -- read through the home page and familiarize yourself with the 17 goals. https://sdgs.un.org/goalsLinks to an external site. • Watch Esther Duflo's TED talkLinks to an external site.. She "takes economics out of the lab and into the field to discover the causes of poverty and means to eradicate it." (17 minutes) https://www.ted.com/speakers/esther_dufloLinks to an external site. • Sharon Wilkinson, *Participatory Logframes with the Masaai* Recommended • Rittel, H. and M. Webber (1973). Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning. *Policy Science*, 4: 155-169. • The United Nations Development Programme (2016). UNDP Support to the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	• Seminar Paper #6 - Planning Tools I

Mar 11	Planning Tools II – Strategy, Complexity, and Systems	• John Vogelsang, *Futuring: A Complex Adaptive Systems Approach to Strategic Planning*, OD Practitioner, vol. 34, no. 4, 2002. • Dana O'Donovan & Noah Rimland Flower, *The Strategic Plan is Dead. Long Live Strategy*Links to an external site.. Stanford Social Innovation Review, Jan. 10, 2013 https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_strategic_plan_is_dead._long_live_strategy#Links to an external site. • Declaration Of Independence ReplyLinks to an external site., Edward Schwartz, Social Policy, July/August 1974, Vol. 5, No. 2. https://www.arcamax.com/entertainment/humor/jokes/s-382133-911863Links to an external site. • Heather Britt, *Discussion Note: Complexity-Aware Monitoring*, USAID, Version 2.0, December 2013, pp 1-14. • C. Boyle, *Top of the Food Chain,* Without a Hero and Other Stories • Ben Ramalingam, Aid on the edge of chaos: rethinking international cooperation in a complex world, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2013, Preface, Chapters 13-14. • Kimberly Bowman, John Chettleborough, Helen Jeans, Jo Rowlands and James Whitehead, *Systems Thinking: An Introduction for Oxfam Programme Staff*Links to an external site., October 2015 Recommended • Westley, F., Zimmerman B., & Patton, M.Q. (2006). Getting to maybe: How the world is changed. Toronto: Random House Canada. (not included in the materials available on Canvas for this course)	• Seminar Paper #7: Planning Tools II – Strategy, Complexity, and Systems
Mar 18	Food Security and Sovereignty	• Peng and Berry - The Concept of Food Security • What is Food Security?Links to an external site. The World Bank. Read the web page.	• Concept Paper Proposal

		• Food sovereigntyLinks to an external site., SeedChange. Read the web page. Optional -- read the "Success Stories"Links to an external site. if you want to explore the issues with case studies. • What Is the Food System?Links to an external site., The Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food. Read the web page. • La Via Campesina, We Feed the World, 2022 Recommended Bene et al, ,When food systems meet sustainability, World Development, 2019	• Discussion Questions on Food Security and Sovereignty
Apr 1	Gender and Development	• Sara Salem, *Capitalism, postcolonialism and gender: Complicating development* , Gender and Development Network (GADN), July 2019. • Sylvia Chant, *Cities through a "gender lens": a golden "urban age" for women in the global South?,* Environment & Urbanization Copyright, 2013, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). Vol 25(1): 9–29. • Watch Neria, made in Zimbabwe in 1991, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0Un8wyhOQ0Links to an external site.(95 minutes) Recommended • Sophie Efange and Jessica Woodroffe, *The Audacity to Disrupt: An Introduction to Feminist Macro-Level Economics* , Gender and Development Network (GADN), 2020. • Audre Lorde, *The Uses of Anger*, 1981	• Seminar Paper #8: Gender and Development • Discussion Questions on Gender and Development

Apr 8	Environment and Development	• Bebbington, A. J. (2008). *Social Dimensions of Rural Resource Sustainability* • Read the article Shannon What Does Sustainable Living Look Like? Maybe Like Uruguay or listen to the podcast (1 hour)Links to an external site. • Case Study The Free San Pedro River Movement (2021) • Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative (2022) *Just Transition Briefing* • Browse through the web site of the Fondo de Accion SolidariaLinks to an external site. (FASOL, Solidarity Action Fund) to familiarize yourself with the organization to prepare yourself for an in-class discussion with Dr. Artemisa Castro. It is in Spanish, but you can translate it with your browser (Google Chrome, Firefox and other browsers have settings to do this) Recommended • Whitmee, et al., *Safeguarding human health in the Anthropocene epoch: report of The Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on planetary health* , Lancet 2015; 386: 1973–2028, Published Online July 16, 2015, http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/Links to an external site. • Artemisa Castro Félix, Fondo de Acción Solidaria and A. Scott DuPree Civil Society Transitions, *What We Have Learned About Grassroots Philanthropy: Lessons: Lessons From Mexico* , The Foundation Review Volume 6 Issue 4 Open Access 12-31-2014	• Seminar Paper #9: Environment and Development • Discussion Questions on Environment and Development

Apr 15	Indigenous Perspectives	• *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples* , United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development, Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, ST/ESA/328, New York, 2009, Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 1-49. • *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous PeoplesLinks to an external site.*. *Download from https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.htmlLinks to an external site.* • Dominic O'Sullivan, *Indigenous Peoples and the UN Sustainable Development Goals*Links to an external site., March 28, 2019, https://impakter.com/indigenous-peoples-and-sdgs/Links to an external site. • Dr Yulia Nesterova, *Indigenous Peoples: Key Trends that Affect their Development, Part Two*Links to an external site., September 28, 2017 • *Kūkulu Kumuhana: Creating Radical and New Knowledge to Improve Native Hawaiian Wellbeing* , Kūkulu Kumuhana Planning Committee, November 2017 Recommended • Robin Wall Kimmerer (2013) *Mishkos Kenomagwen: The Teachings of Grass*, Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants, Milkweed Editions, pp. 156-166. • Simpson et al Indigenous forest destroyers or guardians: The indigenous Batwa and their ancestral forests in Kahuzi-Biega National Park, DRC.pdf	• Seminar Paper #10: Indigenous Perspectives • Discussion Questions on Indigenous Perspectives

Apr 22	Citizens, Social Movements, and Power	• Caren, Neal. "Political Process Theory." Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology. Ritzer, George (ed). Blackwell Publishing, 2007. Blackwell Reference Online. 10 May 2012. • Allan, Chris, Doug McAdam, and David Pellow. (2010). *What is the Role of Civil Society in Social Change*Links to an external site., Boulder, CO: Picher Allan Associates LLC. • Srilatha Batliwala (2021) All About Movements: Why Building Movements Creates Deeper Change, CREA • Jenny Hodgson and Barry Knight, Global Fund for Community Foundations, *#ShiftThePower: the rise of community philanthropyLinks to an external site.* , Alliance Magazine, Vol 21 Number 4 Dec 2016, . Feel free to click the links and read any of the articles in that issue that interest you -- they are short. Recommended • Alan Fowler, *Civic Driven Change and International Development: Exploring a Complexity Perspective* , Contextuals, No. 7, 2007. Part II Implications. pp. 40-49. • Adam Hochschild, Bury the Chains: The British Struggle to Abolish Slavery (2006). (not available on Canvas) • Halima Mahomed, *Institutional Philanthropy and Popular Organising in Africa*, International Review of Philanthropy and Social Investment Journal, 2020, 1(1) 17–30. • Links to an external site.Walter J. Nicholls and Amrita Vijay Jain *(2023) Urban Social Movements Comparing Conflicts and Mobilizations*, The Routledge Handbook of Comparative Global Urban Studies, 1st Edition, pp 156-167.	Discussion Questions on Citizens, Power, and Social, Movements

Apr 29	Disasters & Resilience	• Rumbach, Andrew (2015). Cities at Risk. In: *Cities of the Global South Reader*. • Pelling, Mark (2012). Hazards, Risk and Urbanization. In: *The Routledge Handbook of Hazards and Disaster Risk Reduction* (145-155). • Rumbach, Andrew (2017). At the Roots of Disasters: Planning and Uneven Geographies of Risk in Kolkata, India. *Journal of Urban Affairs*. • Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, Chapter 7 • Stephen Tyler & Marcus Moench (2012): *A framework for urban climate resilience* , Climate and Development, 4:4, 311-326 • Rockefeller Foundation and ARUP International Development, *City Resilience Framework* , December 2015 Recommended • Case Study: Pharoah, Robyn (2008). Fire Risk in Informal Settlements in Cape Town, South Africa. *Disaster Risk Reduction: Case Studies from Urban Africa* (105-125). • Stein, Alfredo & Caroline Moser (2014). Asset planning for climate change adaptation: Lessons from Cartagena, Colombia. • Donaghy, Kieran (2007). Climate Change and Planning: Responding to the Challenge. *Town Planning Review*, 78(4): i-ix. • Christophe Béné, Andrew Newsham, Mark Davies, Martina Ulrichs and Rachel Godfrey-Wood, *Review Article: Resilience, Poverty and Development*	•

		, Journal of International Development, 26, 598–623 (2014) • URPL 6650 Lecture - Disasters & Resilience.pptx	
May 6	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Water Security	• Das, Priyam (2014). Women's Participation in Community-Level Water Governance in Urban India: The Gap Between Motivation and Ability. *World Development*. • McGranahan, G. and D. Mitlin (2016). Learning from Sustained Success: How Community Driven Initiatives to Improve Urban Sanitation Can Meet the Challenges. *World Development*. • Jewitt, Sarah (2011). Geographies of Shit: Spatial and Temporal Variations in Attitudes Towards Human Waste. *Progress in Human Geography*, 35(5): 608-626. • USAID, Urban Water Services, Technical Brief 6, USAID Water and Development Recommended • Specter, Michael (2006). The Last Drop (Links to an external site.). The New Yorker, October 23rd.	• Discussion Questions on WASH
May 13	Final Presentations Final Memorandum Due	Final In-Class Presentations and Peer Review SUBMIT YOUR FINAL CONCEPT PAPER TO CANVAS BY 5PM	• Concept Paper Presentation and Peer Review • Concept Paper Final