GEOG 530: Development, Governance, Justice

Instructor
Dr. Brian King
Department of Geography
Office in 312A
E-mail: king@psu.edu
Office hours: 12:30 – 1:30 pm M or by appointment
Class time: Wednesday 1 – 4 pm in Walker 319

The project of global development has been underway for more than seventy years with highly uneven results. The consequence has been a renewed engagement with the mechanisms that shape livelihood systems and the opportunities for justice throughout the world. This graduate seminar will engage with key themes in geographic scholarship, and more generally within the social sciences, on the relationships between humans and the natural environment. We will focus on the themes of development, governance, and justice as conceptual frameworks for addressing emerging concerns about sustainability, economic systems, formal and informal decision-making, and power.

While the themes of development, governance, and justice will be a central area of emphasis, students will be exposed to diverse theoretical frameworks for addressing human-environment interactions. The seminar will be useful for students in a wide range of fields including geography, anthropology, sociology, ecology, and natural resources and conservation. Course expectations include intensive reading, in-class discussions, and the completion of a research paper of individual interest.

Course materials
Required course readings are on reserve. In addition, the following texts are required:
Course expectations
Each student is expected to complete the readings prior to class and be prepared for discussion. There will be a fairly heavy reading load and each student will need to actively engage with the materials in and out of class. Students are expected to submit written comments on the readings to the class the Tuesday evening before our meeting. These will be shared with the entire class and will help structure our discussion for that week. After the initial weeks, we will take turns leading the class and facilitating discussions. I have designed the syllabus so that these sessions will correspond with a class meeting where the facilitators are able to pick their own readings on one of the three conceptual themes. We will allocate these sessions at the end of the second week.

Students will be evaluated in three areas: their participation in class, a proposal and initial review of the literature for their longer research paper, and a final research paper of near publishable quality. You are encouraged to link this paper to your own research interests. You may submit an original research paper, or a paper that comprises, in effect, a section of your MS or PhD thesis. Please no dissertation proposals.

Grades will be determined as follows:
Class participation: 20%
Weekly article reactions: 20%
Research paper proposal: 10%
Final research paper: 50%

Disabilities
If you have a documented disability, or any other problem you think may affect your ability to perform in class, please see me early in the semester so that arrangements may be made to accommodate you.

Academic Misconduct
Plagiarism and cheating are both academic crimes. Never (1) turn in an assignment that you did not write yourself, (2) turn in an assignment for this class that you previously turned in for another class, or (3) cheat on an exam. If you do so, it may result in a failing grade for the class, and possibly even suspension from the college. Please see me if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism. Anyone caught cheating on an exam will be reported to the Provost in line with recognized university procedures. Any violations of academic integrity will be dealt with following the University’s procedures, which are described in detail at http://www.psu.edu/dept/oue/aappm/G-9.html. Also: http://www.ems.psu.edu/current_undergrad_students/academics/integrity_policy
Course Schedule

Week 1 (August 24): Introduction and expectations

Development

Week 2 (August 31): Foundations

Supplemental:

Week 3 (September 7): Development and the State

Week 4 (September 14): Development and the State

Week 5 (September 21): Student-led readings
Governance

Week 6 (September 28): Foundations

Supplemental:

Week 7 (October 5): Environmental governance: Political Ecology

Supplemental:


**Week 8 (October 12): Political ecology: Other voices**


**Supplemental:**


**Week 9 (October 19): Assemblage, Affect, and the Non-Human**


**Week 10 (October 26): Student-led readings**
Justice

Week 11 (November 2): Foundations

Supplemental:

Week 12 (November 9):

Week 13 (November 16):

Week 14 (November 23): No class due to Thanksgiving

Week 15 (November 30): Student-led readings

Week 16 (December 7): Final class
Student presentations

Final papers due December 13th