August 25, 2009

Development in Non-Western Culture
Anthropology 418/518 Law 625,
Professor Norman J. Singer
Fall Semester 2009.

The books which will be required for the class are the following – in alphabetical order:

Moyo, Dambisa, Dead Air: Why Aid is not Working and How there is a Better Way for Africa (2009: Farrar, Straus & Giroux).


There are several books that can be read for extra credit. If anyone wants to read one or more of them, they simply need to let me know and I will expect the usual 5-7 page (single spaced) analytical paper (not a book report) on them at the end of the semester. These books are:


Hergé, Tintin in the Congo (1931 version) I have the Tintin book photocopied as it is out of print and will be willing to make copies for anyone who wants to read it.

Perkins, Confessions of an Economic Hit Man (Plume, 2004)

This class will consider the development process. Most of the materials we will read will consider African issues. However, this semester we will look at some issues in detail which either affect directly or indirectly the development process. Our focus will be a little heavier on the political process this semester as we will consider issues relating to the development of the base on Diego Garcia and the movement of the people from the Chagos Archipelago from their homes; we will
also consider some of the issues of the religious right in the US on this delicate process and how some of the elected officials in the U.S. have influenced the manner in which aid is disseminated.

We will also spend one class [with no special reading] considering some of the development assistance to Iraq since we have attacked in 2003. The focus in that instance will be on the issue of land reform. There will also be a short consideration of land issues in Mozambique. Both the Iraq and Mozambique discussion are meant to deal with the institutions of the US and how they deal with development assistance — in one case USAID and the other the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

There will also be an exercise in which the class will be split into small groups and you will be given an application for funding. This is for a real project involving the development of a Peace Studies Program in Somaliland. There will be five applicants for the funds and you will be asked through your groups to discuss the merits of the applications and make an award.

There will be no examination. You will have to produce a number of short analytical papers. The short papers will be assigned on specific topics relating to the books that you will read (one of the Sharlot book and the other on the Vine book) You will also be asked to select at least one of the alternative books, read it and produce a similar paper on that material. This last paper is for extra credit and if you wish to read more than one you can do so and it will improve your grade. The papers should use the material in the book you read as the foundation for your discussion and then you can get into anything that you determine is relevant to "development".

The articles and books in this class will be placed on reserve in the Law Library.

The assignments for the course, which I have organized according to weeks numbers, not dates, will be as follows:

Week #1
Introduction to Development
Discussion Leader Singer

A discussion of the course and the manner in which it is constructed; what it purports to convey; and what we will attempt to understand. In addition students will be asked to discuss what they think this course should be about. There will be a five page single spaced paper due on the first week in which each student will explain what he/she thinks "Development in Non-Western Culture" is about using any material that you feel is relevant.

I will hand out the article A Boy’s World: the Tintin Century which appeared in the
New Yorker on May 28, 2007. You are to read the article and then you should get one of the Tintin books, read it and write a paper of 5 – 7 pages single spaced on how you feel you have seen the “international” world through Tintin’s eyes. A number of the Tintin volumes are recommended: (1) Tintin in the Land of the Soviets; (2) Tintin in Tibet; or (3) Tintin in the Congo. In fact, any of them is OK. You can find them in better bookstores or on Amazon. They can be downloaded off the internet for no cost as well.

Week #2
The Issues

Moyo, Dambisa, Dead Air: Why Aid is not Working and How there is a Better Way for Africa (2009: Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

Week #3
The Cultural Reality of Development

Riall Nolan, Development Anthropology: Encounter in the Real World (Westview Press, 2002). This book will be considered over the next five weeks. The Part ONE assignment is as follows:

a) Chapter 1, Anthropology as a Science of Discovery pp. 3 – 29; and

Week #4
The Cultural Reality of Development, cont’d

Riall Nolan, Development Anthropology: Encounter in the Real World (Westview Press, 2002). This book will be considered for five weeks. Part TWO assignment is as follows:

c) Chapter 3, Putting Anthropology to Work, pp 65 – 90.
d) Chapter 4, The Nature of Development Projects, pp. 91 – 114;
e) Chapter 5, Information in Project Development, pp. 115 – 143;

Week #5
The Cultural Reality of Development, cont’d

Riall Nolan, Development Anthropology: Encounter in the Real World
(Westview Press, 2002). This book will be considered over five weeks. Part THREE assignment is as follows:

f) Chapter 6, Framing Projects, pp 144 – 172;
g) Chapter 7, Managing Projects, pp. 173-199;
h) Chapter 8, Assessing Projects, pp 200 – 222.

**Week # 6**

**The Cultural Reality of Development, cont’d**

Riall Nolan, *Development Anthropology: Encounter in the Real World* (Westview Press, 2002). This book will be considered over five weeks. Part FOUR assignment is as follows:

i) Chapter 9, Reforming the Development Industry, pp 223 – 246.
j) Chapter 10, Redirecting Anthropology, pp 247 – 263.
k) Chapter 11, A new development Paradigm

**Week # 7**

**A Case Study – The Politics of Development: Iraq since 2003**

1. We will discuss the development work that I was doing in Iraq. I will provide the final report which can be read in a very short period of time. We will then discuss what we were trying to do and why it was important. I will go over what happened when the project terminated, and how USAID set up a second phase.

2. We will also discuss the proposed land project in Mozambique. The discussion will involve the manner in which it was carried out and what happened to the project. This will include some basic discussion of politics in Mozambique (Frelimo and Renamo).

**Assignment**

You can read the article Iraq, The Way to Go, by Peter Galbraith which appeared in the New York Review of Books, August 16, 2007 issue. It will not anchored in class, but is available on the internet. This is not a mandatory assignment, but it would be interesting to read the short article to see if in the past two years we have gone in the direction that Galbraith recommended.
Week # 8

Exercise:

Evaluation of a development project and the awarding of the grant setting up the Peace Studies Program at Hargeisa University in Somaliland.

Week # 9

The Political clashes of Development


We will consider this over a two week period. The discussion of the book will take place next week.

You will be responsible for a five to seven page single spaced paper analyzing what he has to say. This should not be a rehash of the book. You are to give your point of view on the book in an analytical form. The paper will be due at the class meeting in week 10. We will discuss some development projects in Cambodia and the beginning of the long-term project I worked on in Albania.

Week # 10

Discussion of the Vine book on Diego Garcia.

Week # 11

We will consider the important work by Hernando De Soto and land reform in general. This will supplement the discussion from the week that we consider some of the Iraq and Albania (I will introduce them) development activities.

For those who wish to read the book it is De Soto, Hernando, The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else (Basic Books, New York: 2000). This is available from Amazon in paperback.

You should also be reading Sharlot, The Family. We will have two weeks to read it and will not discuss it this week, but will have a discussion of the book next week and you five to seven page single spaced paper analyzing the book will be due at that time.
Week # 12
Discussion of The Family

Week # 13
A Retrospective

The Last Class – we will discuss what we have learned this semester.

Additional reading is always allowed. If you would like, you can prepare a research paper of the same length of the other papers (5 to 7 single spaced pages). The topic of the paper should have something to do with development assistance or any of the technical or social aspects of land reform or land registration. This would include reference to a development issue, any land or agrarian reform program of a particular country [or countries] and an assessment of what is happening with that reform or anything else that is presented to the professor and approved. Thus, each student shall select one Ethnography or other book which [shall be approved by the Professor] he/she is responsible for reading and analyzing in a research paper, in the context of the materials which have been included on the reading list for the class. The books which are recommended, if you decide to do a paper, are on the following list. It should be understood that these are only recommendations and the students can select any title they would want to read. If there is an Ethnography or other publication that any student would like to read which is not on the list, the student must present the book to the Professor to get approval. The recommended books are as follows:


Agarwal, Bina, A Field of One’s Own: Gender and Rights in South Asia. (Cambridge University Press, New York, 1994)

Baker, Colin, Seeds of Trouble: Government Policy and Land Rights in


Binns, Cadastral Surveys and Records of Land. (Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations, Rome - March 1953).


Cirelli, Maria Teresa, Trends in Forestry Legislation: Central and Eastern Europe. (FAO Legal Papers Online #2: 1999).


Crowley, Eve, Women’s Right to Land and Natural Resources: Some


Danaher, K (ed), 50 Years is Enough: The Case Against the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (South End Press, Boston: 1994).


FAO Case Study, Land Tenure Reform in China. (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 1995).

FAO, Common Land Resources in Africa: Regional Workshop on


Habitat, Guidelines for the Improvement of Land-Registration and Land Information Systems in Developing Countries, (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements [Habitat], Nairobi, 1990).


Holstein, Lynn, Towards Best Practice from World Bank Experience in Land Titling and Registration. (1996).


Koppel and Kim (eds), Land Policy Problems in East Asia: Toward New Choices (East West Center, Honolulu, 1993).


Lancaster, Carol, Aid to African: So Much to Do, So Little Done (University of Chicago Press, Chicago: 1999).


Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, National Land Policy. (Gov't of the United Republic of Tanzania, Das es Salaam, 1995)


Scroggins, Deborah, Emma’s War: An Aid Worker, A Warlord, Radical Islam, and the Politics of Oil – A True Story of Love and Death in the Sudan (Pantheon, 2002).


Von Blanckenburg, Peter, Large Commercial Farmers and Land Reform in Africa: The Case of Zimbabwe. (Avebury, Hants, UK, 1994)


WCCARD, The Dynamics of Land Tenure and Agrarian Systems in Africa:

Wedel, Janine, Collision & Collusion: The Strange Case of Western Aid to Eastern Europe (Palgrave, New York: 2001).


List of publications dealing with development and the donor community:


Danaher, Kevin (ed), Fifty Years is Enough: The Case Against the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. (South End Press, Boston: 1994).


Lancaster, Carol, Aid to Africa: So Much to Do So Little Done. (University of Chicago Press, Chicago: (1999).