

**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Soc 630: Sociology of Developing Societies
Spring 2021**

Professor Gay Seidman

Office: 8112a Sewell Social Science

Office hours: Online on zoom after class on Wednesdays, or by appointment, email me at gseidman@wisc.edu

This course introduces key themes in the sociology of development, beginning with an overview of major theoretical frameworks, and then moving into a variety of debates in the field, from the impact of globalization, to changing social movements and transnational activism, to the politics of development aid. This semester, the course will add an additional component, exploring whether and how the challenge posed by the global coronavirus pandemic require us to rethink assumptions about what 'development' means, and what kinds of policies are likely to advance those goals.

Required readings (and most optional readings) will be available electronically on Canvas.

In addition to a take-home midterm and final exam, students will write a final paper (3-5 pages) on a related topic (details of assignments are posted on Canvas).

Students will also submit four reading responses during the semester. Reading responses should focus on readings for the *current* week, and will usually be due by 8 pm on Tuesday, so we can discuss your comments/questions in class on Wednesday.

Until the university is fully open for in-person classes, all classes will be online, and synchronous, at this link: <https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/2954313387?pwd=Rm16czBzdi9kbTZlaGZqV3RuQ3Jxdz09>

Most classes will be recorded, and recordings will usually be available for 30 days.

Course credits: 3

Grades will be based on:

Four weekly comments: 20 percent (five percent each)

Participation: 10 percent

Midterm exam: 20 percent

Final paper: 25 percent (*assignment details posted on Canvas*)

Final exam: 25 percent (*May 3rd*)

I. January 25, 27

Introduction: What is 'development', and who defines it?

Phil McMichael, *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective*, 6th edition (2017), chapter one, "Development", especially pages 2-10

David Wessel, "The quest for a charter city", *Wall Street Journal*, 2011 (video)

Economist, "Honduras experiments with charter cities", *Economist*, August 12, 2017

A. Pacquette, "The pandemic dealt a blow to global trade and revived an old dream: self-reliance" *WaPo*, Dec 23, 2020
M. Safi, "WHO: Just 25 COVID vaccine doses administered in low-income countries" *The Guardian*, Jan 18 2021
Adam Davidson, "Economic recovery, made in Bangladesh?" *New York Times*, May 14, 2013

Optional:

W.W. Rostow, *Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto* (1960)
Emily Badger, "A Nobel-winning economist goes to Burning Man", NYT Sept 5, 2019
Amanda Kroth, "Under new management: Honduras' charter city" *Foreign Policy* 2014
Danielle Pacquette, "Akon unveils his \$6 billion 'futuristic' city in Sengal. Reviews are mixed", Washington Post, September 1, 2020
Robtel Neajai Paily, "De-centring the 'white gaze' of development". *Development and Change*, 52(3), 2019

II. February 1, 3

Colonial legacies and hybridity

Phil McMichael, *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective* (2017), chapter 2, "Instituting the Development Project", pages 26-46
Wilson, "How the legacy of colonialism shaped the last global ebola epidemic", *WaPo* Nov 26, 2020
Daniel Immowahr, "How the US has hidden its empire", *The Guardian*, Feb 15, 2019
T McCoy and H Traiano, "There are no words: As coronavirus kills Indigenous elders, endangered languages face extinction", *Washington Post* October 6, 2020
MESSCC Zanzibar, *Present Tense* (2014), video made by Zanzibari students
Parth M.N., J. Slater, and N. Marsh, "Schools in India have been closed since March. The costs to children are mounting." *WaPo*, Dec 30, 2020.

Optional:

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: A story of greed, terror and heroism in colonial Africa* (1998)
Luister! (2015), video made by students at Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Ishaan Tharoor, "Europe struggles to atone for its colonial evils", Washington Post August 29, 2018
Jonathan Shaw, "Understanding Ebola", *Harvard Magazine* Nov 17, 2020

III. February 8, 10

Dependency and Development

Phil McMichael, *Development and Social Change* (2017), chapter 2, pages 46-54
Ha-Joon Chang, "Prologue: Mozambique's economic miracle – how to escape poverty", from *Bad Samaritans* (2008)
Cheo Sang-Hum, "Park Geun-Hye, ex-South Korean leader, gets 25 years in prison", NYT, August 24, 2018

Optional:

UNCTAD, *Commodity Dependence: 20-year perspective*, 2019

Cardoso and Faletto, *Dependency and Development in Latin America*, xi-28 and 69-216

Tianbiao Zhu, "Rethinking import-substituting industrialization: Development strategies and institutions in Taiwan and China" (2007)

IV. February 15, 17

The 'Washington Consensus' and restless capital

Phil McMichael, *Development and Social Change* (2017), chapter 4, "Globalizing development", pages 80-98

John Williamson, "What Washington Means by Policy Reform" (1990)

Life and Debt' (video, 2001). Available on Amazon prime for \$3.99

Mark Weisbrot, "Who is to blame for Argentina's economic crisis?" NYT Aug 19, 2019

F. Stockman, "The WTO is having a midlife crisis" *NYT* Dec 17, 2020

Muhammed Azizul Islam, "Coronavirus measures give Bangladeshi workers for global clothing chains a stark choice: disease or starvation" *The Conversation* June 30, 2020

Optional:

Stanley Fischer, "The Washington Consensus" (2012)

Sarah Babb, *Managing Mexico* (2001), chapter 7

Nancy Plankey-Videla, *We are in this dance together*(2012), intro, chapter 1 and conclusion

V. February 22, 24

Global food chains

Hartosh Singh Bal, "Why are India's farmers angry?" *NYT* op-ed, Jan 14, 2021

Phil McMichael, *Development and Social Change*, "The Food Aid Regime" and "Agricultural Globalization," (2017) pages 98-102

Zlozniski, *Made in Baja* (2019), chapter 2

Paletta, "Got roses for Valentine's Day? Thank Columbia", *Washington Post*, February 10, 2018

Karp, "Most of America's food is now imported", *NYT* March 13, 2018

Dionne Searcy and Matt Richtel, "Obesity was rising as Ghana embraced fast food. Then came KFC", *NYT*, Oct 2, 2017

E. Heil, "Nearly half of the world's biggest food suppliers pledge to halve their food waste" *WaPo*, September 23, 2020

Optional:

Harriet Friedmann, "The political economy of food: a global crisis" *New Left Review*, 1993

Susanne Freidberg, *French Beans and Food Scares* (2004), pages 3-18 and 61-91

K.Mishra and J. Rampal, "The COVID pandemic and food insecurity in India" *World Development* June 2020

Sam Mednick, “Caught between climate crisis and armed violence in Burkina Faso” Al Jazeera, July 27, 2020

VI. March 1, 3

Changing China

Last Train Home (video)

Jenny Chan, Mark Selden and Pun Ngai, “Apple, Foxconn and China’s new working class” (2016)

David Barboza, “How China built ‘iPhone City’ with billions in perks for Apple’s partner” *NYT*, December 29, 2016

Keith Bradsher, “Jobs, houses and cows: China’s costly drive to erase extreme poverty” *NYT* Dec 31, 2020

Keith Bradsher, “Blue Collar Boom: How China bounced back from the pandemic”, *NYT* Jan 15, 2020

Optional:

Sarah Swider, *Building China: Informal Work and the New Precariat* (2015)

Anita Chan (ed), *Walmart in China* (2011)

Javier Hernandez, ‘Frost boy’ in China warms up the internet, and stirs poverty debate,” *NYT* Jan 13, 2018

Steve Myers and Olivia Ryan, “Burying one child limits, China pushes women to have more babies”, *NYT* August 11, 2018

Businessweek, “Inside Wisconsin’s Disastrous Foxconn deal” (2019)

J. Dzeiza, “The Eighth wonder of the world” *The Verge* October 19 2020

VII. March 8, 10

Rethinking ‘development’ in the pandemic?

Take-home midterm tentatively scheduled for XXX

Julie Turkowitz and Sofia Villamil, “In Latin America, the pandemic threatens equality like never before” *NYT* July 17, 2020

Jeffrey Gettleman, “Coronavirus shatters India’s big dreams” *NYT* Sept 5, 2020

J Slater, Faheem and McQue, “Migration in Reverse” *WaPo* October 1, 2020

Gettleman, “As Coronavirus closes schools, India’s children go to work” September 27, 2020

Karen McVeigh, “UN chief slams ‘myths, delusions and falsehoods’ around inequality” *The Guardian*, July 18, 2020

Joseph Zeballos-Roig, “The IMF says governments should consider new wealth taxes as coronavirus slams the global economy”, *Business Week* April 21, 2020

AP, “The pope says COVID-19 has proven capitalism does not work” October 4, 2020

Optional:

A Shahinhe, “Next big shift in economics takes shape under COVID shadow”, *Bloomberg*, Oct 11, 2020

Carmen Reinhart and Vincent Reinhart, “The Pandemic Depression: The global economy will never be the same” *Foreign Policy* September 2020

VIII. March 15, 17

Development, or Inclusion?

Jean Dreze and Armatya Sen, "Putting Growth in its Place" *Outlook*, November 14, 2011

Samar Halankar, "Can India stop its children from dying?" *NYT*, August 24, 2017

NYT Op-docs, "A moment in Mexico" (short videos), 2019

Peter Schwartzstein, "The merchants of thirst" *NYT* January 11, 2020

Peter Goodman, "End of apartheid in South Africa? Not in economic terms", *NYT*, October 24, 2017

Rajiv Golla, "The Rich Man's Road", *The Guardian*, August 20, 2018

Michael Kavanagh, "This is our land" *NYT* January 26, 2019

Soyemi, "We dared to assemble. For that we were killed", *NYT* oped, October 22, 2020

Optional:

Pia Riggarozzi, "Social policy, inequalities, and the battle for rights in Latin America," *Development and Change* 51:2, 2020

Charles Kenny, "What resource curse?" *Foreign Policy*, (December 2010)

Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, *An Uncertain Glory*, 2013

Amartya Sen, "Development as Freedom"

BBC, audio documentary, *Nigeria's patient prisoners* "November 22, 2018

IX. March 22, 24

Governance and citizenship

Kevin Sieff and Nick Miroff, "The sniper guns flowing to Mexican cartels show a decade of failure" *WaPo* Nov 19, 2020

Shorack, Kennedy, Frank-Vitale, "A state of mistrust", *NACLA*, 2020

Presumed Guilty (video, 2008)

Max Fisher and Amanda Taub, "The social contract is broken: Inequality becomes deadly in Mexico" *NYT* September 20, 2017

NPR, "Mexico aims to reduce corruption with a new legal system" 2019

David Barstow and Alexandra Xanic von Bertrab, "The Bribery Aisle: How Wal-Mart got its way in Mexico" *New York Times*, December 17, 2012

Michael Corkery, "A 'sorceress' in Brazil, a 'wink' in India: Walmart pleads guilty after a decade of bribes", *NYT* June 20, 2019

Sonia Goldenberg, "Is Peru Ungovernable?" *NYT* January 5, 2021

Optional:

John Oliver, on the US criminal justice system, September 2015

Dennis Rodgers, "Slum wars of the 21st century: Gangs, *mano duro*, and the new urban geography of conflict in Central America" *Development and Change* (2009)

Sonia Navarro, "Pay or Die", *New York Times* July 26, 2019

Bazzi, "The corrupt political class that broke Lebanon" *Foreign Policy* August 2020

Lynsey Curtel, "South Africa's big coronavirus aid effort tainted by corruption," NYT August 19, 2020
Terence McCoy, "Rio's governor suspended amidst corruption probe involving Brazil's coronavirus response", *Washington Post*, August 28, 2020

X. March 29,31

Urban growth and inequality

Gathara, "Kenya's coronavirus strategy straight out of colonial playbook," *Washington Post*, March 27, 2020

Loren Landau and Caroline Kihato, "Coercion or the social contract? COVID 19 and spatial (in)justice in African cities," *City & Society* (2020)

Michael Goldman and Wesley Longhofer, "Making World Cities," *Contexts* (2009)

Keith McCloud, "*Slummin' It*" – two-part video on Dharavi (2010)

Johanna Slater and Niha Masih, "In India, the world's biggest lockdown has forced migrants to walk hundreds of miles home", *Washington Post*, March 27, 2020

Harry Kumar and Kai Schultz, "'The dump killed my son': Mountains of garbage engulf India's capital", NYT June 10, 2018

Optional:

Doshi, "Gurgaon: What life is like in the Indian city built by private companies", *The Guardian*, July 3, 2018

Benjamin Parkin and Andrea Rodrigues, "India's biggest slum tests Modi's coronavirus response" *Financial Times* April 23, 2020

Liza Weinstein, *The Durable Slum: Dharavi and the Right to Stay Put in Globalizing Mumbai* (2014)

Teresa Caldeira, *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation and Citizenship in Sao Paulo* (2000), especially chapters 6 and 7

D. Fears, "Shingle Mountain: How a pile of toxic pollution was dumped in a community of color" *WaPo* Nov 16 2020

XI. April 5, 7

Sustainable development

Michael Safi, "American killed by isolated tribe on North Sentinel Island", *The Guardian* Nov 22, 2018

Hannah Ellis Petersen, "Ten in remote Indian tribe of 59 test positive for COVID-19", *The Guardian* August 27, 2020

Lavinas Picq, "Spreading faith and disease", NYT Oct 2, 2020

Alpert, "They come, they photograph, but they don't help", *The Guardian*, March 14, 2015

Livia Albeck-Ribka, "'A bit surreal': The lonely plight of the Great Barrier Reef", NYT August 22, 2020

Ian Baird, Bruce Shoemaker and Kanokwan Manorom, "The people and their river, the World Bank and its dam: Revisiting the Xe Bang Fai River in Laos" *Development and Change* 2015

B. Eyler, "Science shows Chinese dams are devastating the Mekong" *Foreign Policy* April 22, 2020
 E. Sasipomkam, "Why is Laos building Mekong dams it doesn't need?" *DW* Jan 15, 2021
 M. Bearak and S. Rhagavan, "Africa's largest dam powers dreams of prosperity in Ethiopia – and fears of hunger in Egypt", *WaPo* October 15, 2020
 Sengupta "A quarter of Bangladesh is flooded," July 30, 2020
 Somini Sengupta and Daniel Lee, "A crisis right now: San Francisco and Manila face rising seas" *NYT* Feb 13, 2020

Optional:

Kessel, "How to stop the next pandemic" (video), *NYT* Sept 1, 2020
 Elaine Glusac, "Move over, sustainable travel. Regenerative tourism has arrived", *NYT* August 27, 2020
 Ellen Barry and H. Kumar, "A killing tests India's protection of an aboriginal culture" *NYT* (2016)
 BBC, "Maasai displaced after huts burned down in Tanzania," *BBC*, August 16, 2017
 Anthony Hall and Sue Bradford, "Development, Dams and Dilma: The saga of Belo Monte" *Critical Sociology* (2012)
 J. Watts, "Brazil: Insider claims Rousseff coalition took funds from Belo Monte mega-dam", *The Guardian*, April 8, 2016
 Nicholas Casey and Clifford Krauss, "It doesn't matter if Ecuador can afford this dam", *NYT* Dec 24, 2018

XII. April 12, 14

Transnational flows: migrants and remittances

Ruth Milkman, "introduction" and "Brown-collar jobs", from *Immigrant Labor and the New Precariat* (2020), pages 1-32
 AP, "Hundreds of migrants storm fences to enter Spanish enclave in Africa", *NYT* July 26, 2018
 Kirk Semple, "Economic freeze cuts remittances, a lifeline for migrants' families" April 25, 2020
 Anchal Vohra, "The end of the Middle East's Trickle-down economy", *Foreign Policy* July 28, 2020
 Aurora Alimental, "The lonely life of the Filipino seafarer" *NYT* November 30, 2019
 American Immigration Council, *An overview of U.S. refugee law and policy* (2020)
 K. Seiff, "The Stay at Home Center" *WaPo*, April 18, 2019
NYT editorial, "Build Central America, not a wall", Feb 25, 2019

Optional

This American Life, "Our Town", parts one and two 2017
 Robyn Magalit Rodriguez, *Migrants for Export* (2010), introduction and chapters 1, 2
 Maria Dolores Paris Pombo, "Violence at the US-Mexico border" in in Menjivar et al (ed), *Oxford Handbook on Migration Crises* (2019)
 John Oliver, "Asylum policy", October 25, 2020

Sisi Wei and Nicola Fortuna, "The Waiting Game: Understanding the American Refugee Process", *ProPublica*, April 2018

XI11. April 19, 21

US Aid policy, and development fads

CSIS, "COVID-19 has consequences for US foreign aid," CSIS May 1, 2020

L. Jakes and P. Verma, "At USAID, juggling political priorities and pandemic response", NYT Sept 13, 2020

Jake Johnson, "Where does the money go? Eight years of USAid funding in Haiti" CEPR January 2018

K. Brickell et al, Compounding crises of social reproduction: Microfinance, over-indebtedness, and the COVID-19 panic," *World Development* 136 (2020)

Optional:

Elizabeth Malkin, "Microfinance's success sets off a debate," NYT April 5, 2008

Antara Haldar and Joseph Stiglitz, "Group lending, joint liability, and social capital: insights from the Indian microfinance crisis", *Politics & Society*(2016)

Milford Bateman, "How lending to the poor began, grew, and almost destroyed a generation in India" *Development and Change* (2012)

XIV. April 26, 28

Where do we go from here?

UNCTAD, "COVID's economic fallout will long outlive the health crisis, report warns" Nov 19, 2020

Brookings Institute, "Reimagining the global economy: Building back better in a post-COVID world", November 17, 2020

Final exam will be a take-home essay exam, Monday, May 3rd

Accommodations. Please send the instructor an email by the end of the second week of the course if you are eligible for special arrangements or accommodations for testing, assignments, or other aspects of the course. This may be the case if English is your second language or you experience a physical or psychological condition that makes it difficult for you to complete assignments and/or exams without some modification of those tasks. Accommodations are provided for students who qualify for disability services through the McBurney Center <<http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/>> . Their website has detailed instructions about how to qualify: <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/>. Provide a copy of your accommodations request (VISA) to the instructor by the end of the second week of class. We try to reserve rooms and proctors by the third week in class, so we must know of all accommodations by then.

If you wish to request a scheduling accommodation for religious observances, send an email by the end of the second week of the course stating the specific date(s) for which you request accommodation; campus policy requires that religious observances be accommodated if you make a timely request early in the term. See the university's web page <<https://kb.wisc.edu/page.php?id=21698>> for details: <https://kb.wisc.edu/page.php?id=21698>

Academic honesty. As with all courses at the University of Wisconsin, you are expected to follow the University's rules and

regulations pertaining to academic honesty and integrity. The standards are outlined by the Office of the Dean of Students <<http://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/academic-integrity/>> at <http://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/academic-integrity/>

Beyond the specific substantive and methodological content I will cover in this course, I have designed this course to achieve the following instructional objectives designated as priorities by the Department of sociology:

- * Critically Evaluate Published Research. Sociology graduates will be able to read and evaluate published research as it appears in academic journals and popular or policy publications.
- * Communicate Skillfully: Sociology majors write papers and make oral presentations that build arguments and assess evidence in a clear and effective manner.
- * Critical Thinking about Society and Social Processes: Sociology graduates can look beyond the surface of issues to discover the "why" and "how" of social order and structure and consider the underlying social mechanisms that may be creating a situation, identify evidence that may adjudicate between alternate explanations for phenomena, and develop proposed policies or action plans in light of theory and data.
- * See Things from a Global Perspective: Sociologists learn about different cultures, groups, and societies across both time and place. They are aware of the diversity of backgrounds and experiences among residents of the United States. They understand the ways events and processes in one country are linked to those in other countries.
- * Prepare for Graduate School and the Job Market: Students use their social research skills to identify opportunities for employment or further study, assess their qualifications for these opportunities, and identify strategies for gaining the necessary knowledge and experience to improve their qualifications. Students are encouraged to develop and maintain portfolios of their written work and educational experiences to aid them in preparing applications and to learn how to present their work.

Credits:

This class meets for two 75-minute class periods each week over the semester and carries the expectation that students will work on course learning activities (reading, writing, problem sets, studying, etc) for about 3 hours out of classroom for every class period.