



Sustainable Development & the Global Future (ENVI/INTL 368)
Macalester College, Spring 2021 Mod 4

The concept of “development” is as old as ideas of progress and modernization. Driven out of a set of enlightenment ideas about what a “good society” should be, in the post-war era *development* was mainstreamed through international institutions, economic orders and narratives of inclusion and exclusion. Since the 1970s, activists, scholars and government leaders have drawn attention to a strong tension inherent in development – the marginalization of people and the natural resource base. This course is focused on critically examining the possibility of “green development”. We will ask -- What does sustainable development mean in theory and practice? Can it be modeled and measured? By whom, with what tools and expectations?

Pandemic Statement on Learning Goals

This is an abbreviated version of a course I normally teach over a 16 week semester. I have reduced content and assignments to fit a shorter, more intensive schedule and to prioritize community building. We will focus on big picture topics and skills. The last year has taught us that there is no predictability in a pandemic. We will need to be flexible with each other.

My Availability

I can usually meet before and after class. If you need to discuss a course matter, please make an appointment on Friday afternoon. I do also have general office hours on Monday 10-11am. It may take me 24 hours to respond to email.

* Above image source: <https://hbr.org/2017/03/how-companies-can-champion-sustainable-development>

Student Evaluation

1) Attendance & participation (25%)

I expect you to attend virtual class and engage in small and full group discussions. We all benefit from being able to “see” each other. If you need to keep your video off, just send me a note in our Zoom chat and let me know what’s up. If you must be absent due to illness or other extenuating circumstance, contact me as soon as possible.

2) Submission of 6 response papers over the module (25%)

Reading reflections are to help you synthesize the reading/viewing material and guide our class discussions. Your reflections are **due by noon on Tuesdays**. This allows me time to review your pieces before class.

Your responses should be approximately 300-400 words in length, about three paragraphs. They must be submitted on Moodle.

Reflections will be graded on a five point scale: **outstanding** (A), **excellent** (A-/B+), **good** (B), **satisfactory** (C) or **unsatisfactory** (D).

Occasionally, I will respond directly to your submission on Moodle. Most times, I will refer to issues raised in reflections in class.

You can submit any response paper 48 hours late without needing to check with me, but know its most useful to me before class. See the *Writing Response Papers* document on Moodle for more information.

3) Small group projects (25%)

There are three small group projects spread over the module: **MDB case study, NGO interview, Foundation assessment**. More instructions will follow about each. Because this makes up a significant part of your grade, it is important to make your group process work! In-class time is allocated every week for working on group projects.

4) Final Paper: Sustainable Development Project Proposal (25%)

For your final project, you will write a 10 page proposal to the Phadke Foundation for a sustainable development project that you would like to implement. You can submit this grant on behalf of a student organization, as an NGO, corporation or government agency. Your project should be in the range of \$50,000-200,000. You can propose a one-time pilot or a multiyear project. Your project can be located anywhere. Your proposal must: 1) provide a working definition of sustainable development based on our class readings, 2) describe the goals of your project and the model you are replicating, scaling or inventing, and 3) describe potential outcomes and how you will measure success.

Your project grade will be based on the clarity and originality of your proposal, the timeliness of your topic and your ability to contextualize the project within the Sustainable Development scholarship.

Late Assignments

Again, you can submit any reflection 48 hours late without needing to check with me, but know its most useful to me before class. Group projects and the final Grant Proposal need to be submitted as indicated time.

Final Grade Scale for the course: A (95-100); A- (90-94); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82)

Similar ranges for C grades (70-79) and D grades (60-69); Below 60 is a failing grade.

Academic Integrity

It is assumed that all members of the class will act with academic integrity and will not engage in behavior such as plagiarism, academic dishonesty, misrepresentation, or cheating. Please refer to the college's policy on academic honesty.

Abilities & Accommodations

I am committed to helping you be successful in this course. Contact Melissa Fletcher at the Disability Services office by emailing disabilityservices@macalester.edu, or calling 651-696-6874 to schedule an appointment to discuss your individual needs.

Your Health and Wellness

You are encouraged to make your well-being a priority throughout this semester. It is important to acknowledge any stressors you may be facing, which can be mental, emotional, physical, financial, etc., and how they can have an academic impact. If you are having difficulties maintaining your well-being, please don't hesitate to contact me. We can find support resources at <https://www.macalester.edu/healthandwellness/>

*****See Moodle for week by week schedule*****