

**The Use and Abuse of History:
Humanitarianism, and Development Policy
in Africa and the Caribbean**

Prof. A. Diptee

AFRI 4000 / HIST 4915F

Winter 2017

Professor: A. Diptee

Email: audra.diptee@carleton.ca

Office: 441 Paterson Hall

Phone: 613-520-2600 x 4203 (during office hours only)

Office Hours: **Monday 1-2pm.** Also available by appointment.

Please Note: Students should be advised that email is the preferred means of communication for this course. Students who leave voicemail messages will find this a less efficient way to have issues resolved than those who communicate by email.

Seminar Schedule: **Monday, 2:30-5:30.**

Course Description: This course explores the ways in which particular understandings of the past have influenced the shaping of development policy, humanitarianism, and human rights discourses. One of the objectives will be to introduce students to theoretical and methodological approaches that will enable critical and sophisticated analyses of discourses produced in various public arenas. The course will interrogate key concepts such as progress, development, and globalization (among others). Throughout the term, students will also analyze specific case studies in Africa and the Caribbean. There will be two writing assignments for this course. The first essay will be a concept paper. For this assignment, students will be required to critically engage with one of the concepts or theories addressed in the course. The second longer assignment will require students to offer a critical assessment of the ways in which the methods of critical applied history might engage with discourses produced in the development, human rights, and humanitarian sectors. During the seminar, students will also be required to facilitate discussions and make short presentations on the readings each week.

Course Material

Available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario
613-233-2589, octopus@octopusbooks.ca

- Nandita Dogra, *Representations of Global Poverty: Aid, Development and International NGOs* (2014).
- Arturo Escobar, *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*, (1995).

Available at Carleton University Library

- ONLINE Articles – Accessible through library reserves, the library database(s) Historical Abstracts, JSTOR, and/or accessible e-journals.

*For access to databases and e-journals see ONLINE
RESOURCES on the Maxwell MacOdrum Library website.
ALL registered students with valid library cards have access
to online library resources at Carleton.*

Internet Sources

- BBC Africa: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/africa/>
- IRIN (service of the UN): <http://www.irinnews.org/Africa>
- Pambazuka News: www.pambazuka.org
- Znet Africa Watch: <http://www.zcommunications.org/znet/places/africa>
- The Real News: http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=835

Course Requirements

1. ALL students must have access to the university online learning system (CU Learn). This requires having a university email account. If you do not have one, get one as soon as possible. ALL online course communication will be done via the online learning system.
2. Students are expected to attend classes, read assigned readings, and participate fully in class discussions, exercises, and activities.
3. Assignments are expected to reflect an understanding of the readings assigned and the themes discussed in class.
4. ALL written assignments MUST be submitted on the university online learning system and a hardcopy must also be submitted IN CLASS.
5. Students must receive a passing grade in all components of the assigned work in order to pass this course.

Late Submissions

There will be late penalties for all essays and research proposals. Essays will be penalized a half grade for each day the essay is late. For example, a B+ essay that is one day late will receive a grade of B, if it is two days late it will receive a grade of C+, and if it is three days late it will receive a grade C.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism – using another’s ideas, words or images as your own – is a serious academic offence and will not be tolerated. Please see the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (<http://www1.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>). All sources should be referenced properly in your assignments (in-text citations and bibliography) following the Chicago Manual of Style (History).

Course Evaluation

Essay & Presentation guidelines will be uploaded on CU Learn.

- 1) Draft of Essay 1 - **due February 13, 2017**
 - Pass / Fail assessment
- 2) Essay 1 (40%) – **due February 17, 2017** (To be Uploaded on CU Learn)
- 3) Project Presentations – Pass / Fail (schedule placed on CU Learn)
- 4) Writing Assignment 2 (40%) - **April 3, 2017**. (To be Uploaded on CU Learn)
- 5) *Class Participation* (20%) – See grading rubric below.

Class Participation

Each week the professor will assign specific students to prepare a 10 minute presentation on the assigned readings. All other students are required to prepare three discussion questions (drawn from issues addressed in the assigned readings) for the seminar. The professor will also select a student to facilitate the class discussion each week. The class facilitator should demonstrate a command of the readings.

Please see the grading scheme below.¹ Participation implies, but is not restricted to, regular attendance. Class discussion will be grounded in the weekly readings, so students must demonstrate that they have a grasp of the literature assigned. Students should be able to demonstrate that they have read the required readings by their active participation and involvement in class discussion.

A+ / A / A- A student receiving a grade in the A range:

- Always comes to class having done the readings
- Contributes readily to the conversation but does not dominate it
- Makes thoughtful contributions that advance the conversation
- Shows interest in and respect for others' views
- Has an excellent attendance record

B+ / B / B- A student receiving a grade in the B range:

- Almost always comes to class having done the readings
- Makes thoughtful comments when called upon
- Shows interest in and respect for others' views
- Has a very good attendance record

C+ / C / C- A student receiving a grade in the C range:

- Participates in discussion, but may have difficulty doing so at times
- Make rambling or tangential contributions
- Bluff their way when unprepared or otherwise dominate discussions
- May or may not have a good attendance record

D+ / D / D- A student receiving a grade in the D range:

- Does not voluntarily contribute to discussions
- Gives only minimal answers when called upon
- Has not demonstrated their command of the course material
- May or may not have a good attendance record

F A student receiving a F grade:

- Has given no evidence that they have engaged with course material
- Has not demonstrated that they have developed a university level understanding of the course themes.
- Attends less than 50% of the seminars.

¹ **Adapted from:** http://academicaffairs.csufresno.edu/assocprovost/documents/pdf/grading_class_participation.pdf (accessed December 1, 2005)

Course Schedule

Week 1: January 9: Course Introduction

- Overview of course expectations
- Audra A. Diptee, “What is Critical Applied History?”
- Ivan Illich, “To Hell with Good Intentions” (1968), www.swaraj.org/illich_hell.htm

January 16: Are Narratives of Modern Day Slavery Distorting the Past?

Video: Selections from the Anti-Slavery Usable Past
Short videos that will be watched in class.

- Audra A. Diptee, “The Problem of Modern Day Slavery: Is Critical Applied History the Answer?”
- Kamala Kempadoo, ‘The Modern-Day White (Wo)Man’s Burden: Trends in Anti-Trafficking and Anti-Slavery Campaigns,’ *Journal of Human Trafficking* 1, No. 1 (2015): 8-20
- Joel Quirk, “Trafficked into Slavery,” *Journal of Human Rights*, Vol. 6 (2), 2007, 181-207.
- Chapter 4, “Mastery, Race and Nation: Prisons and Borders, Afterlives and Legacies of Transatlantic Slavery,” Julia O’Connell, *Modern Slavery* (2015).

January 23: Colonial Discourses Re-made for the 21st Century

- Chapter 1 (Introduction) & Chapter 2 (Cast of Characters) in Nandita Dogra, *Representations of Global Poverty*.
- Chapter 1 (Introduction) & Chapter 2 (The Problematization of Poverty) in Arturo Escobar, *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*, (1995).
- L. Chouliaraki, “Post-Humanitarianism: Humanitarian Communication Beyond a Politics of Pity.” *International Journal of Cultural Studies* 13(2), 2010, 107 – 26

January 30:

Haiti: A Case Study, Part I
Critical Perspectives on Humanitarianism & NGO's

Documentary Viewed in Class
Haiti: The Truth About NGOs (23 mins)
<http://bbc.in/Lg7d8S>

- **Policy Paper:** David Carment and Yiagadeesen Samy, "Haiti without Tears: Getting Aid Right." *Policy Options* (2010).
<http://www4.carleton.ca/cifp/app/serve.php/1297.pdf>
- Yves Engler & Anthony Fenton, *Canada in Haiti: Waging War on the Poor Majority*, 2005. Available online through the CU MacOdrum Library.

February 6:

Haiti: A Case Study, Part II
Critical Perspectives on Humanitarianism & NGO's

- Chapter 3 (Economics and the Space of Development: Tales of Growth) in Arturo Escobar, *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*, (1995).
- Kevin Edmonds, "Beyond Good Intentions: The Structural Limitations of NGOs in Haiti," *Critical Sociology*, Vol. 39 (3), 2012, 1-14.
- Mark Schuller, "Gluing Globalization: NGOs as Intermediaries." *Political and Legal Anthropology*, Vol. 32(1), 2009, 84-104.

February 13

Individual Meetings with the Professor

Essay 1 Draft Due – Monday 13th February
Essay 1 Due – Friday 17th February

February 20

Winter Break

February 27

Development & Modernization

Documentary Viewed in Class
Malawi: The Truth About NGOs (22 mins, BBC Film)
<http://bbc.in/KRsdQB>

- Chapter 3 (Distant Spaces) & Chapter 4 (Global Poverty) in Nandidata Dogra, *Representations of Global Poverty*, 2014.
- Chapter 4 (The Dispersion of Power: Tales of Food and Hunger) in Arturo Escobar, *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*, (1995).
- Allen Isaacman, "Historical Amnesia, or the logic of Capital Accumulation: Cotton Production in colonial and Postcolonial Mozambique," *Environment and Planning D Society and Space*, Vol. 15 (6), 1997, 757-790.
- William Attwell, "When we have nothing we all eat grass": Debt, Donor

Dependence and the Food Crisis in Malawi, 2001 to 2003, *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, Vol. 31 (4), 2013, 564-582.

March 6

Discourse & Representation

- Chapter 5 (One Humanity) and Chapter 6 (Uniform First World) in Nandidata Dogra, *Representations of Global Poverty*, 2014.
- Chapter 5 (Power and Visibility: Tales of Peasants, Women and the Environment) in Arturo Escobar, *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*, (1995).
- Graham Harrison, “The Africanization of Poverty: A Retrospective on ‘Make Poverty History,’” *African Affairs*, Vol. 109, Issue 436, 391-408

Recommended Readings:

- Stephen Ellis, "Reporting Africa," *Current History* (2000).
- Jo Fair, "War, Famine, and Poverty: Race in the Construction of Africa's Media Image," *Journal of Communication Inquiry* (July 1993), 17 (2), 5-22.

March 13

Reimagining Development, Humanitarianism, and Aid

- Chapter 7 (Lives of Others) and Chapter 8 (Towards Reflexive Understandings) in Nandidata Dogra, *Representations of Global Poverty*, 2014.
- Chapter 6 (Conclusion: Imagining a Postdevelopment Era) in Arturo Escobar, *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*, (1995).

March 20

Documentary & Discussion

The Trouble with Aid

<https://vimeo.com/81133030>

March 27

Project Presentations

April 3

Project Presentations

Assignment 2 DUE

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HISTORY COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

COURSE SHARING WEBSITES and COPYRIGHT

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

STATEMENT ON CLASS CONDUCT

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and
- preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

Carleton University Equity Services states that “every member of the University community has a right to study, work and live in a safe environment free of discrimination or harassment”. [In May of 2001 Carleton University’s Senate and Board of Governors approved the Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures. The

establishment of these policies and procedures was the culmination of the efforts of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Human Rights and a Human Rights Implementation Committee.]

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B - = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A - = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F Failure. No academic credit WDN Withdrawn from the course

ABS Absent from the final examination

DEF Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")

FND Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses is April 7, 2017.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by March 10, 2017 for the winter term. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a final term paper or write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical

certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

- Department of History (2828) 400 PA
- Registrar's Office (3500) 300 Tory
- Student Academic Success Centre (7850) 302 Tory
- Paul Menton Centre (6608) 500 Unicentre
- Learning Support Services – Study Skills, Writing Tutorial Service (1125) 4th fl Library

Application for Graduation Deadlines

- Spring Graduation (June): March 1
- Fall Graduation (November): September 1
- Winter Graduation (February): December 1