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

Prof. A. Diptee
AFRI 4000 / HIST 4915B / HIST 5915B
Fall 2015

Professor: A. Diptee
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Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:00. 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: Tuesday, 11:30-2:30

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

- 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

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

1) Writing Assignment ONE  October 20, 2013
   Undergraduate Students – 40%; Graduate Students -- 30%

2) Project Presentations – Pass / Fail  (scheduled throughout term)

3) Writing Assignment TWO – 40%  December 5, 2013
   Undergraduate Students – 40%; Graduate Students -- 40%
**Class Participation:** Undergraduates – 20%; Graduate Students – 30%

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. 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.

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

September 8:  Course Introduction

- Overview of course expectations
- *Film & Discussion:* KONY 2012 (30 minutes), Produced by Invisible Children

*In Class Reading:*


September 15:  Critical Perspectives on Humanitarianism

*Case Study of Kony 2012*


September 22:  Critical Perspectives on Development


**Short Reads:**


**September 29: Critical Perspectives on Humanitarianism & NGO’s**


**Short Reads:**

- Ivan Illich, “To Hell with Good Intentions” (1968)
  

  

October 6 Development, Humanitarianism, & Democracy: The Case of Haiti


Short Reads:


October 13 Project Presentations

October 20 Documentary & Discussion
Assignment 1 DUE

Malawi: The Truth About NGOs (BBC Film)
http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00mmn27

October 27  Fall Break

November 3  Media & Public Perception


November 10  Canada in Africa & The Caribbean: Perception & Reality


November 17  Project Presentations

November 24  Project Presentations

December 1  Concluding Remarks

Assignment 2 DUE