

Princeton University

Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs

WWS 571-b: Religion, Culture, and Sustainable Development, Fall, 2004

Instructor: Lisa Wynn

lisawynn@princeton.edu

259 Wallace Hall

tel. (609) 258-5402

Introduction

This class finds its inspiration in a course at SAIS of the same name. That course has as its emphasis the role that religion can play in the development process. Princeton's course in religion, culture, and development is taught by an anthropologist, so culture gets greater emphasis, but religion is never far behind. We will look at some hot current debates over whether culture and religion really matter in development theory, how they matter, and how they should (or should not) be taken into account when formulating development policies. But the course assumes that, regardless of your position on the "culture matters" debate, local knowledge can never be ignored when creating any specific development program. Like the SAIS class, this course will emphasize the importance—from a development agent's perspective—of world views and belief systems for entry into a community; for understanding community organization; and for project design, implementation and evaluation. This course will look at some practical examples of development programs that have run into problems because of their failure to take culture and religion into account, and a few that have been successes because they have. Two guest lecturers with strong development backgrounds will visit and lead a class discussion.

Course Requirements

Students will each have one class presentation on outside readings and/or on their own actual experiences working in development. Each student will also lead class discussion once. Students will write one brief (2-4 pages) summarizing their class presentation (which will be due the day that they present and should be distributed to the entire class), and a synopsis (again, 2-4 pages) summarizing the issues that emerged in class the day that they led the class discussion (this will be due the week following that class discussion). A final paper of between 10-15 pages will be due at the end of the term on a topic of students' choice, relating that topic to the debates and issues covered in class. Grading will be based on class attendance and participation, class presentation, the two short papers, and the term paper.

Grading

Class attendance and participation:	10%
Class presentation:	10%
Brief (summary of class presentation):	20%
Synopsis (summary of the issues on day of leading class discussion):	20%
Final Paper:	40%

Books (at U-Store and on reserve at Stokes):

Sharon M. P. Harper (ed), 2000. The Lab, the Temple and the Market: Reflections at the Intersection of Science, Religion and Development. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press/IDRC/CRDI.

Haverkort, Bertus, Katrien van't Hooft and Wim Hiemstra (eds), 2003. Ancient Roots, New Shoots: Endogenous Development in Practice. London: Zed Books/COMPAS.

Harrison, Lawrence E. and Samuel P. Huntington (eds), 2000. Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress. New York: Basic Books.

Recommended reading:

Warren, Slikkerveer and Brokensha, 1995. The Cultural Dimension of Development: Indigenous Knowledge Systems. London: Intermediate Technology Publications.

(A large collection of short chapters, each of which examines a different development project that has benefited from the use of local cultural knowledge, and one section devoted to international development organizations that are founded on the principle of using local knowledge in structuring development projects.)

Schedule of Required Readings

Class 2: Culture, Religion, and Development

Clifford Geertz, "Religion as a Cultural System," in Geertz, The Interpretation of Cultures. New York: Basic Books, 1973, 87-125.

Denis Goulet, "Development Experts: the One-Eyed Giants." World Development, Volume 8, 481-489.

Culture, Spirituality and Development. Oxford: WFDD, 2001 (handout) (pp.1-17)

Wendy Tyndale, 2002. "Faith and Economics in 'Development': A Bridge Across the Chasm?" Development and Culture pp.45-59.

Kurt Alan Ver Beek, 2002. "Spirituality: A Development Taboo." Development and Culture pp.60-77.

Thierry G. Verhelst, 1990. "Part three: A New Generation of Projects." In No Life Without Roots: Culture and Development. London, New Jersey: Zed Books, pp. 91-120.

Vikram Patel, Jame Mutambirwa, and Sekai Nhiwatiwa, 2002. "Stressed, Depressed, or Bewitched? A Perspective on Mental Health, Culture, and Religion." Development and Culture pp.142-154.

Haverkort, Bertus, Katrien van't Hooft and Wim Hiemstra (eds), 2003. "Introduction," "Cultures, knowledges and developments: a historical perspective." In Ancient Roots, New Shoots: Endogenous Development in Practice. London: Zed Books/COMPAS, pp. 7-28.

Class 3: The "Culture" Debate

Samuel Huntington, 2000. "Cultures Count." Forward to Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington, Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress. New York: Basic Books, pp.xiii-xvi.

Lawrence Harrison, "Why Culture Matters." Introduction to Culture Matters, pp.xvii-xxxiv.

David Landes, "Culture Makes Almost All the Difference." Culture Matters, pp.2-13.

Jeffrey Sachs, "Notes on a New Sociology of Economic Development." Culture Matters, pp.29-43.

Robert B. Edgerton, "Traditional Beliefs and Practices – Are Some Better than Others?" Culture Matters, pp.126-140.

Richard A. Shweder, "Moral Maps, 'First World' Conceits, and the New Evangelists." Culture Matters, pp.158-176.

Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. New York: Scribner's, 1958 [1904/5]; pp. 13-92.

Class 4: How Does Development Impact Culture?

a. Colonialism's Culture: The Perspective of History

Nicholas Thomas, 1994. "Colonial Governmentality and Colonial Conversion." Chapter 4 In Colonialism's Culture: Anthropology, Travel and Government. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp.105-142.

John and Jean Comaroff. "Mansions of the Lord: Architecture, Interiority, Domesticity." Chapter 6 in Of Revelation and Revolution, volume two: The Dialectics of Modernity on a South African Frontier. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp.274-322.

Liisa Malkki, 1995. "An Ethnography of Displacement in the National Order of Things." Introduction to Purity and Exile: Violent, Memory and National Cosmology Among Hutu Refugees in Tanzania. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 1-17.

Additional Readings (not required):

John and Jean Comaroff. "Conversion and Conversation: Narrative, Form, and Consciousness." Chapter 6 in Of Revelation and Revolution, Volume One. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp.198-251.

b. Prescriptions: Changing Culture or Changing Development?

Michael Fairbanks, "Changing the Mind of a Nation: Elements in a Process for Creating Prosperity." Culture Matters, pp.268-281.

Lawrence Harrison, "Promoting Progressive Cultural Change." Culture Matters, pp.296-307.

Thierry G. Verhelst, 1990. "Third World Aid to the West" and "Intercultural Solidarity." In No Life Without Roots: Culture and Development. London, New Jersey: Zed Books, pp. 72-88.

Class 5: The Argument for Religion

Wendy Tyndale, 2003. "Idealism and Practicality: The Role of Religion in Development." Development 46:4, pp.22-28.

Satish Kumar, 2003. "Development and Religion: Cultivating a Sense of the Sacred." Development 46:4, pp.15-21.

Herman E. Daly, 1996. "Ethics, Religion and Sustainable Development." Part VII in Beyond Growth: the Ethics of Sustainable Development. Boston: Beacon Press, pp. 201-224.

b. The Argument for Religion, part II: Judaism / Christianity

Pinchas Rosenstein, "Ethics, Economics and Jewish Law," "Jewish Criteria for Development," WFDD, 1998.

Gregory Baum, "Solidarity with the Poor." In Lab, Temple and Market, pp. 61-103.

Bryant L. Myers, 1999. Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development. Maryknoll: Orbis, pp. 111-136.

Gustavo Gutierrez, "An Attempt at Synthesis: Solidarity and Protest." In Gutierrez, A Theology of Liberation. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1973, 299-302.

Anne Hope and Sally Timmel, 1996. Training for Transformation: A Handbook for Community Workers (3 volumes, paperback); Volume 3, pp. 66-80 and 186-196. Gweru: Mambo Press.

Paul Farmer, 2003. "Health, Healing and Social Justice: Insights from Liberation Theology." Chapter 5 of Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights and the New War on the Poor. Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press.

Class 6: The Argument for Religion, part III: Buddhism

Christopher S. Queen, 1996. "Introduction: the Shapes and Sources of Engaged Buddhism," in Christopher S. Queen and Sally B. King (eds), Engaged Buddhism: Buddhist Liberation Movements in Asia. Albany: State University of New York Press, pp. 1-44.

George D. Bond, 1996. "A.T. Ariyaratne and the Sarvodaya Shrivamadana Movement in Sri Lanka," in Christopher S. Queen and Sally B. King (eds), Engaged Buddhism: Buddhist Liberation Movements in Asia. Albany: State University of New York Press, pp. 121-146.

Seri Phongphit, Religion in a Changing Society: Buddhism, Reform and the Role of Monks in Community Development in Thailand. Hong Kong: Arena Press, 1988, pp.135-180.

Class 7: Culture and Religion: India

Promilla Kapur, "The Principle of Fundamental Oneness." Lab, Temple and Market, pp. 7-60.

A.V. Balasubramanian, "Knowledge and Belief Systems in the Indian Subcontinent." Ancient Roots, New Shoots, pp. 37-83.

Joseph G. Bock, 2002. "Communal Conflict, NGOs, and the Power of Religious Symbols." Development and Culture pp.78-91.

Class 8: Culture and Religion: Africa

Robin Horton, 1993. "African Traditional Thought and Western Science." In Horton, Patterns of Thought in Africa and the West: Theoretical Papers in Magic, Science and Religion. London and Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 197-258.

Bertus Haverkort, David Millar Cosmas Gonese. "Knowledge and Belief Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa." Ancient Roots, New Shoots, pp. 137-168.

Jean-Marc Ela, 1986. "Critical Awareness and Religion in Black Africa." Chapter Four in African Cry. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 39-53.

Molefe Tsele, "The Role of the Christian Faith in Development." Faith and Development pp. 203-218.

Robert W. Hefner, 1993. "Introduction: World Building and the Rationality of Conversion." In Robert W. Hefner (ed), Conversion to Christianity: Historical and Anthropological Perspectives on a Great Transformation. Berkeley, CA and Oxford (UK): University of California Press, pp.3-44.

Odhiambo Anacleto, 2002. "Research into Local Culture: Implications for Participatory Development." Development and Culture pp.168-173.

Additional Readings:

Kwame Anthony Appiah, 1992. "Old Gods, New Worlds." In My Father's House: Africa in the Philosophy of Culture. New York: Oxford University Press, p.107-136.

Appiah, "The Invention of Africa." In My Father's House, pp.3-27.

Class 9: Culture and Religion: The Middle East and Islam

Riffat Hassan, "Women's Rights and Islam: From ICPD to Beijing." Interfaith Reflections on Women, Poverty and Population. Washington, D.C. The Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), 1996, pp. 59-72.

Azizan Baharuddin, "Rediscovering the Resources of Religion." In Lab, Temple and Market, pp. 105-148.

Linda Herrera, "Islamization and Education in Egypt: Between Politics, Culture, and the Market." In John L. Esposito and Francois Bourgat (eds), Modernizing Islam: Religion in the Public Sphere in Europe and the Middle East. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2003, pp. 167 – 189.

Bjorn Olav Utvik, "The Modernizing Force of Islam." In Modernizing Islam (op. cit.), pp. 43-67.

Cassandra Balchin, 2003. "With Her Feet on the Ground: Women, Religion and Development in Muslim Communities." Development, December 2003, v. 46, iss. 4, pp. 39-49.

Additional Readings:

Lamin Sanneh, 1997. "Slavery, Clerics, and Muslim Society." In The Crown and the Turban, Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, pp.47-66.

Class 10: A case study in Gender, Culture, Religion, and Development: Female Genital Cutting.

Maitrayee Mukhopadhyay, 2002. "Some Thoughts on Gender and Culture." Development and Culture pp.174-176.

Monica Antonazzo, 2003. "Problems with Criminalizing Female Genital Cutting." Peace Review 15:4, pp.471-477.

Elizabeth Heger Boyle, Fortunata Songora, and Gail Foss, 2001. "International Discourse and Local Politics: Anti-Female-Genital-Cutting Laws in Egypt, Tanzania, and the United States." Social Problems vol.48 no.4, pp.524-544.

Erika Sussman, 1998. "Contending with Culture: An Analysis of the Female Genital Mutilation Act of 1996." Cornell International Law Journal 193 vol.31, p.194-250.

Additional Readings:

Deborah Stienstra, 2000. "Cutting to Gender: Teaching Gender in International Relations." In International Studies Perspectives vol.1 pp.233-244.

Class 11: Culture, Religion, Economies

Gaspar F. Lo Biondo, "Micro-Enterprise Development and the Common Good." Innovation and Transfer, Catholic Relief Services, July, 1995, Vol.4 No.2, pp.1-7 (handout).

Kim Wilson, 2003. Principled Practices in Microfinance. Baltimore: CRS.

Makonen Getu, "Poverty Alleviation and the Role of Microcredit in Africa," and Shimwaayi Muntemba, "Microfinance or Poverty Reduction: Leading Issues." Faith in Development, pp. 165-183.

Gill Seyfang, 2001. "Money that Makes a Change: Community Currencies, North and South." Gender and Development, vol.9 no.1, pp.60-69.

Philippe Bourgois, 1995. "'Goin' Legit': Disrespect and Resistance at Work." In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp.114-173.

Class 12: Culture, Religion, Development and Globalization

Patrick C. Wilson, 2003. "Ethnographic Museums and Cultural Commodifications: Indigenous Organizations, NGOs, and Culture as a Resource in Amazonian Ecuador." Latin American Perspectives, issue 128 vol.30 no.1, pp.162-180.

Anja Nygren, 1999. "Local Knowledge in the Environment-Development Discourse: From Dichotomies to Situated Knowledges." Critique of Anthropology vol. 19 (3), pp.267-288.

David C. Korten, "Economy, Ecology and Spirituality: Toward a Theory and Practice of Sustainability." ANGO, pp.1-37. (handout)

Oliva Blanchette, "Globalization or Humanization: A Question of Priorities in Human Development." In Oliva Blanchette, Tomonobu Imamichi, and George F. McLean (eds), *Philosophical Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization. Volume I.* Washington, DC: Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, 2001, pp. 11-35.

William Schweiker, 2000. "Responsibility in the World of Mammon: Theology, Justice, and Transnational Corporations." In Max Stackhouse, ed., God and Globalization, vol. 1: Religion and the Powers of the Common Life. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, pp.105-139.