School of Social Sciences

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture

ARTS2752

Local Politics of Development

Term 3, 2022

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Anthony Zwi	a.zwi@unsw.edu.au			

Acknowledgement of Country

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

In this course you will learn about the influences and politics that shape and are shaped by disasters, humanitarian action and development in local contexts. We engage with the dilemmas of humanitarian action and its interface with development and change and the ways that people experiencing these changes respond.

You will develop your knowledge of the importance of context, politics, power, and interests in determining responses to crises and disasters alongside their longer term outcomes. You are encouraged to learn and deploy different ways of thinking and doing in the humanitarian and development space and will engage with organisational, conceptual and analytical frameworks for approaching humanitarian and development crises from the perspective of local institutions and organisations, communities and the others affected by such complex contexts.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the actors, interests and ideas that enable and constrain humanitarian action and development at the local level
2. Critically analyse claims about localised humanitarian action made by academics, policy-makers and activists
3. Analyse appropriate academic and non-academic texts to explore local politics of humanitarian action and its interface with development
4. Demonstrate working sensitivity and with awareness of local politics in different contexts

Teaching Strategies

The design of the teaching mode and contact hours reflect both a commitment to face to face teaching (or if needs be online teaching), in-depth scenario and case study analyses, and engagement with various aspects of blended learning, as outlined in the UNSW 2025 Strategy Theme A2: Educational Excellence.

The course consists of a one hour lecture, followed by a two hour practical engagement tutorial. During the lecture, you will be introduced to the key concepts and theories of local politics in development, and learn how to apply these to real world examples. During tutorials, you will have the opportunity to test, in simulated practice and extended case study scenarios, your understanding and learn how to use different analytical frameworks to examine themes in depth. Online content is used throughout the course in the form of a readings quiz on weekly content and prescribed media to access and analyse in preparation for assessments and in class-workshops.

Assessment

Assessment logic: We build up some understanding of development contexts and how different actors and organisations experience development activities and the associated challenges, conflicts and at times, harms. This will be done through Assessment 1 which will inv a % of Ltsr 7 h h

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This is not a Turnitin assignment

Additional details

The initial learning diary contributions will focus on development-related issues. As the course unfolds additional points of discussion will focus on humanitarian crises and how local politics and development interfaces with these challenging settings.

The logic of the assignment flow is to build on our understanding and critique of development processes and consider how these may interface with evolving contexts in the aftermath of disasters and crises.

Assessment 2: Localising humanitarian action - role play (Group)

Due date: 10/11/2022 03:00 PM

Assessment of group contribution to understanding complex humanitarian action response to crisis and disaster. The class will draw on an extended case study and all class members will be working within groups commonly working to address humanitarian crises (local government, local NGOs, international civil society, United Nations, cluster system - health, water, protection, shelter).

Students will be assessed by convenors and peers re contribution to learning and realistic and in-depth understanding of the challenges of engaging effectively in local humanitarian and development challenges. Students receive group feedback and a group mark following role-play event.

Additional details

This will not be a traditional 'role-play' but rather a group presentation.

You can adopt innovative means (including role-play, panels, interviews or other approaches - including more traditional presentations) to sharing insights with the rest of the class who may not have examined the same 'case study' on which your group has focused. Each group will focus on a different setting and will briefly present the context, the range of stakeholders, organisations and processes present, and will highlight questions of power, trust and the differential interests present in this setting.

The objective is to share some of your group discussions, debate, thinking, critique and questions in relation to a particular setting which you have explored in a little more detail than others in the class. This

term to allow students to work towards clearly communicated standards.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

This will be your final assessment and will be an opportunity for you to present insights from your own learning. It will allow you to focus attention on an issue of particular concern to you that has been covered in the course in relation to a development or humanitarian issue. [The title should be humanitarian or development case study - please note development-focused dimensions are also acceptable]. It may pick up in further detail an aspect of the case study with which you have engaged, might consider the role of any of the range of stakeholders operating in local environments, or may pick up on a particular thematic issue and the politics of enhancing outcomes in contested environments. This is your opportunity to do some of your own research and to demonstrate in-depth understanding and analysis of a scenario of interest. I am as interested in the questions you raise and the approach you take as in the answers you derive from your research: I am aware time is limited and you're not in a position to do ultra-detailed research.

Please submit by the end of week 6 a brief abstract with a title, brief context, key issues you hope to cover, and key references so that you receive some feedback and comments and know you are on track and can start thinking earlier rather than later about this assignment. I will not nag you about this and it is not required; but please don't expect the same level of feedback if presented to me at a later point in the course...

Attendance Requirements

Students must attend a minimum of 7 of the 9 tutorial & seminar sessions (+/- 80%). An attendance record will be kept at each session.

Students should in most cases attend the face2face class. Those who are overseas will be able to sign in to our sessions. They are expected to have set themselves up in an appropriate quiet online and focused environment, should have their cameras on, and should be able to participate actively. Students who are unable to participate actively despite being at a distance will have difficulty learning from and satisfactoril completing the course.

Course Schedule

	Assessment	Localising humanitarian action - role play
Week 10: 14 November - 18 November	Seminar	Challenges and opportunities to improve development and humanitarian systems. Key insights and lessons learned. Remaining questions. Feedback and comments on course and beyond...

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Readings will be avaiable through the Leganto site associated with this course.

Please ensure that you read all mandatory readings and come prepared to the relevant sessions having read the required readings.

For each seminar additional readings will also be made available. You are encouraged to also share interesting resources you have come across and that may be of interest to others in the class.

Note that part of your learning diary is structured around a critical review of a key course reading in the first half of the course.

Recommended Resources

Please refer to the Leganto site and any additional resources that are uploaded to Moodle.

Additional materials will be added to take account of recent publications and media of interest.

Please make sure to consult the course Moodle site every Monday in advance of our sessions on the Thursday. It is intended that any updated materials or clarifications re tasks will be uploaded by Monday lunchtime each week.

Course Evaluation and Development

This course has been totally restructured from a previous iteration.

Please provide constructive feedback and comments; these will be used to enhance your learning and experience during the course this year and will also contribute to enhancing the course for the future.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines for essential student information relating to:

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