COURSE: Psychology of Socio-Economic Development - Negin Toosi

Course Description: This course will explore the contributions of psychology to the arena of socio-economic development (SED). We will examine challenges faced by regions of the world, challenges faced by SED projects, and some elements that lead to successful projects. The course will meet twice a week. The first session will consist primarily of an instructor-led discussion on the readings for that week. The second session will begin with a student presentation of a case study of an SED project, and continue with a class discussion connecting the readings to the case study.

Course Objectives:
1. Students will become familiar with psych readings relating to issues faced in SED.
2. Students will learn about different approaches to SED, and understand how to critically analyze SED projects – successful and otherwise – through the lens of psychology.
3. Students will be able to articulate their understanding in such a way that will further the field of psychological science, socio-economic development, or both.

Readings: Readings and other course materials for this course will be available on the course website, or will be passed out in class. There is no assigned textbook.

Prerequisites: This class is for upper-level undergraduates who have already taken Intro to Psychology, Experimental Methods, and Social Psychology, and have received instructor consent.

Schedule:
Please note that the instructor reserves the right to modify the content and timing of scheduled topics, readings, and assignments as needed. Changes will be posted on the website and announced in class.
Week 1  Introduction: A Decision in Mindanao (Phillipines)
Day 1: TERRORISM

Week 2

Day 2: Case Study: Grameen Bank (Bangladesh) [Instructor-led]
Day 1: TERRITORIALISM

Week 3

Day 2: Case Study: Health for Humanity (Albania project)

Week 4
Day 1: PREJUDICE

Day 2: Case Study: Teach for America (U.S.)

Week 5
Day 1: BELIEF IN A JUST WORLD
Psychology, 33(6), 719-724.

Day 2: Case Study: National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda

Week 6

Day 1: POWER I

Day 2: Case Study: Mahila Samakhya (India)

Week 7

SPRING BREAK – No classes

Day 1: POWER II
Week 9

Day 1: ***FIRST DRAFT OF PAPER DUE at the beginning of class***

CHILDREN’S DEVELOPMENT


Day 2: Case Study: Children’s Theatre Company (New York/ Boston, U.S.)

Week 10

Day 1: CULTURE I


Day 2: Case Study: Global Fund for Women (United States +)
### Week 11
**Day 1: CULTURE II**

**Day 2: Case Study: Barli Development Institute for Rural Women (India)**

### Week 12
**Day 1: DIVERSITY**

**Day 2: Case Study: Institute for the Healing of Racism (U.S.)**

### Week 13
**Day 1: LEADERSHIP**

**Day 2: Case Study: Nur University (Bolivia)**

### Week 14
**Reading Week**

### Week 15
**FINAL PAPER DUE** – electronic copy AND hard copy due by 5pm on Wednesday.
Day 1: LEADERSHIP
