# ANTH815

**Development Theory and Practice**

S1 Evening 2017

*Dept of Anthropology*

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Chris Lyttleton
chris.lyttleton@mq.edu.au

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MDevStud or MGlobalHlthDevStud or MPH or GradCertGlobalHlthDevStud or MDevStudGlobalHlth or GradCertDevStudGlobalHlth or MAppAnth or MDevCult or MIntRel or MPASR or GradDipPASR or GradDiplIntRel or GradDipPP or MPPP or MSocEntre or MPlan or 4cp in ANTH units at 800 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit examines themes underpinning international aid to developing countries. It does so from two inter-related perspectives: anthropology of development, which examines theoretical approaches to development over the past 50 years, and development anthropology, which engages with contemporary practices within development programs. The course uses specific themes and case study material to examine how development works in practice. We will look at individual projects run by NGOs and also by the Asian Development Bank as well as related literature to consider what works and what doesn't in the delivery of livelihood improvement to impoverished people. We also discuss the broader context in which development takes place and examine topics such as Australia's aid policies, structural adjustment and debt relief, consulting agencies and NGOs, sustainable development, gender issues, development-induced displacement and changing approaches to social impact mitigation.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Understand why international aid remains such a contested arena within international relations and, at times, such a problematic context for altruistic notions of help.
Read widely and actively participate in discussions concerning the nature of interactions between development agencies and target communities within the developing world and thereby gain a detailed picture of what international aid entails.

Learn to think critically and reflexively about recent debates informing development, the motivations behind international aid, what makes development assistance successful in improving lives and/or why there are often difficulties in achieving this.

Examine the social outcomes that emerge from programs of international aid by looking beyond the rhetoric and developing an appreciation of the complex factors that influence these outcomes.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>summary of weekly readings</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book review</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>week 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>week 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**summary of weekly readings**

Due: **weekly**

Weighting: **15%**

see guide on ilearn for details

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Read widely and actively participate in discussions concerning the nature of interactions between development agencies and target communities within the developing world and thereby gain a detailed picture of what international aid entails.

**Book review**

Due: **week 5**

Weighting: **15%**

see unit guide on ilearn for details

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand why international aid remains such a contested arena within international
relations and, at times, such a problematic context for altruistic notions of help.

- Read widely and actively participate in discussions concerning the nature of interactions between development agencies and target communities within the developing world and thereby gain a detailed picture of what international aid entails.
- Examine the social outcomes that emerge from programs of international aid by looking beyond the rhetoric and developing an appreciation of the complex factors that influence these outcomes

**Research Proposal**

Due: **Week 7**  
Weighting: **20%**

See unit guide on ilearn for details

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand why international aid remains such a contested arena within international relations and, at times, such a problematic context for altruistic notions of help.
- Read widely and actively participate in discussions concerning the nature of interactions between development agencies and target communities within the developing world and thereby gain a detailed picture of what international aid entails.
- Learn to think critically and reflexively about recent debates informing development, the motivations behind international aid, what makes development assistance successful in improving lives and/or why there are often difficulties in achieving this
- Examine the social outcomes that emerge from programs of international aid by looking beyond the rhetoric and developing an appreciation of the complex factors that influence these outcomes

**Essay**

Due: **week 13**  
Weighting: **50%**

see unit guide on ilearn for details

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand why international aid remains such a contested arena within international relations and, at times, such a problematic context for altruistic notions of help.
- Read widely and actively participate in discussions concerning the nature of interactions between development agencies and target communities within the developing world and
thereby gain a detailed picture of what international aid entails.

- Learn to think critically and reflexively about recent debates informing development, the motivations behind international aid, what makes development assistance successful in improving lives and/or why there are often difficulties in achieving this.
- Examine the social outcomes that emerge from programs of international aid by looking beyond the rhetoric and developing an appreciation of the complex factors that influence these outcomes.

**Delivery and Resources**

Two-hour seminars take place on Mondays from 6pm-8pm in room W6A708. The class operates in a seminar fashion with discussion of the week’s readings framed by specific weekly themes detailed by the convenor.

Check ilearn page for lists of weekly readings, and see the outline on ilearn for weekly seminar topics and lists of background readings.

**Unit Schedule**

see unit guide on ilearn for weekly schedule of topics and readings

**Policies and Procedures**

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)
Results
Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support
Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills
Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support
Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University’s IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities
PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:
Learning outcomes

• Read widely and actively participate in discussions concerning the nature of interactions between development agencies and target communities within the developing world and thereby gain a detailed picture of what international aid entails.
• Examine the social outcomes that emerge from programs of international aid by looking beyond the rhetoric and developing an appreciation of the complex factors that influence these outcomes

Assessment tasks

• Book review
• Research Proposal
• Essay

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Understand why international aid remains such a contested arena within international relations and, at times, such a problematic context for altruistic notions of help.
• Learn to think critically and reflexively about recent debates informing development, the motivations behind international aid, what makes development assistance successful in improving lives and/or why there are often difficulties in achieving this
• Examine the social outcomes that emerge from programs of international aid by looking beyond the rhetoric and developing an appreciation of the complex factors that influence these outcomes

Assessment tasks

• summary of weekly readings
• Book review
• Research Proposal
• Essay

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and
knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Understand why international aid remains such a contested arena within international relations and, at times, such a problematic context for altruistic notions of help.
- Read widely and actively participate in discussions concerning the nature of interactions between development agencies and target communities within the developing world and thereby gain a detailed picture of what international aid entails.
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**Assessment tasks**

- summary of weekly readings
- Book review
- Research Proposal
- Essay

**PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability**

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Read widely and actively participate in discussions concerning the nature of interactions between development agencies and target communities within the developing world and thereby gain a detailed picture of what international aid entails.
- Examine the social outcomes that emerge from programs of international aid by looking beyond the rhetoric and developing an appreciation of the complex factors that influence these outcomes.
Assessment tasks

- Book review
- Research Proposal
- Essay

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Read widely and actively participate in discussions concerning the nature of interactions between development agencies and target communities within the developing world and thereby gain a detailed picture of what international aid entails.
- Examine the social outcomes that emerge from programs of international aid by looking beyond the rhetoric and developing an appreciation of the complex factors that influence these outcomes

Assessment tasks

- Book review
- Research Proposal
- Essay

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand why international aid remains such a contested arena within international relations and, at times, such a problematic context for altruistic notions of help.
- Read widely and actively participate in discussions concerning the nature of interactions between development agencies and target communities within the developing world and
thereby gain a detailed picture of what international aid entails.
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Assessment tasks
• Book review
• Research Proposal
• Essay