Development Studies and Social Change (DSSC) Minor Program Courses
2017-18

**Registration for DSSC Courses**

You will need a permission number to allow you to register for a DSSC course. Please see Laura Bell in 537 Heller Hall (or email icgc@umn.edu, phone 612-624-0832). Do you have questions about the courses or the DSSC minor program? Please see Karen Brown in 537 Heller Hall or email kbt@umn.edu. Topics course descriptions are listed below and you’ll find core course descriptions on our website at

FALL SEMESTER 2017

DSSC 8111 Ways of Knowing (3 cr)
Instructor: Dr. Richa Nagar
Course Schedule: Fridays 9:15am – 11:45am

Who takes this course? IGC Scholars in their first year of the program should enroll in DSSC 8111. IGC Scholars from earlier cohorts who have not yet taken Ways of Knowing due to scheduling conflicts should also enroll in this seminar.

DSSC 8211 Doctoral Research Workshop (2 cr)
Instructor: Dr. Karen Brown, IGC
Course Schedule: Mondays, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Who takes this course? IGC Scholars in their third year, or in the year prior to their dissertation research year, should enroll in DSSC 8211 and 8212 in Fall 2016. These courses are meant to be taken in conjunction.

DSSC 8212 Doctoral Research Workshop (1 cr)
Instructor: Dr. Karen Brown, IGC
Course Schedule: Mondays, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Who takes this course? IGC Scholars in their third year, or in the year prior to their dissertation research year, should enroll in DSSC 8211 and 8212 in Fall 2016. These courses are meant to be taken in conjunction.

DSSC 8310 Topics in Development Studies and Social Change (1 cr)
Section 1: Globalization and Cities
Instructors: Dr. Serife Genis, Adnan Menderes University
Course Schedule: Wednesdays, 3:00-4:40pm, 2nd Half of the Semester

Who takes this class? IGC Scholars in their second year of the program should enroll for a minimum of 2 credits of DSSC 8310. DSSC 8310 is a variable credit course, typically offered for one credit. Students are welcome to enroll in multiple sections of DSSC 8310, and must complete at least two credits.

Course Description: How does neoliberal globalization transform the production and reproduction of urban space? What are the emerging patterns of class relations, socio-spatial polarization and consumption and, how do they affect the lives of people who live and work in globalizing cities? How does globalization reconfigure the demands and tactics of urban social movements struggling for economic and social justice? What happens to ‘the right to city’ under the conditions of neoliberal globalization?

This course aims to approach these questions by drawing on the interdisciplinary literature on critical urban theory, global cities, transnational studies of place-making and ethnographies of globalization. Following Michael Burroway’s suggestion, we will be “grounding globalization” by conceptualizing “cities as places.” We will compare and contrast cities in the North and South and, try to unpack the views of the global elites, low income residents and social activists living and working in global cities. In addition to well known cases of global cities such as New York, Tokyo, London, the course will also focus on cases such as Istanbul, Mumbai, Dubai to see how globalization is ‘in-placed’ by the practices of various actors. Along with scholars such as Saskia Sassen, David Harvey, Mike Davis, Michael Goldman, Faranak Miraftab, to name a few, we will ponder to see how global elites as well as ordinary citizens and social activist figure in ‘the making of cities’ under the conditions of globalization.

DSSC 8320 Topics in Development Studies and Social Change (1 cr)
Section 2: Food Fellows Workshop
Instructors: Tracey Deutsch
Course Schedule: As determined by students

Who takes this class? IGC Scholars in their second year of the program should enroll for a minimum of 2 credits of DSSC 8310. DSSC 8310 is a variable credit course, typically offered for one credit. Students are welcome to enroll in multiple sections of DSSC 8310, and must complete at least two credits.

Course Description: Are you interested in politics of food? In what humanities and art might say about hunger and inequity? Come be a food fellow! You’ll attend a series of Imagine Chair and IGC food-related events, talk through what you learned, and blog about this, and about food issues of all kinds. We want to hear your opinions and reflections. You’ll have a chance to share your analyses with broader audiences, as well as help us shape the future of food studies.
DSSC 8112 Scholarship and Public Responsibility (1 cr)
Instructor: Dr. Karen Brown
Course Schedule: Friday mornings as scheduled, 10:00am – 11:40am

Who takes this course? ICGC Scholars in their first year of the program should enroll in DSSC 8112. ICGC Scholars from earlier cohorts who have not yet taken DSSC 8112 due to scheduling conflicts should also enroll in this seminar.

DSSC 8310 Topics in Development Studies and Social Change (1 cr)
Section 1: War and Media
Instructor: Dr. Mary Vavrus, Communications Studies
Course Schedule: Thursday, 10:00am – 11:40am, 1st Half of Semester

Who takes this course? ICGC Scholars in their second year of the program should enroll for a minimum of 2 credits of DSSC 8310. DSSC 8310 is a variable credit course, typically offered for one credit. Students are welcome to enroll in multiple sections of DSSC 8310, and must complete at least two credits.

Course Description: War and Media will address six theoretical frameworks for understanding how war and peace have been communicated through various media since World War I. We will read and then view examples that illustrate each of the following: propaganda, hegemony, the military-industrial complex, militainment, postmodernism, and peace journalism. Students can expect to read 50-100 pages each week, write short essays that respond to the readings, and make one presentation that covers key concepts from one of the theoretical frameworks.

DSSC 8310 Topics in Development Studies and Social Change (1 cr)
Section 2: Global South Theory
Instructor: Dr. Ana Paula Ferreira, Spanish & Portuguese
Course Schedule: 12:00pm – 1:40pm, March 1 – May 1, 2018

Who takes this course? ICGC Scholars in their second year of the program should enroll for a minimum of 2 credits of DSSC 8310. DSSC 8310 is a variable credit course, typically offered for one credit. Students are welcome to enroll in multiple sections of DSSC 8310, and must complete at least two credits.

Course Description: “Global South Theory” aims to introduce graduate students to important thinkers of the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking Global South who are normally ignored in academic discourses embracing hegemonic models of Anglo-American colonialisms morphed into postcolonialisms and processes of globalization. As with critical theory writ large, those models, which also include non-Anglophone thinkers assimilated into the English-dominant academy, circulate as theory unmarked as to nation, regional or linguistic origin. Insisting on the situatedness of all knowledge production but doing so while also comparatively confronting Portuguese and Spanish-speaking anti-colonial/postcolonial thinkers with selected Francophone and Anglophone ones, the course aims, in the end, to map out potential alliances based on intercultural translation across the Global South against the usual barriers of language differences and the no less disarming division opposing intellectuals and activists.

In view of that mapping, the course is organized around four different topics loosely following a chronological order. The first is devoted to the discussion of readings of great historical and cultural significance in various struggles for independence from political colonial status, their corresponding racist foundations and ongoing effects. The second topic, drawing from Immanuel Wallerstein’s World System Analysis, focuses on the thinking of philosopher, Enrique Dussel, about the “myth of modernity” while unfixing the received notion of Eurocentrism. The third discusses the concept of “coloniality” and the so-called decolonial turn from the perspective of prominent Spanish-American thinkers. The radical interdisciplinary thinking of sociologist of law, Boaventura de Sousa Santos, will be introduced in the fifth topic. Attention will be focused on the position of enunciation of a public intellectual-activist who proposes a number of strategies for identifying and thinking alongside with what he calls, “Epistemologies of the South” that is, experientially and non-rationally based ways of knowing that have been consistently excluded from the Western academy and, hence, have not counted as “theory”.
