

Hi everyone.

Thanks for the feedback you all provided during class Wednesday. The intention of collecting your feelings was just to see what your experience is like in the class. I do it for all my classes. I think that many of you linked it to our discussion addressing if we should end or fundamentally change the class. However, I also find this information valuable. There were also some of the standard concerns that students carry such as the balance between investment (time) and payoff (final grade). I leave below your unedited comments, but respond to the first one because I think it brings up a few important concerns that may warrant a response.

As someone who is honestly not over the top passionate about sustainability (I am, but don't see it as my personal vocation) I still find this class very valuable. I haven't been so exposed to the concept of making sure "they" want our help, and need the specific aid we assume they do. It is valuable for me to be around people as passionate about helping as yourself. The class itself is loosely structured and I think should be graded knowing everyone is different levels of engaged in their projects, and I don't think some should receive poor grades just because others go extremely above and beyond, In the big picture, however, that is not what matters.

My response: I think it is crucial that we are free to explore this subject, each in our own way and feel about things the way we do. Thus your level of passion for the subject and your political and philosophical ideology are not graded. No, being "over the top" passionate about sustainability doesn't give anyone an advantage... in fact it is important to note that "advantage" is an inappropriate word indicating that there is a comparative measurement between students... that this class is graded competitively. No. There is room for everyone in this class to receive an "A", and it's happened before. However, "passion for sustainability" is distinct from "engagement in your project". Please check the syllabus to be clear on how a grade is assigned. You are graded on your engagement in the group project and ability to express knowledge gained from the class videos, readings, and discussions. The final exam will consist of quantitative information covered in the class material as well as essays to express your own explorations and define the evolution of your development model. Again, in the end I grade according to the syllabus. If there is something in the syllabus that you disagree with, like everything else I am open to consider it.

- *Teach something interesting to us in class every day. It would motivate me to want to be there more.*
- *I love how we go over the readings as a class, it concretes it into my head/gives me new perspectives. (Please keep them this way)*
- *Learning in this class progresses personal, national, international (all) types of development for the purpose of letting this class just be what it is, a place for sharing and learning.*
- *Trash collection projected enabled me to realize that every day I choose the way I live my life, the waste I generate, the progress I make.*

- *Project 1st was a good learning experience because the learning we did after made me understand “development models” better and learning more about the background/project/lifestyle/choices*

I really like this class it brings up ideas that I have never spent a second on. I would maybe like more structure on what is expected of us. I really like the structure of debating in the class today! Can we do more of that in class today. Let's challenge each other to get engaged.

Your teaching style is “cool” but leads students to take advantage of your free-spirited style. We as students are used to rigid schedules and long lists of obligations. Ask more of us and we will give more of ourselves to you. Serious lack of structure, students' obligations and “work” required by students. Don't back down on assignments. This is a university course not a community college. Post questions about the readings online so we can have structure to what we are supposed to get out of each reading.

I like this class, but I think it needs to be made clear what the main theme of the class is! Coming into this I didn't realize until about the 3rd week what lens I should have been looking through.

I truly enjoy the critical thinking and global perspective of this class. The ambiguity is a little difficult for me to deal with. I know that we're adults and I like that you treat us as such but I don't know what's expected of me. Ultimately I really enjoy learning about the topic, but at the end of the day I am a student who is trying to graduate Suma Cum Laude and I want to get an A in this class. So therefore I want to know what I should do to achieve that. But I enjoy the openness of the class, and I like your attitude towards development.

I enjoy this class and the thought-provoking subjects that we cover. This class has definitely made me look at development in ways that I hadn't before. I wish I had more to contribute to the discussion but I enjoy listening to other people's insights. Going forward, I would like to talk less about the philosophical incentives behind developmental and whether or not we should be having this class. I'd rather focus more on what has been done, and what has worked and what hasn't.

I enjoy all of the class discussion. However, I am slightly concerned about the final. We cover a lot of really good topics & articles, but will it be too much for a final? Or maybe I'm too concerned about my grades when I should be focused on something bigger than myself? But actually I worried about the final....

I think it's important to learn about other parts of the worldwide. A lot of people at this school are close-minded, so this can be informational for many.

I think this class gives a critical perspective of the world and challenges notions of NGO's going abroad vs local assistance which I have never thought to compare. This class teaches that not all efforts are successful, but it's a learn by doing / getting to know the community process.

This class is discussion and reading based, which promotes critically thinking as part of my learning process. The lack of structure is refreshing, and has not added the level of stress that is common through my other classes. I enjoy discussing development, and find the course most productive when we shift the lens of development upon American culture. How can we develop away from being a consumer, vulture capitalist society? Wouldn't our development into a more evolved, ecologically conscious society relieve a number of "problems" overseas and in our communities?

Although I don't talk in class very much, I enjoy reading the articles. It's good in class when we discuss in small groups when I am more comfortable participating. And then I learn from you talking about articles and other students with more knowledge about sustainability than I do. So far, I do like the way the class is structured. I would like to do more general discussions on articles rather than the questions based.

No, I think this class is very useful but I think there needs to be more of an acknowledgement of the systems that have shaped current situations such as colonialism, neocolonialism, and economic exploitation.

Maybe there needs to be an emphasis on a more holistic approach that codified all the ideas we have discussed.

I don't think this class should end. We are going to constantly be faced with problems but none are great enough to end this class. I have made serious progress in my own mind and feel this would continue with this class.

I really enjoy the class discussions, I feel like I get a lot out of it and learn a lot. However, I do wish we had more class time to work on the Project I'm also not sure if a multiple choice final exam will accurately reflect how much we have actually learned in this class. I think a final project may demonstrate our views about development more accurately.

Pete, I believe the class is going well. I really enjoy the reading, but besides this past week they were all pretty depressing. So maybe switch back and forth between depressing and successful articles. I know one major complaint is that they feel as though they don't know what's going on in the class. As they don't understand the point of the assignments or discussion. I believe this is because as students we are used to people lecturing us to say what exactly we are learning and why. So maybe presenting why we are learning this way and how this pertains to how we develop appropriate technology.

Honestly after the first day I thought I would hate this class because I love and need structure, and Pete's casual attitude really bothered me. Now I really enjoy this and understand why the class is structured like this. I have a lot of respect for Pete. I have learned a lot. Sometimes the readings can be a lot. I'm worried about the final because I don't know how I'm going to remember stuff from all the articles, because we've read so many.

