

Technology and Global Development

15-502

Spring 2009

Website:

<http://www.qatar.cmu.edu/cs/15502>

Units:

You will earn 9 units for successfully completing this course.

Lectures:

Tuesdays and Thursdays:
4:00p.m. – 5:20p.m. Room 2051

Instructors:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
M. Bernardine Dias	1015	454-8647	mbdias@ri.cmu.edu
Yonina Cooper	1006	454-8641	yonina@cs.cmu.edu

Teaching Assistant:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Email</i>
Aysha Siddique	ARC	ayshas@cmu.edu

Course Description:

The ultimate goal of this course is to encourage students to become both deeply motivated and reflective about the role that computing technology can play in improving the lives of people living in developing communities. Students will be encouraged to break away from us/them dichotomies to see the process of introducing technology into developing communities as a partnership between community members and technology-specialists, not a one-way street. Issues of sustainability, local appropriateness, and cultural sensitivity will be fore-grounded. The course will also encourage interdisciplinary approaches.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are as follows:

- ◆ Introduce students to the emerging field of TFDC (Technology For Developing Communities)
- ◆ Teach basic practical skills necessary to work in TFDC
- ◆ Teach basic research and team-work skills
- ◆ Enhance students' writing and presentation skills
- ◆ Enhance students' analytical and critical thinking when applied to real-world scenarios in TFDC

Office Hours:

The instructors and TA will hold regular office hours (determined jointly in the first week of classes) and further office hours by appointment. In general, send the instructors email if you wish to meet with them, and they will arrange to meet with

you. You may also stop by the instructors' offices without an appointment – if the door is open you can feel free to request a meeting. However, if the door is closed, please do not attempt to enter the office; you should send email instead.

Remember to start working on your assignments long before they are due. If you wait to start your assignment the day before it is due, there is very little the instructors can do to help you – don't expect the impossible!

Grading Policy:

Your grade will depend entirely on your performance on assignments and the final project. In all cases, the instructors' decision of the grade is final – you may ask for clarification or supply additional information in support of a request to change a grade, but any modification is entirely at the instructors' discretion. The due date for your **final project presentation and report** will be decided with your input in the first week of classes – no exceptions will be made for this deadline once it is set! Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Class Participation	5%
Homework (Total)	40%
Research Assignment	10%
Media Assignment	10%
Capacity Building Assignment	10%
Case Study Assignment	10%
Campaign Assignment	20%
Final Project (Total)	35%
Individual contribution to final project group	5%
Final project report	15%
Final project presentation	15%

Collaboration:

In each assignment, the instructors will make it clear how much collaboration is acceptable. Remember that you may only collaborate according to the instructors' directions on each assignment. If you have any doubts about the collaboration policy on any assignment, ask the instructors before you collaborate with anyone.

In general, we encourage discussion of abstract ideas among students. However, you should not get anyone else to solve specifically assigned problems unless you have the permission of the instructors to do so. In general, you should never share any part of your assignment solutions with anyone unless you have first received permission from the instructors. Solution sharing and collaboration without permission from the instructors is considered cheating and is unethical, and will be treated according to Carnegie Mellon University policies on cheating as specified in your Student Handbook. If you have any questions please ask your instructors for clarification. ***Remember that any incident of cheating will result in a negative grade for you! So it is better not to turn in an assignment, rather than to cheat on an assignment.***

Late Work:

In general, we will accept assignments up to 48 hours after the due date but you will incur a loss of 20% for each day past the due time. After 48 hours you will receive a 0 for the assignment unless you have extenuating circumstances and have gained prior

permission for a late submission from the instructors. A good rule to follow is that you should request extensions well before the due date/time rather than at the last minute. Extensions will only be granted for good reasons at the discretion of the instructors. If you need to turn in an assignment late, it is your responsibility to make sure the instructors receive the assignment before the 48 hour deadline – make sure you get an acknowledgement from one of the instructors before the deadline has passed. In general, it is in your best interest to complete assignments on time.

We will however give you one “late pass” for the semester. That is, you have one pass that will allow you to turn in an assignment up to 48 hours late without incurring a penalty. This pass ***cannot be used for any component of the campaign assignment or the final project.*** The late pass is only applicable to individual assignments and will not be applicable to group assignments.

Acknowledgements and References:

Always make sure you acknowledge others who help you in any written or oral assignment. In general, you should be generous in acknowledging contributions of others. Also make sure you include adequate references to publications, communications, and websites that you use to support different claims in your written and oral assignments. Most arguments are made stronger by supporting citations. Plagiarism is a form of cheating and will be treated according to Carnegie Mellon University policies on cheating as specified in your Student Handbook. All contributions to any assignment from external sources should be clearly cited in the written document or presentation. Remember that you are not allowed to collaborate or refer to external sources outside the guidelines provided to you by your instructors for each assignment. ***Remember that any incident of cheating will result in a negative grade for you! So it is better not to turn in an assignment, rather than to cheat on an assignment.***

Textbooks:

This course has no required textbook. Instead, we will have several recommended resources available through the library and through the course webpage.

Library and Academic Resource Center (ARC) Resources:

There are many resources useful for academic research in the library. Furthermore, the ARC offers you a variety of resources to improve your written and oral communication in English. The instructors strongly encourage you to make use of all these resources.

Attendance and Class Participation:

You are required to attend classes, we will be taking attendance, and your attendance and participation will be part of your final grade. This is a small group and each absent student will be missed. Except in emergencies, you will only be excused from class if you inform the instructors at least 90 minutes **before** class time and get instructor permission to miss that class due to a valid reason.

Laptop Use in Class:

Student use of laptops during class is at the discretion of the instructors. When permitted, they should only be used to enhance class involvement and learning. No email, chat, or other non-class related surfing is permitted.

Course Schedule:

The instructors may alter the course schedule during the semester – all modifications will be announced in class and be made available on the course web page.

Week	Tuesday Lecture	Thursday Lecture
1 Jan 13, 09	Jan 13, 09 State of the World & Tech Trends <i>Syllabus and Homework 1 handouts</i>	Jan 15, 09 Poverty & Development
2 Jan 20, 09	Jan 20, 09 Challenges of Poverty	Jan 22, 09 Measuring Poverty
3 Jan 27, 09	Jan 27, 09 Capacity Building I <i>Campaign Assignment and Homework 2 handout</i>	Jan 29, 09 Capacity Building II Homework 1 due
4 Feb 3, 09	Feb 3, 09 Intro to TFDC	Feb 5, 09 TFDC Examples
5 Feb 10, 09	Feb 10, 09 Evaluating Impact <i>Homework 3 handout</i>	Feb 12, 09 Planning for Sustainability Homework 2 due
6 Feb 17, 09	Feb 17, 09 Feedback on assignments	Feb 19, 09 Fortune at the BOP
7 Feb 24, 09	Feb 24, 09 Economics and Microfinance <i>Final project handout</i>	Feb 26, 09 Mid-Semester Break Homework 3 due
8 Mar 3, 09	Mar 3, 09 Legal and Political Context	Mar 5, 09 No Lecture Campaign Assignment due
9 Mar 10, 09	Mar 10, 09 Case Study Analysis I <i>Homework 4 handout</i>	Mar 12, 09 Case Study Analysis II
10 Mar 17, 09	Mar 17, 09 Technology Infrastructure	Mar 19, 09 Technology Design
11 Mar 24, 09	Mar 24, 09 Spring break	Mar 26, 09 Spring break
12 Mar 31, 09	Mar 31, 09 Work on final project	Apr 2, 09 Work on final project Homework 4 due
13 Apr 7, 09	Apr 7, 09 No Lecture Update and discussion on final project progress	Apr 9, 09 Work on final project
14 Apr 14, 09	Apr 14, 09 Work on final project	Apr 16, 09 Work on final project
15 Apr 21, 09	Apr 21, 09 Work on final project Draft report and presentation due	Apr 23, 09 Conclusions & feedback