

Development Project Management

MA in International Development Studies
Faculty of Political Sciences, Chulalongkorn University
Trimester 1, 2011-2012

Guest lecturers

- Dr Antika Preeyanon, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- Mr David Dobrowolski, Country Director, Pact Thailand
- Ms Pauline Tweedie, Deputy Country Representative, The Asia Foundation, Thailand
- Mr Bernard Dennis, independent consultant

Main lecturer and course coordinator

Dr Michael Medley
Telephone: 0813 487 103
Email: mrmedley@gmail.com

Office hours: By appointment on Wednesday mornings and afternoons, and Thursday mornings. Students enrolled on the course are welcome to contact me during the period of the course to arrange meetings.

Timeframe (see below for a more detailed timetable)

The course runs from 8 November to 26 December. Class sessions are:

Tuesdays, 1pm – 4pm, (Room 614)

Thursdays, 1pm – 4pm, (Room 408)

Except:

- Due to a conference, there will be no class on Thursday 15th December, but one has been scheduled instead for Wednesday 21st December.
- The final session will be on Monday 26th December, 1pm – 4pm, in a room to be announced.

Aims

The course provides an introduction to skills and techniques which are commonly seen as basic in the management of development projects. They include: project conception; logical frameworks; qualitative and quantitative surveys for needs and impact assessment; cost-benefit analysis; ethical standards and systems of accountability; budgets and financial control; and the writing of proposals and reports. But alongside promoting competence in these, the course explores the intrinsic flaws and biases in such practices, asking what the broader developmental implications are of carving out projects

amenable to management. The aim is to help students become potential employees who can work effectively in development organizations, but who are also reflective and critical people rather than functionaries of a system. At the same time the course should be of value to aspiring scholars and policy-makers who wish to be able to relate questions of the power and effectiveness of aid to its established practices and the problems which beset them.

Structure and methods

The first seven of the 15 class sessions are devoted to the factors involved in planning a development project. These seven sessions will all be led by Dr Medley. Each week will see a mixture of presentations by Dr Medley, presentations by students, practical exercises (often involving simulation and role play) and discussion. After each class session, students are expected to apply some of the techniques to their individual ongoing course assignment. This assignment is the creation of their own development project proposal and plan, as if to be presented to a funding committee or donor. It is to be submitted as a finished written product for assessment after the seventh class session. However, students will also be asked to present parts of their work-in-progress informally to the rest of the class during the first seven weeks. They will also be required to answer oral questions on their finished proposals in front of the class during the 11th session (and to pay close attention to the proposals of their fellow-students).

Sessions 8 to 15 will include four led by distinguished guest lecturers who have strong experience in the field of development project management. The intention is to explore the diversity of development projects and the management issues which they raise in the real world. Dr Medley will also lead further sessions on complementary topics. Again the learning will make use of simulation exercises, and students may also be expected to make presentations on the basis of their readings of the recommended texts. During these sessions students will also write an assessed essay on a topic which puts aid projects in a larger social and political context.

N.B. This course will make considerable use of many valuable resources for development project management which are available on the internet. The students' project proposal assignments will be expected to be submitted in electronic format (.doc or .pdf) as well as hard copy. Students are thus assumed to have basic computer and internet skills and access. If any student is unsure about this, please contact Dr Medley at mrmedley@gmail.com.

Assessment

- *Class participation – 20%*. This includes attendance, paying attention, engaging actively in discussions and practical exercises, making presentations of work to the rest of the class.
- *Project proposal task – 40%*. See section on 'Structure and methods', above. Further guidance will be issued.
- *Essay – 40%*. Students are expected to write an assessed essay of not more than 2,500 words. Further guidance will be issued.

Reading

Readings and instructions for other preparatory tasks for each session will normally be provided in the previous session.

Most of the essential reading is either freely accessible on the internet, or else will be provided in the Reading Pack. Students must read the essential texts before they come to the class, because they will be discussed in class or will help them to understand the lecture.

Recommendations are also be given for additional reading, which should help students further increase their understandings of a topic.

Timetable with main topics

Session	Date	Session topic	Lecturer
1	8 Nov	Introduction: Projects and managerialism in development	Dr Michael Medley
2	10 Nov	Project conception (1): Participatory problem solving	Dr Michael Medley
3	15 Nov	Project conception (2) : Needs, activities and donors	Dr Michael Medley
4	17 Nov	Logical frameworks for design, monitoring and evaluation	Dr Michael Medley
5	22 Nov	Ways of knowing needs and impacts	Dr Michael Medley
6	24 Nov	Budgeting, financial control and resource management	Dr Michael Medley
7	29 Nov	Putting a proposal together (After which students submit their written project proposals for assessment)	Dr Michael Medley
8	1 Dec	Balancing theory and practice in development project management	Ms Pauline Tweedie
9	6 Dec	Managing risks and common problems	Dr Michael Medley
10	8 Dec	Statebuilding in Afghanistan through development projects	Mr Bernard Denis
11	13 Dec	Questioning students on their project proposals	Dr Michael Medley
	15 Dec	NOTE THAT THERE IS NO DPM CLASS ON 15 DEC	
12	20 Dec	Project management in Pact Thailand	Mr David Dobrowolski
13	21 Dec	Wider accountability, ethics and standards	Dr Michael Medley
14	22 Dec	The Village Fund Project: Politics of a development project at national and village level	Dr Antika Preeyanon
15	26 Dec	Wrap-up: How much development project management does the world need?	Dr Michael Medley