



Anton de Kom University of Suriname
Institute for Graduate Studies & Research

MASTER CLASS

**SUSTAINABILITY AND SURVIVAL
RECONNECTION TO DEVELOPMENT AND EVOLUTION**

<i>Master Class</i>	Sustainability and Survival. Reconnection to Development and Evolution
<i>Facilitator</i>	Glenn Sankatsing glennsankatsing@crscenter.com
<i>Format</i>	Class sessions and guided field orientations
<i>Credits</i>	6 ECT
<i>Date</i>	August 17-25, 2017
<i>Institution</i>	Institute for Graduate Studies & Research of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname
<i>Secretariat</i>	Anastasia Ronoastro Anastasia.Ronoastro@uvs.edu
<i>Registration</i>	Registration costs US\$ 350, Deadline for registration July 1, 2017 REGISTRATION

I. CORE FOCUS

The Master Class ‘*Sustainability and Survival. Reconnection to Development and Evolution*’ addresses the main challenges humanity is facing on its evolutionary route. It maps the path of humanity that delivered today’s existential challenges that endanger our stay on Earth and it delves into the roads to rescue our future. The main casualty of humanity’s arduous voyage has been harmony with nature, with fellow humans, with other cultures, with other worldviews, and with other paths to the divine. Nature has become a target for pillage, and war is the supreme arbiter to settle discords. Our historical route, the diagnosis of today’s existential threats, the troublesome trends, the contours of a different future and the possible roads to turn the tide constitute the common thread of argument and analysis in this interactive learning experience.

The prime analytical tool in the Master Class is a concept of development that sprouts from identifying the driving force of evolution, which is “life always looks for more life”. *Development is the mobilization of inherent potentialities in interactive response to challenges posed by nature, habitat and history to*



realize a sustainable project with an internal locus of command. This overcomes a longstanding hoax of development, which embodied its very opposite, envelopment, *a paternalistic incorporation of a social entity into an external destiny through transfer, imitation and imposition of achievements and devices, at the expense of its own internal life processes and evolution.* Combined, development-envelopment dynamics provide a powerful tool to map both the tortuous journey behind us and the chances for survival of humanity on a promising path ahead.

II. DESCRIPTION AND TARGET GROUP

The Institute of Graduate Studies and Research of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname offers this six credit (ECT) Master class to graduate and postgraduate students, as well as to university lectures, representatives of international organizations, staff of NGOs, senior government officials and development experts. The international nature of the Master Class with participants from several continents allows a fertilizing interaction of different historical and cultural backgrounds, contexts and worldviews on what constitute common concerns of humanity. To achieve a connection of theory and practice and of reflection and action, the format of the Master Class consists of 22 contact hours in a class setting and 12 hours in field orientations with expert guidance by a historian related to sustainability as the pillar of development. In a radical break with the fragmentation in academic disciplines that did much harm to the claims and prestige of science, extradisciplinarity will offer the holistic approach that can put an end to the inverted logic that the anatomy of Academia determines the anatomy of reality.

III. FORMAT

Class sessions at the Institute of Graduate Studies and Research will consist of interactive presentations on the core topics of the Master Class, while teams of students will offer plenary lectures on assigned themes, including a review of the texts on the required readings list. Field trips will take place with a three day (two nights) stay in the Commewijne district, which offers unique plantation trails to resuscitate colonial history. At the same time, its rich nature and cultural heritage offer a powerful interaction of biodiversity, culture and history. Lodging will be in the natural reserve Peperpot, which in colonial times was one of the most flourishing coffee and cacao plantations in Suriname. Today, it constitutes a salient expression of the cooperation and tension between nature and humans and offers a unique location close to the city for field trips to map the intersection of plantation archeology and social geography. In that sense, it illustrates well the core focus of the Master Class on evolution and development in a landscape where the ruins of the past that originated in persistent envelopment coexist with a huge potential for development through innovative projects on rehabilitated plantations.



IV. COMPETENCIES TO BE ACQUIRED

The prime competencies that the students should acquire in the course are:

- i. To enhance knowledge and understanding of the driving force of evolution and of development, historically beleaguered by dubious envelopment theories and paradigms that claimed to address the development issue.
- ii. To gain a better understanding of the historical path of humanity, from its promising origins to today's misfortunes of a species that went astray and is now struggling to find feasible roads to survive.
- iii. To deepen the analytical capacity and creative inquiring attitude of the student regarding the genesis and shaping of societies.
- iv. To enhance the social awareness and critical stance of students in formulating alternatives and adequate responses that are compatible with the own context, culture, environment and resource base, rather than surrender to context-free universality claims.
- v. To enhance the capacity to deliver creative responses to existential challenges and threats and formulate workable alternatives and feasible strategies for agency and policy geared towards rescuing the future of humanity.

V. LEARNING PROCESS

The nature of this Masters Class is interactive lecturer-coached self-instruction and learning. It will incorporate preparatory reading of the required texts, lectures, in-depth class discussions, working group sessions, presentations, home assignments, critical reflections, observation in field trips, and joint book and article reviews and critiques presented by teams of students. After the registration deadline, the team composition for class presentations and assignment of texts will be communicated to the participants, who will prepare their lecture for the class sessions using online written, audio or video conferencing.

VI. PROGRAM

DATE AND THEME	TIME	SESSIONS AND ACTIVITIES	REQUIRED READING
August 17, Thu	17.15-17.45	Welcome and Presentation of participants	



DEVELOPMENT (IGSR)	17.45-18.45 18.45-19.15 19.15-19.30 19.30-20.30	Interactive Session 1 Development and envelopment Discussion <i>Break</i> Lecture by Team I Eurocentrism - Discussion	Quest, Ch. 2 and 5 Samir Amin; D.T. Suzuki
August 18, Fri GLOBALIZATION (IGSR)	17.15-18.10 18.10-18.30 18.30-18.45 18.45-19.45 19.45-20.30	Interactive Session 2 Globalization of a local experience – Global alienation and domestication Discussion <i>Break</i> Three Working Groups – Rewrite the History of the Last Half Millennium Working groups reports to the class	Quest, Ch. 3
August 19, Sat	Free		
August 20, Sun PLANTATION SOCIETY	10.00 15.00-16.00 16.00-17.00 17.00-17.30 17.30-19.30	Departure to Peperpot, Commewijne Colonial domination and plantation history in Suriname by Jerry Egger Discussion <i>Break</i> Lecture by Team II Social impact of colonialism - Discussion	 Frantz Fanon; Ha Joon-Chang; Charles Larson;
August 21, Mon FIELD TRIP (Peperpot)	8.00-14.00 17.00-18.00 18.00-19.00 19.00-19.30	Field orientation on the left bank of the Commewijne river , with on the spot discussion of historical background, biodiversity and current social geography: Peperpot – Nieuw Amsterdam – Mariënborg – Spieringshoek Evaluation of field trip and discussion Interactive Session 3 Survival of the Filthiest Discussion	 Quest, Ch. 4
August 22, Tue FIELD TRIP (Peperpot)	8.00-14.00 17.00-18.00 18.00-19.00 19.00	Field orientation on the right bank of the Commewijne river , with on the spot discussion of historical background, biodiversity and discussion current social geography: Rust en Werk – Johanna Margaretha – Frederiksdorp. Evaluation of field trip and discussion Lecture Team III Envelopment and mental slavery - Discussion Social gathering	 Ziauddin Sardar
August 23, Wed	10.00	Back to Paramaribo Free	
August 24, Thu MODERN CIVILIZATION (IGSR)	17.15-18.00 18.00-18.15 18.15-19.15 19.15-19.30 19.30-20.15 20.15-20.30	Interactive Session 4/1 Failure of modern civilization Discussion Lecture Team IV Science as an instrument of domination - Discussion <i>Break</i> Interactive Session 4/2 Failure of modern civilization Discussion	Quest, Ch. 6 Susantha Goonatilake Quest, Ch. 7



August 25, Fri REHUMANIZATION (IGSR)	17.15-18.30	Session 7 Rehumanization to rescue our future	Quest, Ch. 8 and 9
	18.30-19.15	Essay. Brief presentation by students of themes for their final essay	
	19.15-19.30	<i>Break</i>	
	19.30-20.30	Final discussion and course evaluation	

VII. REQUIRED READING

Given the compact nature of the Master Class and the short duration of class sessions due to international participation, a substantial part of the course consists of two months of self-study and critical reflection in preparation for the class meetings. This consists of:

- (i) Reading the entire core text *Quest to Rescue Our Future*.
- (ii) Reading the other required texts in the form of articles and excerpts.
- (iii) Prepare a class lecture (in teams) based on the assigned text(s), with reference to other relevant literature for the topic.

CORE TEXT	
Sankatsing, Glenn	Quest to Rescue Our Future. Amsterdam, Rescue Our Future Foundation, 2016, 555p. ISBN: 978-94-028-0317-4 (see www.rescueourfuture.org)



ARTICLES AND EXCERPTS			
AUTHOR	TITLE	Pages	Lecture by
Amin, Samir	Eurocentrism. New York, Monthly Review Press, 2009 (Orig. 1988) Part III, Ch. III The construction of Eurocentric culture, p. 89-117	19	Team 1
Chang, Ha-Joon	Kicking Away the Ladder. How the Economic and Intellectual Histories of Capitalism Have Been Re-Written to Justify Neo-Liberal Capitalism, 2002	5	Team 2
Fanon, Frantz	The Wretched of the Earth, 1961. Chapter 6: Conclusion	3	Team 2
Goonatilake, Susantha	Aborted Discovery. Science and Creativity in the Third World. London, Zed Books, 1984). Chapter 5. Modern Science and the Periphery, p. 91-116	25	Team 4
Larson, Charles	Heroic Ethnocentrism: The Idea of Universality in Literature. In: Ashcroft, Bill et al. "The Postcolonial Studies Reader", 1995 (Original: The American Scholar 42 [3], 1973)	4	Team 2
Sardar, Ziauddin	Development and the locations of Eurocentrism. In: Munck, Ronaldo and O'Hearn, Denis 1999 Critical development theory. Contributions to a new paradigm, New York, Zed Books Chapter 3 Development and the locations of Eurocentrism, p. 44-60	17	Team 3
Susuki, D.T.	Excerpts from Chapter 1: East and West. In: Erich Fromm; D.T, Suzuki and Richard de Martino. Zen Buddhism and Psychoanalysis, 1960. Part 1: D.T. Suzuki - Lectures in Zen Buddhism	3	Team 1

VIII. EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated on three accounts.

- (i) *Participation* at all sessions and field orientation is compulsory (25% of the grade)
- (ii) Students should write an *individual review article* of 800-1200, (15% of the grade) including an own assessment, interpretation and conclusion. It needs to be an *individual* review article of the assigned text (if more texts are assigned to a Team, students should choose one text). The review should discuss at least two other relevant articles or book sections addressing the theme, which are not included in the required reading list. Deadline for delivery is September 25, 2017 (Students can already work on the review article in their preparation for the Master Class and deliver it during the class sessions.).
- (iii) *Essay or Research Paper* (60% of the grade). An essay or research paper of 2000-2500 words should be written in English after careful research of a theme *directly related to the course content*, which addresses a research question or objective that focuses on a core issue of the Master Class. The deadline for delivery of the paper is October 25, 2017. The paper should be delivered by email to the lecturer in a single Microsoft Word file with a file name starting



with the last name.

IX. FACILITATOR

The facilitator of the Master Class, Glenn Sankatsing, is a Surinamese citizen with a PhD in Social and Economic Sciences of the Central University of Venezuela (1994). He is currently Director of Caribbean Reality Studies Center (www.crscenter.com) and Coordinator of the PhD Program of the University of Aruba. He is the author of *Caribbean Social Science: An Assessment* (Caracas, UNESCO, 1989, 190 p.) and *Quest to Rescue Our Future* (Amsterdam, Rescue Our Future Foundation, October 2016, 555 p.). He is a founding member of Rescue Our Future Foundation (www.rescueourfuture.org).

X. REGISTRATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Registration is now open and the deadline for registration is July 1, 2017 (extended to July 17, 2017). Registration costs are US\$ 350.- They include the tuition fee, administrative costs, required literature and field trip. Travel expenses and local accommodation are not included.

Download the registration form at

<http://crscenter.com/RegisterSustainabilityandSurvival.doc> and send the completed form to info@igsr.sr or anastasia.ronoastro@uvs.edu. The tuition fee needs to be transferred before the registration deadline. To formalize registration, mail a copy of payment voucher. There will be no refund in case of cancellation. The venue of the Master Class is *Institute for Graduate Studies and Research*, Anton de Kom University of Suriname, Leysweg 86, Paramaribo, Suriname.