

Tutorial Letter 202/2/2018

Empowerment and Popular Initiatives DVA3705

Semester 2

Department of Development Studies

Feedback on Assignments 02 to 07

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

This tutorial letter contains important information
about the module.

BARCODE

ASSIGNMENT 02

Question:

Discuss the extent to which women's movements in Africa have contributed to development.

Prescribed reading:

- study guide: units 1 and 4
- *Popular initiatives in development: a reader*, 2016 – contributions by Bebbington et al (2010), Berger (2014) and Bhattacharjya et al (2013)

How to approach the question:

To answer this assignment you first and foremost need to **demonstrate an understanding of popular initiatives and their role in development**. Study unit 1 provides an introduction to popular initiatives and outlines how they are related to empowerment and development. Your discussion should then **focus on social movements**. You need to **describe these movements, outline reasons for their emergence and highlight their relationship to popular initiatives and development**. Study unit 4 provides an introduction to the various types of popular initiatives in development and elaborates on social movements. The unit provides a historical outline of various movements, including women's movements and women's groups. Bebbington, Mitlin, Magaladi, Scurrah and Bielich (2010) elaborate on social movements and examine how they engage with the issue of poverty. The article by Bebbington et al (2010:123) maps social movement organisations in South Africa and Peru.

After you have provided a general description of social movements, you should address the question, that is, **the extent to which women's movements in Africa have contributed to development**. You should identify women's movements in Africa and examine how these movements have contributed to development. Here it will be helpful to refer to case studies of women's movements in Africa. In your reader, Berger (2014) examines a variety of women's movements in Africa during the 20th century, and Bhattacharjya et al (2013) summarise strategies used by social movements to encourage women's rights and gender justice both within the movements and through the movements' strategies. In your discussion you can focus on a particular case study or do a comparative study of two or more case studies. Alternatively, you can use several case studies to illustrate the different efforts and achievements by women's movements in Africa. You are also encouraged to provide examples from your own life, whether from your community, school, university or workplace. You should furthermore demonstrate that you have consulted both the prescribed literature and additional literature obtained from credible sources.

In your discussion you should provide a **contextual background to the case study or case studies**. You should describe the women's movement(s), highlight the reasons for the emergence of the movement(s) and outline the strategies employed by the movement(s). You should then focus your discussion on the roles of the movement(s) and highlight how those roles have aided the movement(s) to contribute to development in Africa. It will count in your

favour if you engage with the topic critically. Therefore, in your discussion you should consider **both the potential and the limitations of the contribution that the movements have made to development**. Following this, you should **summarise to what extent women's movements in Africa have contributed to development**. You need to make sure that your discussion supports this summary.

Mark allocation:

50%–59%: To pass this assignment you need to show an adequate understanding of social movements and, more particularly, women's movements. You should describe these movements, outline reasons for their emergence and highlight their relationship to popular initiatives and development. You also need to discuss the contributions to development made by women's movements in Africa. You need to refer to relevant case studies in order to support your discussion. Your discussion must be structured in a logical manner. Moreover, the appropriate style of referencing must be used throughout.

60%–74%: To be awarded a mark in this range you need to do all of the above. In addition, your discussion should demonstrate insight into the topic. This insight must be supported by relevant points and practical examples from the literature and must be integrated into your argument in a logical way.

75% and above: To be awarded a mark in this range you need to do all of the above. In addition, you need to make use of additional sources to support your statements. You also need to demonstrate an ability to discuss the topic critically and to relate it to a broader ideological debate.

ASSIGNMENT 03

Question:

Discuss the role of SMEs in the national economy of South Africa.

Prescribed reading:

- study guide: units 3 and 5
- *Popular initiatives in development: a reader*, 2016 – contributions by Arbor and Quartey (2010)

How to approach the question:

To answer this assignment you should begin your discussion by **defining the informal sector**. In your definition you should **outline the reasons for the emergence of the informal sector in the global South and highlight its general characteristics**. Study units 3 and 5, respectively, contain a comprehensive discussion of the forces that have given rise to the informal sector in the global South and provide a description of this sector. In your discussion you should also **highlight the various types of informal activities that exist in the global South and the**

general advantages and disadvantages associated with this sector. Issues such as employment creation, income, and business skills training for marginalised groups in society can be regarded as advantages, while unregulated industry, loss of revenue for governments, unfair competition with the formal sector and increased crime may be considered disadvantages.

After you have provided a general description of the informal sector in the global South, your discussion should address the question, that is, **the role of SMEs (small and medium enterprises) in the South African economy.** You should begin this part of your discussion by **describing SMEs as the informal sector in South Africa.** Here you can outline **the reasons for the emergence of this sector, its general characteristics and the activities associated with it.** Your discussion should then focus on **the contribution of SMEs in the economy of South Africa.** You need to highlight the **advantages and disadvantages** of the sector. How do SMEs contribute to the national economy of South Africa? What are the sector's weaknesses and strengths? In your reader, Arbor and Quartey (2010) focus on SMEs in Ghana and South Africa. Arbor and Quartey (2010:237) provide a description of SMEs in both countries and discuss their challenges, constraints and contributions to economic development. In your discussion you should focus on the **South African context.** You should show that you have kept abreast of developments in the field. You should also demonstrate that you have engaged with the relevant literature.

Mark allocation:

50%–59%: To pass this assignment you need to show an adequate understanding of the informal sector. You should discuss the informal sector in the global South, outlining reasons for its emergence, its general characteristics, various types of informal activities, and general advantages and disadvantages. You furthermore need to discuss the role of SMEs in the economy of South Africa, indicating the potential and the limitations of SMEs in the South African economy. Your discussion should be structured in a logical manner. An attempt should be made to use the correct referencing technique.

60%–74%: To be awarded a mark in this range you need to do all of the above. Relevant examples should be included to support an argument. In addition, your discussion should demonstrate insight into the topic. Your discussion should be structured in a logical manner. The correct referencing technique must be used and sources should be well integrated in the essay. The argument must flow logically.

75% and above: To be awarded a mark in this range you need to do all of the above. You also need to demonstrate an ability to discuss the topic in a critical manner and to evaluate the arguments made in the essay.

ASSIGNMENT 04

Question:

Discuss whether the state supports the capitalist classes in South Africa so that they are able to contribute to development.

Prescribed reading:

- study guide: units 2 and 6
- *Popular initiatives in development: a reader*, 2016 – contributions by Southall (2004 and 2014)

How to approach the question:

To answer this assignment you should begin your discussion by **describing the national bourgeoisie (middle class) in South Africa**. Study unit 6 and the articles by Southall (2014; 2004) in the reader provide a comprehensive historical description of the **white and black capitalist classes** in South Africa. In your discussion you should **differentiate between the two classes, provide reasons for the emergence of these classes and consider the effect these classes have had on development in South Africa**.

After you have provided a general description of the national bourgeoisie in South Africa, your discussion should focus on addressing the question, that is, **whether the state supports the capitalist classes in South Africa so that they are able to contribute to development**. Here you should outline the role that the state has played in providing support to the capitalist classes in South Africa. You should further elaborate on how the state has aided the capitalist classes to contribute to development in South Africa. Southall (2004) discusses the strategy of the African National Congress (ANC) that is aimed at producing a black bourgeoisie and expanding the black middle class in the hope that this will influence development in South Africa. You should outline the different strategies used by the ANC to promote the capitalist classes in South Africa, examine the success of those strategies and evaluate the extent to which the strategies have supported the role that the national bourgeoisie plays in South Africa's development. It will count in your favour if you engage with the topic critically. Therefore, in your discussion you should also examine the **limitations/failures of these strategies** and evaluate how this has affected the role of the national bourgeoisie in South Africa's development. Here it will be helpful to consult Southall (2014) in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the character of leadership in the ANC. Following this, you should briefly state **your own opinion or point of view** on the extent to which the state has supported the national bourgeoisie in South Africa so that it can play an important role in development. However, you need to make sure that your discussion supports your views.

Mark allocation:

50%–59%: To pass this assignment you need to show an adequate understanding of the national bourgeoisie in South Africa. You should differentiate between the groups that exist

within the bourgeoisie, outline reasons for the emergence of these capitalist classes and highlight the effects of these classes on development in South Africa. You furthermore need to evaluate the extent to which the state supports the national bourgeoisie in South Africa so that it can play a role in development. Here you need to examine the strategies employed by the state and evaluate the potential and the limitations of those strategies. Your discussion must be structured in a logical manner and should contain the appropriate style of referencing throughout.

60%–74%: To be awarded a mark in this range you need to do all of the above. In addition, your discussion should demonstrate insight into the topic. This insight must be supported by relevant points and practical examples from the literature and must be integrated into your argument in a logical way.

75% and above: To be awarded a mark in this range you need to do all of the above. In addition, you need to make use of additional sources to support your statements. You also need to demonstrate an ability to discuss the topic critically and to relate it to a broader ideological debate.

ASSIGNMENT 05

Question:

Discuss the various strategies and tactics used by resistance movements in reaction to globalisation in the global South.

Prescribed reading:

- study guide: units 4, 7 and 8
- *Popular initiatives in development: a reader*, 2016 – contributions by Alexander and Pfaffe (2013), Mdlalose (2014) and Honig (2014)

How to approach the question:

To answer this assignment you should begin your discussion by **defining resistance movements in the global South**. In your discussion you should **highlight the role-players within these resistance movements and outline the strategies and tactics they employ in reaction to globalisation**. Study unit 4 provides a comprehensive discussion of various types of movements as forms of popular initiatives. Some of these movements can be considered resistance movements that employ particular strategies in reaction to globalisation. Study units 7 and 8 provide more information about the role-players within resistance movements and the various strategies they employ. In study unit 8, neo-liberal globalisation is linked to resistance movements.

Having provided the above background, you need to refer to the **case studies discussed in the reader**. You should discuss **various strategies and tactics** used by social movements. What are some of the issues that arise as a result of globalisation? Examples include a lack of

service delivery, a lack of access to housing and a lack of employment opportunities. Alexander and Pfaffe (2013) refer to the example of the Balfour community; Honig (2014) provides an in-depth analysis of the Save Mabira Forest campaign against environmental degradation in Uganda; and Mdlalose (2014) gives an analysis of the challenges faced by some progressive social movements in South Africa. Your discussion may focus on all three case studies or you may choose to give a more detailed discussion of one case study. In addition, you may include any example you are familiar with. In your discussion you should demonstrate that you have engaged with the relevant literature.

You need to provide a brief background to the chosen case study. You should outline and describe strategies and tactics that the relevant social movements have used in reaction to globalisation. To what extent have the tactics and strategies helped the movements to respond to issues resulting from globalisation? Your own voice is very important here. You have to provide **your own opinion or point of view** about issues raised in the essay.

Mark allocation:

50%–59%: To pass this assignment you need to show an adequate understanding of resistance movements in the global South. You need to discuss the role-players involved and identify the tactics and strategies that these movements have employed in reaction to globalisation. You further need to discuss these tactics and strategies, referring to appropriate case studies to support your discussion. Your discussion should be structured in a logical manner. An attempt should be made to use the correct referencing technique.

60%–74%: To be awarded a mark in this range you need to do all of the above. Relevant examples should be included to support an argument. In addition, your discussion should demonstrate insight into the topic. Your discussion should be structured in a logical manner. The correct referencing technique must be used and sources should be well integrated in the essay. The argument must flow logically.

75% and above: To be awarded a mark in this range you need to do all of the above. You also need to demonstrate an ability to discuss the topic in a critical manner and to evaluate the arguments made in the essay.

ASSIGNMENT 06

Question:

Evaluate the factors that have led to the weakening of COSATU as a social movement union in South Africa and discuss the impact that these factors have on its role in development.

Prescribed reading:

- study guide: units 4 and 9
- *Popular initiatives in development: a reader*, 2016 – contributions by Seidman (2011) and White (2010)

How to approach the question:

To answer this assignment you should begin your discussion by providing a **description of social movement unions, reasons for their emergence and their relationship to popular initiatives in development**. Study unit 4 provides a comprehensive discussion of various types of movements as forms of popular initiatives and focuses on trade unions (social union movements). Furthermore, study units 7 and 8 highlight the strategy of unionisation and its contribution to development. The article by Seidman (2011) provides a detailed account of the concept of social movement unionism and examines the various meanings of the concept over time and within different contexts.

The question asks you to **evaluate the factors that have led to the weakening of COSATU as a social movement union in South Africa and to discuss the impact that these factors have on its role in development**. You should begin this part of your discussion by providing a contextual background to COSATU as a social movement union. You need to discuss the **reasons for its emergence and highlight its contribution to development in South Africa**. Study unit 9 should help you understand social movement unionism in South Africa with reference to COSATU. What factors have led to the weakening of COSATU's role in development? Study unit 9 highlights some of these factors, among which are COSATU's relationship with the ruling party and its failure to support what are considered weaker unions (2016:56–57). You should discuss these challenges and evaluate how they have affected COSATU's role as a social movement union. It will count in your favour if you **expand on the challenges faced by COSATU and examine the impact that challenges of this nature have had on social movement unions in South Africa**. For example, South Africa has witnessed a rise in localised social movement unions such as Sikhula Sonke (White 2010) as a result of the failure of formal trade unions to prioritise farmworkers' demands. Other social movements in South Africa that emerged as a result of the shortcomings of COSATU include SAFTU, which broke away from COSATU, and AMCU, which is very active in the platinum mining area. You must show that you are abreast of developments in the field and that you have consulted recent literature on social movement unions in South Africa. It is important that you provide your **own opinion** of whether COSATU will ever be revitalised as a social movement union in South Africa.

Mark allocation:

50%–59%: To pass this assignment you need to show an adequate understanding of social movement unions. In your discussion you should describe social movement unions, outline reasons for their emergence and the strategies employed by these movements. You further need to discuss COSATU as a social movement union and then evaluate the factors that have led to its weakening. You should also provide your own opinion on whether COSATU will be revitalised as a social movement union. Your discussion should be structured in a logical manner. An attempt should be made to use the correct referencing technique.

60%–74%: To be awarded a mark in this range you need to do all of the above. Relevant examples should be included to support an argument. In addition, your discussion should

demonstrate insight into the topic. Your discussion should be structured in a logical manner. The correct referencing technique must be used and sources should be well integrated in the essay. The argument must flow logically.

75% and above: To be awarded a mark in this range you need to do all of the above. Relevant examples should be included to support an argument. In addition, your discussion should demonstrate insight into the topic. Your discussion should be structured in a logical manner. The correct referencing technique must be used and sources should be well integrated in the essay. The argument must flow logically.

ASSIGNMENT 07

Question:

Discuss the impact on development of the new social movement unions in South Africa.

Prescribed reading:

- study guide: units 4 and 9
- *Popular initiatives in development: a reader*, 2016 – contributions by Seidman (2011) and White (2010)

How to approach the question:

To answer this assignment you should begin your discussion by **providing a description of social movement unions** (please note that social movement unions are not the same as new social movements, which include the TAC, the Black Sash, Abahlali base Mjondolo and others. Provide examples of social movement unions as given in Seidman (2011). According to Seidman (2011), there are subtle differences between traditional labour movements (trade unions) and social movement unionism. Using his writings as part of your background would strengthen your discussion.

In your discussion you should **describe these movements, outline reasons for their emergence and highlight their relationship to popular initiatives and development**. Study unit 4 provides a comprehensive discussion of various types of movements as forms of popular initiatives and focuses on trade unions (social union movements). Furthermore, study units 7 and 8 highlight the strategy of unionisation and its contribution to development, and study unit 9 describes this strategy further with a focus on the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). Seidman (2011) provides a comprehensive discussion of the concept of social movement unionism and examines the various meanings of the concept over time and within different contexts.

After you have provided a general description of social movement unions your discussion should focus on addressing the question, that is, **the impact that the new social movement unions have on development in South Africa**. Your discussion should now focus on the **roles of social movement unions and their contributions to development**. Here it would be

helpful to make use of examples of social movement unions in South Africa. Study unit 9 provides a detailed account of the role that COSATU plays in development in South Africa and examines how this role has changed over time. White (2010) focuses on Sikhula Sonke as a farmworkers' union in the Western Cape and evaluates the movement's contribution to democracy and development in South Africa. In your discussion you can focus on one case study or do a comparative study of two or more case studies.

You are also encouraged to refer to examples from your own life, whether from your community, school, university or workplace. You should furthermore demonstrate that you have consulted both the prescribed literature and additional literature obtained from credible sources.

In your discussion you should provide a **contextual background to the case study or case studies**. Here you should briefly describe the **social movement union(s)**, **highlight the reasons for its/their emergence and outline the strategies employed by the union(s)**. You should then focus your discussion on the **impact of these strategies on development**. You should describe what these strategies entail and then examine how they aid or limit the contribution of the social movement union(s) to development in South Africa. Following this, you should briefly state **your own opinion or point of view** on **the new** social movement unions and their impact on development. However, you need to make sure that your discussion supports your views.

Mark allocation:

50%–59%: To pass this assignment you need to show an adequate understanding of social movement unions. In your discussion you should describe social movement unions, outline reasons for their emergence and highlight their strategies. You then need to provide a discussion in which you consider the impact of the new social movement unions on development. You need to refer to case studies of social movement unions in South Africa to support your discussion. Your discussion must be structured in a logical manner and should contain the appropriate style of referencing throughout.

60%–74%: To be awarded a mark in this range you need to do all of the above. In addition, your discussion should demonstrate insight into the topic. This insight must be supported by relevant points and practical examples from the literature and must be integrated into your argument in a logical way.

75% and above: To be awarded a mark in this range you need to do all of the above. In addition, you need to make use of additional sources to support your statements. You also need to demonstrate an ability to discuss the topic critically and to relate it to a broader ideological debate.