If opportunity was the keyword for the so-called triumph of global capitalism in the 1990s, events of the early 21st century have brought vulnerability to the fore. This reading group will discuss the theory and case studies useful to understand rural livelihood struggles and vulnerability in the Global South. We engage a political ecology that simultaneously recognizes the power of discourse and materiality of everyday life. The course follows a simple progression beginning with reviews and recent developments in the livelihoods literature, then covering research on vulnerability and finally addressing alternatives that may promote social and environmental justice. Graduate students will facilitate discussion with written reviews and verbal summaries of the week's readings.

Week 1 ~ Jan. 9
Introduction, syllabus dispersal, general overview.

PART I: Living the Rural: Livelihoods, Development, and Resources in Socio-Material Context

Week 2 ~ Jan. 16

Further reading:
See websites on livelihoods: www.livelihoods.org and www.ids.ac.uk/ids/
Livelihood Guidance Sheets

Week 3 ~ Jan. 23

Further reading:

Week 4 ~ Jan. 30

Week 5 ~ Feb. 6

Further reading:

PART II: Vulnerability and "Hazards": Conceptual frameworks and case studies

*Week 6 ~ Feb. 13*

*Week 7 ~ Feb. 20*


*Week 8 ~ Feb. 27*


PART III: Making Transnational Linkages: Local/Global Governance and Development Alternatives

*Week 9 ~ Mar. 6*

*Week 10 ~ Mar. 13*


Further readings:
Governance and policy . . . . next quarter we hope to delve deeper into civil society transitioning from . . . . .
