



Course information 2018–19

GY2109 Geographies of development

This course examines the nature of development in the so-called ‘Third World’, now more commonly referred to as the ‘developing world’ or the ‘Global South’. The key aim is to provide a comprehensive introduction to the main economic, social, political and spatial processes of development in this part of the world.

Aims and objectives

The course specifically aims to:

- provide a theoretical foundation for understanding development in the Global South in the last 60 years
- develop comparative knowledge on the main themes in the development of Southern nations in relation to empirical examples
- critically explore solutions to development problems through an analysis of the policy infrastructure and interventions of governments, international development agencies and civil society.

Exclusion

This course may not be taken with *DV2192 Poverty and development*

Essential reading

For full details, please refer to the reading list

Desai, Vandana and Robert B. Potter (eds) *The Companion to Development Studies*. (London: Routledge)

Assessment

This course is assessed by a three-hour unseen written examination.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the course and having completed the essential reading and activities students should be able to:

- ✓ critically evaluate the evolution of development theories
- ✓ summarise and explain the diversity and inequalities of development experiences both within countries as well as among nations
- ✓ describe and critically evaluate the main contemporary components of development in the Global South with particular reference to economic, political and social processes and issues
- ✓ discuss different policy approaches from the macro-level of international development agencies to the micro-level of grassroots organisations
- ✓ describe and explain the reasons for the vast inequalities which exist in the world today, and demonstrate what efforts have been made over time to address these injustices.

Students should consult the appropriate *EMFSS Programme Regulations*, which are reviewed on an annual basis. The *Regulations* provide information on the availability of a course, where it can be placed on your programme’s structure, and details of co-requisites and prerequisites.

Syllabus

This is a description of the material to be examined. On registration, students will receive a detailed subject guide which provides a framework for covering the topics in the syllabus and directions to the essential reading

The syllabus comprises five sections that introduce the key concepts and themes drawing widely on empirical examples and policy contexts. The course focuses on case study material from Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Section 1: Introduction and theoretical approaches

Defining and conceptualising development: Categorisations and definitions of the 'Third World' and development in the context of globalisation; the Millennium Development Goals.

Changing theoretical perspectives and new issues: Modernisation theory; dependency theory and uneven development; Neoliberalism, post-development and post-neoliberalism; sustainable development;; violence and conflict.

Section 2: Population change and urbanisation

Transforming populations: Population growth and control; rural development; rural-urban migration and rural-urban linkages.

Urbanising for the future: History, characteristics, and processes of urbanisation; access to shelter – housing, infrastructure and services.

Section 3: Economies and development

Industrialisation for development:

Patterns, trends and models of industrialisation; globalisation and industrialisation; gender and export-led industrialisation; fair trade.

Making a living in cities: Urban labour markets - an overview; the informal sector- an engine of growth? Household survival strategies and women's work.

Section 4: Poverty, gender inequalities and households

Poverty, vulnerability and exclusion:

Defining, measuring and conceptualising poverty; paradigms and theories of urban poverty; contemporary approaches to poverty – vulnerability, capabilities and assets; the 'feminisation of poverty'.

Gender inequalities: Changing nature of gender roles and relations. measuring gender inequality; approaches to gender and development policy; men and masculinities Families and households in transition: urbanisation and changing household structures; women-headed households.

Section 5: Development policies: from macro-level to grassroots

Healthcare and health policy;; agencies of development; civil society and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), distribution of foreign aid.