



Course information 2026-27

DV1171 Introduction to International Development

General information

MODULE LEVEL: 4

CREDIT: 30

NOTIONAL STUDY TIME: 300 hours

MODE: Locally Taught and Independent Learner Route Only (not available for Online Taught students)

Summary

This course provides students with an interdisciplinary introduction to the ideas, historical processes and events, policy debates and practical interventions that are shaping the economic, social and political direction of international development today.

Conditions

Please refer to the relevant programme structure in the EMFSS Programme Regulations to check:

- where this course can be placed on your degree structure; and
- details of prerequisites and corequisites for this course.

You should also refer to the Exclusions list in the EMFSS Programme Regulations to check if any exclusions apply for this course.

Aims and objectives

The specific objectives of the course are to:

- To demonstrate that development is not just about the 'South' or the 'Third World' but that it should be understood as a global phenomenon.
- To describe and evaluate the main intellectual traditions out of which ideas about international development have emerged.
- To show how development can only be fully understood if its historical and political dimensions are given as much attention as its economic and social dimensions.
- To illustrate how development policy and practice has evolved over time and why some options are seen as possible by governments, International Financial Institutions, and civil society organisations while others are not.
- To do this by looking in depth at the following key themes: 'late' development (i.e. industrialisation now) and industrial policy; agrarian change and rural development; governance and public policy; the international order.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course, and having completed the Essential Reading and activities, students should be able to:

- Show why development should be understood as global phenomenon.
- Discuss and critically evaluate the main intellectual traditions shaping international development today.
- Use a range of historical, political, economic, and social concepts and facts in their analysis of development issues.
- Demonstrate a good understanding of how policy debates and practical interventions have evolved over time in the context of a number of key themes.

Employability skills

Below are the three most relevant employability skills that students acquire by undertaking this course which can be conveyed to future prospective employers:

1. Adaptability and resilience
2. Communication
3. Complex problem solving

Essential reading

For full details, please refer to the reading list:

Desai, V. and Potter, R. (eds) *The Companion to Development Studies*. (Routledge; 2014) 3rd edition [ISBN 9781444167245]

Todaro, M. and S. Smith *Economic Development*. (Addison Wesley, 2014) 12th edition [ISBN 9781292002972]

Assessment

This course is assessed by a three-hour and fifteen-minute closed-book written examination.

Syllabus

Part 1: A framework for the course

- **Ideas of development:** Enlightenment origins; academic specialisation and colonialism; ideas of development after 1945.

Part 2: Theories of development

- **Theories of the State and market:** Founding theories of the state; theorizations since 1945; founding theories of the market; theorisations since 1945.
- **Theories of institutions and civil society:** Founding theories of institutions; recent theorizations; founding theories of civil society; theorizations since 1945.
- **The origins of Capitalism and the rise of the West:** Why Europe? The non-European world and early European imperialism; the age of empire.
- **The rise and fall of the era of national development:** The Cold War and the Long Boom; political independence and 'Third Worldism'; the crisis of the 1970s and its consequences.

Part 3: Key themes in development policy and practice

- **Late development and industrial policy:** Industrialisation – meaning and early approaches; implications for other aspects of development; late industrial policies; managing trade and investment.
- **Agrarian change and rural development:** Land reform and agrarian reform; the 'Green Revolution'; newer approaches to rural development.
- **Governance and public policy:** Governance; governance and corruption; understanding democracy; democracy and economic growth; democracy and poverty.
- **The international order:** Understanding globalisation; how old is globalisation? How does globalisation affect development? Has globalisation affected poverty and inequality? Understanding the international system – the United Nations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund