

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Global Development

Course Number and Section:

CGS

1023F 550

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Global development is a concept, a political project, and also a practice and an area of study. As a concept, it implies a certain aspiration of material improvement of regions, countries, communities, and individuals. It also implies the betterment of nonmaterial aspects of life such as physical and mental health, freedom, access to health and education as well as a sustainable way of life that protects nature and guarantees our survival. However, as you have guessed by now, many of these aspirations do not necessarily come in a bundle. In fact, it is quite possible that when we try to turn some of these aspirations into reality, we may work in detriment of another. For example, creating material improvement often comes with the accumulation of wealth by a few people while others might become impoverished, and nature depleted (via mining and labour exploitation, for example). In other words, the concept of development is a terrain in dispute with many strands and views that often collide with each other.

In this course we will explore some of the main theories about development, we will discuss their origins and main tenets. We will also identify key development actors and ask: Who “does” development and who is affected by it? We will place these discussions in a historical context and think about them from our own collective and individual positions. Finally, we will identify some of the key issues that have shaped conversations about development historically and continue to be of relevance today.

Learning Outcomes:

- a) Identify and define key approaches in development studies.
- b) Identify and contextualize the key actors “doing” development.
- c) Engage with key problems in development and have an informed opinion about them.
- d) Have a broader sense of political geography and the location of other countries in the world outside North America, particularly in the “global south.”

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All the course materials will be available on our learning platform, as well as through the hyperlinks available in this syllabus. The materials that will be used in the course are a mix of readings from a wide diversity of experts in key issues of development and global inequality. The readings are often academic, but also include journalistic and civil society documents, as well as speeches from policy makers and political leaders. The materials also include some podcasts through which you will get the chance to listen to practitioners and activists as they

reflect on current issues

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Active participation	Throughout the term	10
Mindmap	October	20
Comparative table	October	15
Indicators Analysis	November	20
Final Exam	December	35

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Monday, August 19, 2024