

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:

Development is one of those words that can mean many things. If someone asked you on the way to class what the name of your course is, they are likely to make many assumptions about what it is that you are actually going to be learning about. Is it children's psychology? Is it a course on the development of businesses and enterprises? Is it a course for urban developers? Answers to the latter questions would be no, no, and no, but ...this doesn't take us very far, does it?

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, i.e.). The concept of development is a terrain in dispute with many strands and views that often collide with each other.

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 - %
In class attendance	All term	5
In class participation	All term	5
World Map exercise	sept 28	15
Mindmap	oct 12	15
Comparative table	nov 9	20
Forum	nov 24	10
Exam	TBD	30

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

Monday, August 4, 2025