

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

As a practice, development includes the work of governments, big and small enterprises, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and social movements. As an area of studies, development is associated with the actions taken by a wide diversity of actors to improve everyday conditions of living of everyone, globally. It is also an inquiry into the reasons why those conditions are shaped by economic, social, and political inequalities. Most importantly, development is an open question because the more we delve into it, we realize that there are several views about what (if at all) is the sort of development that people aspire to.

In this course we will explore some of the main theories about development, we will discuss their origins and main tenets. We will place these discussions in a historical context and think about them from our collective and individual positions.

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 and films 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 - %
Forum participation		30
Map exercise	05/17/24	20
Comparative Table	05/24/24	20
Infographic	05/30/24	20
Infographic presentation	05/10/24	10

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

Sunday, April 28, 2024