

PG/MA in Development Studies 2010/11

Subject Outline: Political Economy of Development

Subject Title: The Political Economy of Development

Subject Status: Mandatory

Credit Rating: *as per schedule* **Credit Level:** 9

Total Contact Hours: Lecture: 40

Subject Aims

The core aim is to provide participants with an introductory overview of the main environmental and political-economic issues shaping development patterns in countries of the both the global South and the North. The course will begin by explaining some of the key global development indicators, followed by an introduction into the main schools of thought that seek to identify the main drivers of, and barriers to development. That introduction will then allow a more in depth exploration of some of the fundamental debates and issues facing the world around sustainability, governance – national, regional and globally and the roles played by state, non-state and multilateral actors in shaping the development agenda.

Learning Outcomes

Participants at the end of the programme should have understanding of

- what current indices of economic growth and development measure and their associated strengths and weaknesses
- the millennium development goals and the millennium village project, and their role in the current aid agenda
- how inequality is measured, its causes and the potential societal implications
- the background and ideology of current development theories and their associated policies
- the roles and influence of the Multilateral International Financial Institutions and the World Trade Organisations in shaping the global development agenda, and debates around their representitiveness
- aid typology, donor trends, and current debates on aid effectiveness
- an insight into the political economy of resource extraction and environmental change; an understanding of the linkages between consumption and wealth generation, poverty and environmental change; to examine current debates on the future of global food systems and agriculture

It is hoped that by the end of the course, the students will have sufficient knowledge to be able to engage in research and lobbying on these areas in an informed manner

Course outline

1. *Measuring - Growth, Poverty, Inequality and Development: GDP's, Gini's and Happy Planets*
2. *The Millennium Development Goals and the Millennium Development Villages*

3. *Political & Economic Models of Development: Governance, Development States and Development Traps*
4. *Environment and Poverty Linkages*
5. *Key Global Environmental challenges - Climate change, Water security and Biodiversity Loss*
6. *Greening Economics: Can there be growth in finite world?*
7. *The Politics of Sustainable Development and Global environmental governance: What progress since Rio?*
8. *China, Development and Africa*
9. *Sustainable Agriculture: from food security to food sovereignty*
10. *The Multilateral Institutions and their role in promoting Development*
11. *Development Assistance - Bringing Development?*

Assessment Methods, rationale and criteria:

Continuous assessment: Two term papers (2500 words in length) are to cover the topics completed at time of setting in the respective sub areas of political economy and the environment. By setting two term papers, participants are given an opportunity engage in greater detail with the topics covered - the respective areas of key terminology/concepts, current debates and literature and allows the examiner to assess the resulting engagement to see if the learning outcomes are being met.

Final assessment: A final essay (3000 words in length) gives the learner an opportunity to investigate in greater depth one key area from the topics covered and demonstrate that they gained a deeper understanding and knowledge of that particular issue and possible actions with regard to tackling that issue. The examiner will determine if a sufficient number of the learning outcomes for this course have be met at the Level 9 standards of content, presentation and analysis required. Standards are based on the 'KDSC Guidelines for Marking'.

General Texts

- Adams. W.M. (2009) *Green Development: Environment and Sustainability in the Third World* 3rd Edition, (Routledge)
- Baker S (2006) *Sustainable Development*
- Chang, H. (2003), *Rethinking Development Economics*, (Anthem Press)
- Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (2009)
- Dresner, S (2008), *The Principles of Sustainability*, (Earthscan)
- Peet, Richard and Elaine Hartwick (2009) *Theories of Development: Conditions, Arguments , Alternatives*, (Guilford Press, 2nd Ed.)
- Pittock A.B. (2009) *Climate Change: Science, Impacts and Solutions*, Earthscan
- Rist, Gilbert (2008) *The History of Development: From Western Origins to Global Faith* (Zed books, 3rd Ed.)
- Sachs, Jeffrey (2008) *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet*, (Penguin)
- Sachs W & Santarius T. eds (2007) *Fair Future; Resource Conflict, Security and Global Justice*, Zed Books, London
- Stiglitz, Joseph (2006) *Making Globalization Work*, (Norton)
- Todaro, M. & Steven C. Smith (2008) *Economic Development* (Longman, 10th edition)
- UNDP (2009) *Human Development Report Annual*
- World Bank (2009) *World Development Report 2010 Development and Climate Change*, <http://www.worldbank.org/wdr2010> accessed 27/9/2009

A more detailed reading list will be provided for each session.

Websites

Centre for Global Development

www.cgdev.org

ELDIS

www.eldis.org

IIED

www.iied.org

IMF

www.imf.org

UNDP

www.undp.org

UNEP

www.unep.org

World Bank

www.worldbank.org

World Trade Organisation

www.wto.org