**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Course Scope and Aim**

**International or Global development** is a broad concept based on the idea that societies and countries have differing levels of economic or human development on an international scale. Economic development may be approached as the intertemporal evolution towards more complex institutions that deal with the uncertainties–imperfections arising from more complicated forms of exchange and involving both market and non–market actors. Τhe notion of development forms the basis for international classifications such as developed, developing country and least developed countries, and emphasizes on the improvement of the quality of life and providing opportunities of success. International Development is a field dedicated to improving the living conditions of the world’s population. It focuses on long term solutions to problems such as poverty, poor health care and sanitation, human rights violations and inequalities. These solutions often involve humanitarian organizations or institutions most of which were set up after the Second World War, the so-called Bretton Woods Institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with a focus on economic growth, alleviating poverty, and improving living conditions in previously colonized countries.

The course aims to the understanding of all aspect of international development.

**Course Syllabus**

The course syllabus builds along:

* Theories of development, such as: modernization theory, dependency theory, world system theory, neoliberalism, good governance, capacity approach, and post development theory.
* The evolution of international development practices from structural adjustment programs to poverty reduction and to sustainable development.

While structural adjustment programs encouraged poor countries to undergo social and economic transformations creating industrialization and intentional industrial policy, poverty reduction consists of direct budget support for social welfare programs creating macroeconomic stability that leads to economic growth. Poverty is the condition of lacking access to fundamental human needs such as food, shelter, and safe drinking water with some complementing this definition with social and political arrangements manifested in a lack of dignity.

Sustainable development projects seek not only to implement solutions to existing problems but to assist developing countries to create the necessary capacity needed to provide long term sustainable solutions to their problems. A truly sustainable development project is one which will be able to carry on indefinitely with no further international involvement or support, whether it be financial or otherwise. International development projects may consist of a single, transformative project to address a specific problem or a series of projects targeted at several aspects of society. Promoted projects are ones which involve problem solving that reflects the unique culture, politics, geography, and economy of a region. More recently, the focus in this field has been projects that aim towards empowering women, building local economies, and caring for the environment

In context of human development, it usually encompasses foreign aid, governance, healthcare, education, poverty reduction, gender equality, disaster preparedness, infrastructure, economics, human rights, environment and issues associated with these.

The international community has codified development aims in, for instance, the Millennium Development Goals (2000 to 2015) and the Sustainable Development Goals (2015 to 2030)

* Issues addressed by International Development, such as: International Economic Inequality, Dignity, Participation, Appropriateness, Sustainability, Capacity Building, Inefficiencies of Institutions, Rights based Approach.
* International development stakeholders, such as Supranational Institutions, non-governmental and international non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, private sector actors, etc.
* The passing from international to global development. The latter considers development in relation to the whole world and as part of a ‘global development paradigm’.It signals a departure from the dominant orientation of 20th-century international development towards ‘poor countries’ and ‘poor people’ and towards a world where many of the causes of development cannot be segmented along North–South or national boundaries but rather in a ‘one-world’ approach, even in some cases beyond the Global North and Global South approach.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

* The interconnections between growth models, economics and political ideologies and the debates around the relative effectiveness and inefficiencies of market-led and state-led development models.
* Current aid models, Sustainable Development Goals and the relative debates.
* The concept of governance and its interpretations within the context of development and the background and ideology of current development theories, economics models and their associated policies.
* The factors that influence global policy development and institutions that oversee such issues as trade, investment and aid and the economic implications of the rapid economic progress in China, India and Brazil.

**Course Assessment**

The course would be assessed by, **first**, a long essay written during the course, **second**, a final exam paper, and **third**, the presentation of the essay. The contribution of each assessment method is as it follows:

The essay would account for the 40 per cent of the overall grade.

The presentation of the essay would account for 20 per cent of the overall grade.

The final exam paper would account for 40 per cent of the overall grade.

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**References**

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