

Course Title: The Politics of Development

Course Code: DVST-811

Credit Hours: 3-0

Pre-requisite Courses: None

Course Description:

1. Politics shape and limit our possibilities for realizing development and affecting social change. This course introduces students to the major ways in which politics, whether embedded in institutional structures or in literature, effects what we see and enact as 'development.' Students of this course will re-evaluate the nature and concept of 'development' in light of the questions raised by colonialism, the rise of neo-liberalism, ecology and sustainable development, human rights agendas and social movements, feminism, post-colonialism, and 'post-development.' At the end of this course, students will be able to explain the centrality of political power in development interventions and formulate tentative alternative strategies.

Course Objectives:

1. For students to recognize the importance of politics, political power, and political forms within the field of development.
2. To familiarize students with the key political concepts and theories necessary to understand how competing interests and stakeholders interact within development.
3. To encourage critical questioning of development policies, programs, and paradigms.

Course Outcomes:

4. At the end of this course, students should be able to
 - a. understand the rich and varied complexity of 'development' in the contemporary world;
 - a. locate development ideas and trends within their historical and political legacies;
 - b. identify and critically examine the myriad ways in which politics influences the field of development.

Course Contents:

5. Students will be taught about the various political theories and formations that have influenced and continue to shape development studies and practice. These include, but are not limited to, state, state-society interactions, political systems, government regimes, and forms of governance. They will also inquire deeper into core political concepts in development, such as sovereignty, democracy, and legitimacy.

6. **Lab work:** None.

7. **Textbooks or Reference Books:**

Bebbington, A.J., S. Hickey and D.C. Mitlin (2008) *Can NGOs Make a Difference? The Challenge of Development Alternatives*. London: Zed Books.

Escobar, A. (1995) *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Fritz, V. and A.R. Menocal (2007) 'Developmental States in the New Millennium: Concepts and Challenges for a New Aid Agenda', *Development Policy Review* 25(5): 531-552.

Haugaard, M. (ed.) (2002) *Power: A Reader*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Harvey, D. (2005) *The New Imperialism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Harvey, D. (2011) *The Enigma of Capital and the Crises of Capitalism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Heywood, A. (2004) *Political Theory: An Introduction*. (3rd edn) New York, London: Palgrave MacMillan.

Heywood, A. (2007) *Politics*. (3rd edn) New York, London: Palgrave MacMillan.

Kabeer, N. (1994) *Reversed Realities: Gender Hierarchies in Development Thought*. London; New York: Verso.

Leftwich, A. (2007) *States of Development: The Primacy of Politics in Development*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Mamdani, M. (1996) *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Said, E. W. (1978) *Orientalism*. New York: Pantheon Books.

Robinson, M. and G. White (eds) (1998) *The Democratic Developmental State: Politics and Institutional Design*. New York: Oxford University Press.