

Course Title: Theories and Concepts in Development Studies

Course Code: DVST-801

Credit Hours: 3-0

Pre-requisite Courses: None.

Course Description:

1. What is development? What is 'development studies'? A foundational course for all MS Development Studies students, this course provides a comprehensive review of major ideas, trends, and theories within the interdisciplinary field of development. This course will familiarize students with those ideas and debates which have shaped the development field. By situating these ideas within their historical contexts and the conditions that generated them, this course further encourages student enquiry into how issues and problems are identified, how they are defined, how solutions are sought, and who they are sought by. Students of this course will develop greater fluency and interpretive abilities in the language and literature of development studies, a skill that will serve them throughout their program and beyond.

2. **Course Objectives:**

- a. To acquaint student with the major histories, theories, and concepts that have shaped the field of development studies as an interdisciplinary social science and practice.
- b. To help students situate various theoretical and disciplinary approaches within a mental map of the field of development studies, thereby enabling them to understand how different ideologies have influenced development policies and programs.
- c. To cultivate critical analysis and dialogue about the nature, objectives, and evolution of development practice.

3. **Course Outcomes:**

At the end of this course students should have,

- a. a thorough understanding of the history of development and development studies;
- b. the ability to critically analyze both 'development' and 'development studies' by questioning their assumptions, theoretical foundations, and practices;
- c. a common language and vocabulary derived from development literature with which to converse and debate with each other.

Course Contents:

4. Students will learn about foundational ideas of 'development' from a historical perspective. These include, but are not limited to, population transitions, industrialization, modern nation-state formation, democracy, freedom, sustainability, North-South relations, Modernization, Core-Periphery, World-Systems theory, globalization, and the political economy.

Lab work: None.

Textbooks or Reference Books:

5. Amsden, A. H. (2007) *Escape from Empire: The Developing World's Journey Through Heaven and Hell*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Chang, H. (2002) *Kicking Away the Ladder: Development Strategy in Historical Perspective*. London: Anthem.
- Rist, G. (2008) *The History of Development: From Western Origins to Global Faith*. London: Zed.
- Payne, A. and N. Phillips (2009) *Development*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Sen, A. (1999) *Development as Freedom*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.