POLITICS OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Key Information

Module code ISSU0029  
Taught during Session Two: Monday 22 July - Friday 9 August 2019  
Module workload 45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours  
Module leader Bethsabée Souris  
Department Political Science, Faculty of Social & Historical Sciences  
Credit 15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US  
Level Level 1, first year Undergraduate  
Pre-requisites Standard entry requirements  
Assessment Policy paper (40%)  
Essay (60%)

Module Overview

Academics and practitioners have paid increasing attention to the role that politics plays in development. The course provides students with an introduction to this exciting turn in development theory and practice. By the end of the course, students will have an understanding of global development, as well as the fundamentals of politics and political economy.

The course is divided into three parts.

- The first looks at the politics of developing countries, and includes sessions on institutions, leaders and coalitions, bureaucracy and civil society, and contestation and conflict.
- The second part considers global processes, and includes sessions on trade, aid, finance and investment, migration, and global governance.
- The final part considers development organisations, and will look at how donors and NGOs operate and the challenges they face.

The course will emphasise the links between theory and practice, using case-based learning from our own research (www.dlprog.org). Students will also have the opportunity to meet and discuss the links with guest speakers that work for various development organisations – we have existing working relationships with DFID (Department for International Development), ODI (Overseas Development Institute) and Oxfam.

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
Module Aims
The course provides students with an introduction to, and overview of, the politics of global development. The course takes a case-based approach – using grounded, empirical cases – to illustrate the role of politics in development. This allows us to unpack the theory, concepts, and history of international development. The course emphasises the links between theory and practice. Students will be provided with the opportunity to hear from guest speakers working for various development organisations.

The course is divided into three parts. Part 1 looks at the politics of developing countries, including sessions on institutions, leaders and coalitions, bureaucracy and civil society, and contestation, power, gender, and conflict. Part 2 looks at global processes, including sessions on trade, aid, finance and investment, migration, and global governance. Part 3 focuses on development organisations, and looks at how donor agencies, International Organisations, NGOs, etc. operate on a day-to-day basis and the reality of the current challenges they face.

Teaching Methods
The course will be delivered through a combination of lectures and seminars, student presentations, private reading and written work. Reading lists to be available online via the UCL library site. Quality standards will be maintained through regular updating of course outline and reading list, student support via regular office hours at the end of each day that students would be able to sign up to (as individuals or in groups) to discuss progress, questions, and presentation preparation. Students will be directed towards class materials and further support on Moodle.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this module, students will:

- Understand the centrality of politics for international development, poverty and inequality; how political factors and processes – such as formal and informal institutions, leadership, government and non-government actors, and interests and ideas – shape and are shaped by the process of development
- Have had hands on experience of using the political economy analysis tools used by donors and NGOs to design a development intervention and have engaged with a range of policy-makers and practitioners working in international development.
- Have an understanding of the international political economy of development, and how relations between richer and poorer nations – and the rules that govern these relations – shape and are shaped by development processes.
- Be introduced to different development organisations, such as donors and NGOs, how these organisations engage with politics in developing countries, and of criticisms of these organisations.
- Be introduced to different types of research on the politics of global development, and have an understanding of the link between theory and practice in international development.

Assessment Methods

- 1,000-word policy paper (40%)
- 2,000-word essay (60%)

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
Key Texts


