



University
of Victoria

POLI 217/GDS 201 Global Development

Instructor Fall 2022: Dr. Marlea Clarke

Course delivery: POLI 217/GDS 201 will be delivered face-to-face and on campus.

Course description:

What is 'development'? Why are some countries labelled 'undeveloped' while others are labelled 'developed'? How have colonialism and imperialism shaped global patterns of poverty and inequality? How have international development organisations (e.g. NGOs, the World Bank) and other sources of 'aid' addressed and therefore shaped poverty, inequality, food security, conflict, environmental degradation and other challenges? Overall, the course introduces students to theories, policies, debates, and struggles for equitable and sustainable development both historically and within the current global system.

The course is divided into three sections. Section 1 begins examines colonialism and imperialism, and some of the ways colonialism (and the legacy of colonialism) shaped global patterns of economic development, poverty and inequality. We will then explore some of the key theories of economic development and critiques of core development theories and practices. Section 2 examines some of the key actors in global development – local, national, and international – that shape debates, policies and development outcomes in various countries. We will explore the role of international development agencies, NGOs, social movements and governments. Section 3 examines a number of contemporary issues in global development, such as conflict and refugees, health, the environment and climate change, Indigenous resilience, and food security.

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Explore theories, policies, debates, and struggles for equitable and sustainable development both historically and within the current global system;
- Analyze, synthesize, interpret and evaluate ideas, information, situations and texts;
- Develop and practice academic writing skills;
- Practice research skills related to the discipline of political science.

Topics may include:

Imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism
Development 'aid' and national development agencies
Environment, climate change and migration

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.