

IDEV*2300 THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON DEVELOPMENT

Course Outline
Guelph Institute of Development Studies
University of Guelph

Winter 2023

Professor Craig Johnson

Classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00am-11:20am, MCKN 224
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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that the University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer our respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours as we strive to strengthen our relationships. To learn more about your own connections with land and Indigenous history, have a look at this amazing [website](#).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

IDEV*2300 explores the dominant and alternative theoretical perspectives that have been used to understand and define the field of international development studies. Students will examine the ways in which different theories have emerged and changed over time and how they relate to disciplinary and philosophical traditions. They will explore the impact of development theory on policy and practice aimed at bringing about development that is inclusive and sustainable.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Identify the key theoretical perspectives on inclusive and sustainable development, including their disciplinary and philosophical foundations.
2. Explain how and why prevailing theories of development have emerged, changed and been discarded over time.

3. Develop a critical understanding of critical and alternative theories that have shaped the field of development studies.
4. Reflect on one's own ideas, beliefs and values regarding inclusive and sustainable development.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is divided into four parts. **Part One** provides a critical introduction to the study and practice of international development. **Part Two** next considers the “grand theories” of development, tracing the political economy of capitalist development in Europe and in various non-European settings. Insights about the nature and scale of European capitalism will inform our understanding of European colonialism, which at its zenith forced a liberalization whose parallels are comparable with contemporary globalization. **In Part Three**, we consider the strategies that developing countries have used to manage and plan national economic development during two critical phases: (1) the period immediately following the end of the Second World War; and (2) the period following the debt crises of the 1980s. Comparative and historical insights about these experiences will inform theoretical perspectives about globalization and the political economy of development in the contemporary era. Finally, in **Part Four**, we explore “alternative” countercurrents in post-colonialism, post-development, feminism and ecological theory.

REQUIRED READINGS

There is one textbook for the course:

1. Peet, R. and E. Hartwick (2015) *Theories of Development* Third Edition New York: Guilford Press

The Peet and Hartwick text is available at the university bookstore, campus co-op and through most online retailers. All other readings are available in electronic format on CourseLink.