

IDEV*6200, Web Outline: Fall 2026

This course is offered using the Face-to-Face format.

Course Title: DEVELOPMENT THEORY, ISSUES, AND PROCESS

Instructor: Erin Nelson, enelson@uoguelph.ca

Course Description:

This interdisciplinary course explores theories, issues, and perspectives on development. Students will engage with analyses of development processes and the factors that drive these processes. The course will examine key issues in development, including poverty, inequality, sustainability, and governance, and delve into how perspectives on these issues have changed over time and across disciplines. The course will be taught through guided readings, case study analysis, and seminar-based discussions. IDEV*6200 will be writing-intensive and focus on developing professional skills related to oral communication of development issues.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of
 - a. Competing theoretical perspectives on development, including their disciplinary and philosophical foundations, and
 - b. How theoretical perspectives on development have changed over time.
2. Critically assess various theoretical perspectives on development and apply them to a range of complex development challenges.
3. Reflect on and challenge their own assumptions, ideas, beliefs, and values regarding development.
4. Propose development policies and practices emphasizing community-engaged, sustainable, inclusive change through group and independent case study assignments.
5. Communicate effectively in written and oral forms about established and alternative narratives in development theory, research, policy, and practice.

Readings:

All readings will be available through ARES and/or CourseLink.

Tentative Assessments (subject to change before class begins in September 2026):

Participation (20%)

Seminar Facilitation (30%)

Book Review (15%)

Research Proposal (5%)

Research Paper (30%)