



IDEV*1000 Understanding Development and Global Inequalities
Summer 2025
Guelph Institute of Development Studies
Credit Weight: 0.50

We live in a world of extreme wealth and opulence on the one hand and poverty and deprivation on the other. IDev1000 introduces international development with a focus on poverty and global inequality. It aims to enable students to understand what development is with reference to poverty, opulence and inequality; the historical relationship between development and inequality (how development is the cause and solution to tackle inequality); and to appreciate the nature of change, the role of various actors and strategies to bring about a less unequal world.

Instructor

Dr. Sharada Srinivasan

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Office Hours: By appointment

Learning outcomes

This course is designed to introduce first-year students to the world of development with a central focus on inequality. Students will acquire an analytical and conscientious grasp of how development and inequality go hand in hand and how development cannot happen without explicitly tackling inequality. The 6-week course will provide students an introduction to defining development and inequality, the historical context of development and a few global issues to explore the link between development and inequality. The course is divided into two related parts: (i) Definitional, theoretical and historical perspectives on development and inequality (weeks 1-3) (ii) global issues (weeks 4-6). Each week will consist of a 3-hour virtual synchronous lecture followed by two in-person 1.5-hour tutorials. In the weekly lectures, the instructor will introduce two topics which will be elaborated and built upon during the tutorial sessions.

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand and appreciate the complex and contentious nature of development and how inequality is embedded through various institutions and processes of development.
2. Appreciate the historical and political origins of the international development system;
3. Hone practical, ethical and cultural skills to engage in development as a way to understand how change comes about.
4. Participate in debates about current development challenges by evaluating different (differing) ideas and perspectives and begin to articulate and communicate one's point of view.

Readings**Textbook:**

Haslam, Paul Alexander, Schafer, Jessica, Beaudet, Pierre. (Eds.). (2021). Introduction to international development: approaches, actors, issues, and practice. 4th edition. E-book. Oxford University Press.