



COLLEGE of SOCIAL AND  
APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES

GUELPH INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

## **COURSE: IDEV\*1000DE Understanding Development and Global Inequalities**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The objective of the course is to provide an introduction to the study of international development as a contested and evolving effort to counteract global inequalities. Students will learn about the historical and political origins of the international development system, as well as the main development actors and institutions. The course will provide an introduction to foundational concepts within development studies, including poverty, inequality, human rights, foreign aid, and sustainable development.

### **COURSE DELIVERY FORMAT**

This class is designed as a *Distance Education* course. It has been developed in collaboration with Distance Learning Specialists and is delivered entirely online via the Brightspace Learning Management System (CourseLink). Since there are no scheduled classes to attend, students can take advantage of studying at a time and place that is convenient for them.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

This course will assist students in gaining an introductory understanding of global development and inequality. Specifically, each student will be able to:

- (1) Participate in debates about contemporary development challenges by evaluating ideas & perspectives from popular non-fiction books, documentaries, media, and other sources;
- (2) Analyze the historical and political origins of the international development system;
- (3) Describe key actors and institutions within international development and identify different perspectives about their roles;
- (4) Outline how culture, gender, and other aspects of identity play a role in multiple issue areas across development studies; and
- (5) Explain the practical and ethical challenges of working in intercultural contexts, and, by reflecting on cultural identities, develop intercultural skills.

## EVALUATION

Assessment	Weight
Weekly Discussion Contribution	20%
Quizzes	10%
Current Event Blog Post	10%
Book Club Presentation	15%
Analytical Book Review	20%
Online Final Exam	25%

## REQUIRED READINGS

All students will select and read **one of the three books** from the list below:

- 1. Title:** Up Ghost River: A Chief's Journey Through the Turbulent Waters of Native History.  
**Authors:** Edmund Metatawabin & Alexandra Shimo **Year:** 2015 **Publisher:** Toronto, ON: Vintage Canada **ISBN:** 978-0307399885
- 2. Title:** A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea: One Refugee's Incredible Story of Love, Loss, and Survival. **Author:** Melissa Fleming **Year:** 2018 **Publisher:** New York, NY: Flatiron Books **ISBN:** 978-1250106001
- 3. Title:** The Big Truck That Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster. **Author:** Jonathan Katz **Year:** 2014 **Publisher:** New York, NY: St. Martin's Press **ISBN:** 978-0307399885