

## DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

IDEV\*4000 - Fall 2025

University of Guelph

Professor Carmen Jacqueline Ho

*\*The course assessments may change\**

*\*The official syllabus will be available on Courselink on the first day of class\**

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This capstone course brings together students in their final year of the International Development Studies program to deepen their understanding of selected theoretical and conceptual debates which have dominated the study of countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. In this discussion-intensive seminar, students will integrate knowledge from a wide variety of readings in seminars and refine their analytical and communication skills through the different assignments. Topics covered will include global health, food and nutrition security, poverty and inequality, state-led development, and foreign aid. In addition, students will have the opportunity to explore a topic of their interest in a research paper. In previous years, students have developed research projects on a wide range of topics, including the politics of malnutrition, environmental policy, conservation efforts, colonial legacies, urban development and inclusive governance, and economic development.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Critically assess theories of development and the practice of international development
- Describe different perspectives on development and underdevelopment
- Engage in key debates relating to key development topics
- Communicate complex ideas in written and oral form

### FORMAT

This advanced-level course will be taught as a discussion-based seminar. As your instructor, I will give introductory remarks to begin each class and pose a few questions, then I will turn it over to you. Take advantage of this opportunity. This is one of few courses in which there is no lecture and you can analyze the readings and discuss your thoughts with your peers. As such, you should be ready to complete a significant number of readings each week. The course will proceed quickly through a wide range of topics, most of which are conceptually challenging. These will be discussed in class and anyone taking the course should be prepared to actively engage with others in a respectful manner.

### ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment	Weight	Description	Submission	Due Date
Participation	20%	Share your critical assessment of the readings and discussion questions	In Class	Ongoing
Research Paper Proposal	20%	Write a short essay on development narratives	Dropbox	Late Sept/Early Oct
Group Presentation and Activity	25%	Give a presentation on a development topic and facilitate a class activity	In Class & Dropbox	Please see Courselink for the date of your presentation/activity
Research Paper	35%	Write a research paper on a key development issue	Dropbox	Wed, Nov 26, 11:59pm