

**COURSE: IDEV\*6200: Development Theory, Issues and Process**

Instructor: **Ryan Briggs**

Office location: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Email: rbriggs@uoguelph.ca

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an introductory survey course aimed at MA and PhD students. The main goal of the course is to familiarize you with key debates in the field. Secondary goals include improving your writing and spoken communication and making you a more confident reader of international development research.

The course begins with three weeks on basics. We cover some philosophical foundations of development, measurement issues, and general trends. You can think of the first three substantive classes as aimed at building up some good mental machinery that we can then use for the remainder of the course (and that you can hopefully use for the rest of your studies). The following two weeks offer different answers to one large development question: why are some countries poor while others are rich? Following that are four pragmatic courses highlighting ways that people have responded to development challenges. The course ends with two weeks that places everything that we have learned into historical context.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

This course will examine key issues in development, for example: social justice, poverty and inequality, sustainability, governance and inclusiveness, and how perspectives on these issues have changed over time and differ across disciplinary perspectives. The course will be writing-intensive and focus on the development of skills in oral communication of development issues.