

THEORIES AND DEBATES IN DEVELOPMENT

IDEV*6800 - Fall 2022

University of Guelph

Professor Carmen Jacqueline Ho

Time: Thursdays, 11:30am-2:20pm

Location: MCKN 800c

The course requirements may change

The official syllabus will be distributed on the first day of class

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides PhD students in the International Development Studies program with the opportunity 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 readings and discussion-intensive seminar, students will cover a wide variety of readings and refine their analytical and communication skills through the different assignments.

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 practical topics including the role of the state, democracy, global policy, international actors, as well as issue areas such as poverty and inequality, and hunger and malnutrition
- 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. 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 read and reflect on the readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignment	Weight	Description	Submission	Due Date
Participation	10%	Share your critical assessment of the readings and discussion questions	In Seminar	Throughout the semester
Blog Post	20%	Write a blog post based on readings of your choice from Weeks 3-5	Dropbox	Fri, Oct 7, 11:59pm
Critical Reflection	20%	Write a critical reflection based on a discussion question from Weeks 3-8	Dropbox	Fri, Oct 28, 11:59pm
Research Paper	30%	Write a research paper on a key development issue of your choice	Dropbox	Fri, Nov 18, 11:59pm
In-class presentation	20%	Assign readings, develop discussion questions, and give a presentation on a key development issue of your choice	In Seminar	Thurs, Dec 1, 11:30am