Minor Development Studies
Inhoudsopgave

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Course objective
The aim of this course is to foster students' insight into issues of poverty, global inequality and development. Students will develop an anthropological perspective on developmental issues in the Global South.

Course content
The development of a capitalist economy in the North and the ongoing, global restructuring of the economy have impacted on economic and social development of the global South. Policies of states, supranational development agencies, and local NGOs to raise the standard of living in the so-called less developed countries have not attained the success levels hoped for. In fact, growth-oriented policies may have negative side effects, such as increased inequality, both within and between states, and ecological degradation. In this course, we analyse the interactions between (inter)national stakeholders and local populations, substantiating how particularly the labelled “poor” experience inequality and poverty. We also highlight potential and experienced gaps between intentions and outcomes of development policies and look at what anthropology can contribute to ‘development’ debates and policy implementation.

Form of tuition
Lectures and tutorial

Type of assessment
Assignments (40%) and exam (60%)

Course reading
- Some additional articles.

Target group
Obligatory course for students in the minor Development Studies; elective course for students in 2nd year of BSc CAO; optional course for 2nd and 3rd year Bachelor’s students and students of the Exchange Programme.

Remarks
This course is open to students from various disciplines who have completed their first year of their Bachelor programme. Students are
invited to participate in discussion in class.

**Environment and Development**

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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>drs. B.G. Keuper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching staff</td>
<td>dr. W.R.S. Critchley</td>
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<td>Teaching method(s)</td>
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**Course objective**
This course aims to help the student to examine and critically reflect on the relationships between economic and social development, and the environment.

**Course content**
The course begins with an introductory overview of what we mean by the concepts of environment and development and how the two are related: Is sustainable development, with its notions of environmental 'friendliness', really achievable? After that the course will discuss two overall aspects of the international E&D framework: (1) Global Issues - which considers the links between development on the one hand and environment, trade and poverty on the other. (2) Local Issues - which focuses on the increasingly serious issues of land degradation, deforestation and growing water shortages, and asks key questions of how these are related to aspects of human development in poor countries especially within the agricultural (and off-farm) sectors. Various illustrated case studies provide the basis for teaching. Through this course students learn to recognise and analyse the current and potential impact of the major international environmental concerns; to appreciate the complexities of environmental issues related to development at a global level; and learn lessons from case studies drawn from over 20 developing countries.

**Form of tuition**
Lectures and tutorial

**Type of assessment**
Group presentations (40%) and exam (60%).

**Course reading**

**Target group**
Obligatory course for students in the minor Development Studies. Optional course for 2nd and 3rd year Bachelor’s students and students of the Exchange Programme.
Remarks
This course is open to students from various disciplines who have completed their first year of their Bachelor programme. Students are invited to participate in discussions in class.

Culture and Citizenship

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<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>dr. A.J. Salman</td>
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Course objective
Students gain knowledge of and insight in the differences in perceptions of citizenship rights and democracy, both based on ethnography and in the setting of the contemporary celebration of the right to cultural difference. Additionally, they reflect on the dilemmas contained in today's controversies on, on the one hand, fostering and respecting cultural difference, and on the other hand the struggle for human rights universals.

Course content
It is the cultural right of an ethnic or religious community to administer internal justice in accordance with its traditions. It is however also the ‘universal’ right of any accused to be held innocent until proven guilty, to physical integrity and to a lawyer of one's choice. In this course we will reflect upon the uneasy merger of the vocabulary of the judiciary, ‘rights’ and universal ethics on the one hand, with the idiom of cultural traditions and identities on the other. First, we will look into different 'cultured' perceptions of notions such as (human, citizen) rights, ‘good’ politics and politicians, and democratic rule. The cases will illustrate that no such thing as a shared interpretation exists on what rights and democracy exactly mean. Next, we will look into current cultural and ethnic pleas to be entitled to different views and practices with regard to (individual) freedoms and political rule. Finally, we will reflect upon the consequences of these findings for the universalist claim with regard to democracy and individual human and citizen rights. The course will be anthropological in approach, not anchored in political sciences or law studies. The regional emphasis in this course will be on Latin America.

Form of tuition
Lectures and class discussions.

Type of assessment
Two written assignments during the course (25%), final take home exam (75%).

Course reading
A compilation of book chapters and articles; most of which will be
digitally available.

Target group
Obligatory course in Minor Development Studies; elective course for
students in PMC SCA; optional course for
2nd and 3rd year Bachelor’s students and the Exchange Programme.

Remarks
This course is open to students from various disciplines who have
completed their first year of their Bachelor programme. Students are
invited to participate in discussion in class.

Global Political Economy

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<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>dr. E.B. van Apeldoorn</td>
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<tr>
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<td>dr. E.B. van Apeldoorn</td>
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Course objective
- Acquiring knowledge of and insight into the contemporary global
  political economy, in particular how the contradictory process of
  globalization reshapes the relationship between states and markets;
- Introduction to and an understanding of rival the concepts and
  theories within International Political Economy and their application to
  issues in contemporary global political economy;
- Learning how to work in groups and enhance presentation skills.

Course content
This course offers students an introduction to the subject of
International Political Economy (IPE). Throughout, the course will be
guided by the question to which extent, and how, the current process of
globalization is changing the relationship between states and markets,
between public regulation and the private economy, between state and
capital. Traditionally IPE studies the relationship between ‘the
economic’ and ‘political’ within the interaction of – patterns of co-
operation and conflict between – national states. If anything, the
global financial and economic crisis of 2008 has made clear that this
state-centric perspective is no longer adequate. With processes of
globalization and transnationalization national economies have become so
much integrated, and their governance at various levels so much
enmeshed, that what is properly called the global political economy is
about much more than just states and their interests but also about
private actors such as transnational corporations, NGOs and all of their
different relations across and transcending national borders. At the
same time the crisis has also shown that states, although apparently
vulnerable in the face of global market forces, are also crucial when it
comes to saving global capitalism from collapse. This shows that indeed
the relationship between states and markets is not a one-way street. In
other words, politics and policies are shaped by economic globalization.
but the latter is also driven by politics, and shaped (indeed enabled) by the policy choices that states make. It is from this perspective that this course will examine first how the contemporary global political economy has evolved historically, and how we have moved from previous waves of internationalization and globalization to the current one. We will then proceed by analysing the current globalization of trade, finance, and production, as well as their global governance through transnational regimes and the role of International Organizations such as the IMF and the WTO within those regimes. We will furthermore do so through various theoretical lenses that discipline of IPE has to offer.

Form of tuition
Lectures

Type of assessment
Written Exam (80%) + Group presentation (20%)

Course reading
To be announced

Development from an Interdisciplinary Viewpoint

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<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>drs. B.G. Keuper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching staff</td>
<td>drs. B.G. Keuper, drs. E.P.H.M. Maassen</td>
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Course objective
Students understand the complexity of the poverty and development issue as discussed in various scientific disciplines and can describe some topics in each field. They also have knowledge of current theoretical debates and of various policies of (inter)national governmental and non-governmental institutions and other actors.

Course content
The course offers an overview of the complexity of poverty and development in the Global South by way of lectures by experts from a variety of scientific disciplines, working at various faculties of the VU University or in relevant organizations in the field. In spite of the global economic growth and improvement of welfare poverty and large inequalities between and within countries are still a main problem. Many scientists, politicians and policy designers are involved in debates and practices regarding poverty alleviation and development, related with environmental degradation, climate change and international peace and security issues. By taking notice of various disciplinary viewpoints and approaches students will realize that each discipline works on specific topics and fields, will enrich their knowledge, and will become even more aware of the complexity of the development issue. There are no easy solutions, many dilemma’s linger around.
Form of tuition
Lectures

Type of assessment
Written examination

Course reading

Target group
Obligatory course for students in the minor Development Studies. Optional course for 2nd and 3rd year Bachelor's students and students of the Exchange Programme. The course is also open for participants who only attend the lectures and don’t need credits.

Remarks
This course is open to 2nd and 3rd year Bachelor's students in various disciplines. Students are invited to participate in discussions in class; participants with experience in development work or related activities are especially invited to do so.