

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Department of Social Sciences
Programme:	MA International Relations
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Politics of the Global South
Course Code:	INR 7116
Course Leader:	Dr Paul Rekret
Student Engagement Hours:	200 (standard 4 credit MA course)
Lectures:	Click here to enter text.
Seminar / Tutorials:	45
Independent / Guided Learning:	155
Semester:	Fall, Spring
Credits:	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course engages directly with politics in the Global South – developing states, and the geographical regions to which they belong. The course can then explore themes such as development, growth, democratization, security and conflict in the context of case studies that reflect student interest in different parts of the Global South. This can include the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, East and Southeast Asia, South Asia or Latin America. Topics addressed can include decolonisation, state structures, development strategies and crises, political transformations, globalization and regionalism, urbanisation and sustainability, and wars (civil or otherwise) and their related human security concerns.

Prerequisites:

MA International Relations students

Aims and Objectives:

- To develop an analytical understanding of evidence and cases that inform the study of politics in the Global South;
- To examine major theoretical explanations and academic debates relating to international development;²
- To apply theory in evaluating development strategies in practice in case study developing states and regions;
- To identify and engage with the main economic, political and geo-strategic themes and issues that characterise the politics of the Global South.

Programme Outcomes:

A; C; E; H

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the key concepts used to explain and analyse complex political, economic and security issues in developing states and regions.
- Demonstrate the ability to systematically apply and reflect on theories and concepts in empirical settings in the Global South.
- Demonstrates engagement with questions of method in the specialised and complex empirical contexts of developing states and regions and with regard to development strategies.
- Demonstrate the ability for innovative production of work for development policy-maker audiences within development discourses (“brief”), along with critical self-reflection on this process (“debrief”).

Indicative Content:

- Development models and strategies in a postcolonial setting
- Economic growth and good governance
- Authority, coups and state collapse
- Democratization and democratic consolidation
- Regional security complexes and human security, civil conflict, and political violence
- Urbanisation, environment and sustainability
- The global economy: trade, finance and crises
- Global and regional power shifts from OPEC to the BRICS

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for the course; address critically the relevant literature in specific areas, examine concepts, theories and case studies, and enable students to engage in group discussion and dialogue, and autonomous learning. Seminars rely upon active student participation, mediated by the Course instructor. By examining and discussing issues and problems in a seminar setting, students as junior research colleagues will be able to learn from each other and resolve questions that arise in the course of the lectures and readings. Seminars will only be useful to the extent that they are prepared for and participation in discussions and debates is an essential aspect of this. All students will be required to participate. Tutorial opportunities will also be available for research supervision and other academic support.

Indicative Text(s):

Todaro, M. and M. Smith, 2020. *Economic Development*, 13th ed. Pearson.
Hopper, P., 2018. *Understanding Development*. 2nd ed., Polity.
Burnell, P. et al, 2017. *Politics in the Developing World*, 5th edition. Oxford University Press.
Haslam. P. et al (eds.), 2017. *Introduction to International Development*. 3rd ed. Oxford.
Potter, R. et al, 2017. *Geographies of Development: An Introduction to Development Studies*.
4th ed. Prentice Hall.
Kingsbury, D. et al, 2016. *International Development*, 3rd ed., Palgrave.
Peet, R. and E. Hardwick, 2015. *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*. 3rd ed., Guildford Press.

Journals

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Web Sites

[Click here to enter text.](#)

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services