Rīga Stradiņš University  
Faculty of European Studies  
Department of Political Science  

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: THEORY, PROBLEMS, AND CHALLENGES

Lecturer: M. Soc. Sc. Geoffrey Thorpe

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is aimed at providing students with an introduction to multilateral and bilateral development cooperation policy principles and problems. Not only is the role of the states involved changed by globalization, but a significant change in their relations is secured by the arrival of multilateral cooperation and the principles of assistance to other countries, and most importantly the rapidly changing economic and political principles of interaction. Development cooperation has become one of the largest and most visible policy fields, and is increasing in importance. However, opinions and understanding of aid work for other countries vary. Therefore, the theoretical principles and practical reasons and motivations for development policies and activities will be discussed.

CONTENT AND LITERATURE


2. Lecture: Development Economic Theories


3. Seminar: What is Aid?


4. Lecture: Development Economic Theories & Donor Agencies


5. Lecture: History Matters


6. Seminar: Women in Development (WID) to Gender and Development (GAD)

Seminar Task:
In groups, you will choose one of the Cutting Edge Packs (BRIDGE: Institute of Development Studies, http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/reports_gend_CEP.html). Present, and organize a discussion on the topic which you have chosen. Use at least 2 other academic sources.

7. Lecture: Donors and Aid


8. Lecture: Ideas in Development


9. Seminar: Latvia, the EU, and Aid


**Seminar Task:**

For each of the policy papers from CONCORD, write down 4 or 5 points that you feel are relevant/important to the discussion of the EU and development. You can either agree or disagree with CONCORD as well as be unsure, and just want to discuss the point with your classmates.

In this seminar, you will be put in small groups and discuss each of the policy papers. After that, we will bring the class together and discuss the themes as a group.

10. Lecture: The Aid Debate


11. Lecture: Development and Aid in Practice I.


12. Seminar: Development and Aid in Practice II –Development Fads

We will do simulations regarding development projects for the final seminar. Each of you will be tasked to prepare to have a discussion regarding *each* of the following development projects. You will be expected to do research into the subject matter from your role’s perspective (which will be given to you one week in advance of this seminar). I have provided a few links for you to get started.

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**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The final grade consists of:

1) Presence at the lectures – 5%
2) Active participation during the classes and seminars - 15%
3) Essays- 30%
4) Individual paper - 25%
5) Exam - 25%