

**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

1. Lecture: Introduction. Historical Origins of Development Cooperation and the Third World

Escobar, A. "Power and Visibility: Development and the Invention and Management of the Third World," *Cultural Anthropology* 3:4 (1988): 428-443.

Peet, R. and Hardwick, E., *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*. New York and London: The Guilford Press, 2009, pp. 1-13.

Wainaina, B. "How to Write about Africa", *Granta* 92 (2005).

2. Lecture: Development Economic Theories

Peet, R. and Hardwick, E., *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*. New York and London: The Guilford Press, 2009, pp. 56-87.

Sachs, J., *The Age of Sustainable Development*, Columbia University Press: New York, 2014, pp 45-138.

3. Seminar: What is Aid?

Radelet, S., "A Primer on Foreign Aid", *Center for Global Development: Working Paper Number 92*, July 2006.

Jolly, R., "The MDGs in Historical Perspective," *IDS Bulletin*: 41:1 (2010).

Polman, L., *The Crisis Caravan: What's Wrong with Humanitarian Aid?*, Picador, 2011, pp 1-35.

Attaran, A., "An Immeasurable Crisis? A Criticism of the Millennium Development Goals and Why they Cannot be Measured", *PLoS Medicine*, October 2005, Iss. 10, e318.

4. Lecture: Development Economic Theories & Donor Agencies

Peet, Richard and Hardwick, Elaine, *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*. New York and London: The Guilford Press, 2009, pp. 87-98 & 166-180.

Jerven, M., *Africa: Why Economists Get it Wrong*, Zed Books, London, 2015, pp. 12-44.

5. Lecture: History Matters

Nunn N., "The Importance of History for Economic Development." *Annual Review of Economics*. 2009;1(1): pp.65-92.

Acemoglu, D., Johnson, S., and Robinson, J., "Disease and Development in Historical Perspective", *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 2003; 1(2-3): pp. 397-405.

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

Alesina, A. and Dollar, D., "Who gives foreign aid to whom and why?," *Journal of Economic Growth* 5:1(2000): pp. 33-63.

Wade, R., "Emerging World Order? From Multipolarity to Multilateralism in the G20, the World Bank, and the IMF," *Politics & Society* 39:3: pp. 347-378.

Polman, L., *The Crisis Caravan: What's Wrong with Humanitarian Aid?*, Picador, 2011, pp 63-94.

8. Lecture: Ideas in Development

McNeill, D. "'Human Development': The Power of the Idea" *Journal of Human Development*. 8:1 (2007): pp. 5-22.

Grindle, M. S. "Good Governance: The Inflation of an Idea," HKS Faculty Research Working Paper Series: RWP10-023, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

9. Seminar: Latvia, the EU, and Aid

CONCORD, “Investing for Development?”, S. Jeffreson, 2015.

CONCORD, “Operationalising Policy Coherence for Development.”, S. Jeffreson, 2015.

CONCORD, “The EPA between the EU and West Africa: Who benefits?”, S. Jeffreson, 2015.

European Union. “EU development aid: 15 things you may not know about EU development cooperation in 2015.”, <https://eu-un.europa.eu/eu-development-aid-15-things-you-may-not-know-about-eu-development-cooperation-in-2015/>

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

Easterly, William, *The Tyranny of Experts*, Basic Books, New York, 2013, pp. 17-42.

Sachs, Jeffrey, “The Case for Aid”, *Foreign Policy*, January 21, 2015, <http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/01/21/the-case-for-aid/>. [Accessed: October 11, 2015.]

Miller, Daniel, “Sachs, Easterly and the Banality of the Aid Effectiveness Debate: Time to Move on”, *Mapping Politics* (2011), Vol. 3.

11. Lecture: Development and Aid in Practice I.

Munk, N., *The Idealist: Jeffrey Sachs and the Quest to End Poverty*, Anchor Books, New York, 2014, pp. 211-232

Barkemeyer, R., Holt, D., Pruess, L., and Tsang, S., “What Happened to the ‘Development’ in Sustainable Development?”, *Sustainable Development*, 22(1): 15-32.

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.

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%

FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY. COURSE MAY BE REVISED FOR STUDY YEAR 2018/2019

- 4) Individual paper- 25%
- 5) Exam- 25%