

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title : HU2003 Geographies of Uneven Development

Pre-requisites : NIL

No. of AUs. : 3

Contact Hours : 39

Course Aims

This course examines themes, concepts, theories, and trends which define the study of international development from a critical geographical perspective. Students will gain an understanding of the historical and contemporary challenges of global inequality with reference to specific case studies. We shall be discussing what Development means by examining different development pathways and strategies throughout the global economy. While the course's main premise is economic development, we shall be reading more widely across the literature which strategically ties development to different scales - bodies, villages, cities, nations, across borders - to show that development is really not limited to the Global South but is vitally about (dis)connections and (im)mobilities in the global economy. This will also show that development is not disembodied but made up of and affects different people in very different ways. Case studies from around the world are used to provide empirical contexts to the theories we learn about international development practices, processes and problems.

This course is intended for students who have already taken the Intro to Human Geography and Urban Planning. It is especially suitable for those who wish to minor in the Geography programme. It is also open to non-minor students who have not taken HU1001 but only upon request.

Students who are aiming for a career in policy, development organizations, NGOs would find this course helpful in the skills they would learn in this course (ie. Writing, creative and critical thinking, synthesizing themes to understand a problem as well as presentation skills). The concepts and skills taught in this course would also benefit students who are planning to take higher level courses in the social sciences.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Identify major themes and debates in human geography and development.
2. Explain key geographical concepts (such as the spatialization of uneven development) that are essential for future coursework in geography and urban planning.

3. Apply geographical concepts to analyze general social and spatial processes, including capitalism, urban change and migration.
4. Apply course concepts to analyze specific empirical cases, including development patterns in Singapore and the region.

Course Content

Week 1: Introduction. What is Development?

Week 2: What is uneven development?

Week 3: Geo-historical processes: What is the 3rd World?

Week 4: Development pathways and strategies

Week 5: Transnational production

Week 6: Economic production: Industrialization and spatial change

Week 7: Social reproduction: Feminization of cheap labour

Week 8: Labour recruitment

Week 9: Presentation of final project proposal

Week 10: Social reproduction: Masculinities and precarious work

Week 11: Tourism and development

Week 12: Cosmopolitanising world cities

Week 13: Final presentations

Course Assessment

CA1	Final group project (Photo essay)	: 35%
CA2	Film Reviews	: 20%
CA3	Midterm assignment	: 30%
CA4	Class Participation	: 15%
Total		----- 100%