

Western University
Geography 3442: Geographies of Development
Fall 2015

Important dates:

Thu Sept 10:	First day of classes
Mon Oct 12:	Thanksgiving
Thu Oct 29 & Fri Oct 30:	Fall Study Break
Wed Dec 9:	Last day of classes
Dec 11-22:	Exam period

Location: SSC 1059

Class times: Tuesday 12.30-2.30 pm
Wednesday 9.30-10.30 am

Instructor Information

Name and title: Dr Belinda Dodson
Contact information: bdodson@uwo.ca
Office: SSC 2413
Office hours: Tuesdays 2.30-3.30 (or by appointment)

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

Prerequisites for this course are two full courses in Geography (or equivalent) and third or fourth year status at the University. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course applies geographical concepts and analysis to contemporary issues of global poverty and inequality. The course begins by critically interrogating discourses of “development” and related representations of “the developing world”. Development is considered in its economic, political and social dimensions, and across linked scales from the local to the global. Theories and concepts are examined through case studies of specific places and people’s everyday lives, locating these within broader national, regional and international contexts. This year (2015), we will be paying close attention to the launch of the post-2015 global development agenda in the form of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The course concludes by examining possible futures as emerging new economic and political powers make the old global division into North and South (or developed and developing countries) increasingly obsolete, and as the definition of development itself is increasingly called into question.

Course Objectives

- To examine competing viewpoints on international development and global poverty
- To foster critical insight into international and global economic, social, and political issues
- To engage with a range of case study material from a variety of geographical contexts and sources
- To demonstrate the utility of geographical analysis in understanding patterns of uneven development across scales from the local to the global

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, you should have:

- A broader knowledge of global poverty and development issues and processes
- Informed and critical awareness of the main actors in international development
- Understanding of the main theoretical and ideological approaches to development and poverty reduction
- Ability to use a geographical perspective to draw explanatory connections between social, economic and political processes operating at various scales

Weekly Topics

Week	Date	Tuesday 2-hour session (lecture and class discussion)	Date	Wednesday 1-hour session (tutorial / student participation)*
1	Sept 15	Course Introduction and Overview	Sept 16	Development in the News*
2	Sept 22	What/Where is "Development"?	Sept 23	MDGs to SDGs: Overview and essay assignment intro
3	Sept 29	Political Dimensions of Development I: Geopolitics and Global Institutions	Sept 30	Discussion on UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*
4	Oct 6	Political Dimensions of Development II: Power and Resistance	Oct 7	Library Research Tutorial (to be confirmed)
5	Oct 13	Economic Dimensions of Development I: Global Networks and Flows	Oct 14	Essay brainstorming and Q&A session
6	Oct 20	Economic Dimensions of Development II: Local Livelihoods	Oct 21	Writing Skills Tutorial (to be confirmed)
7	Oct 27	Social and Cultural Dimensions of Development I: Globalization?	Oct 28	Consuming the "Global South": Food and Music
8	Nov 3	Social and Cultural Dimensions of Development II: Ways of Living	Nov 4	Essay Hand-in and Debrief
9	Nov 10	State-Led Development and Development Assistance	Nov 11	Canada and International Development*
10	Nov 17	Markets and Development	Nov 18	Fair Trade Discussion*
11	Nov 24	"People Themselves" as Agents of Development	Nov 25	"Dead Aid" Debate*
12	Dec 1	Development Futures	Dec 2	Take-Home Exam Starts
13	Dec 8	No Class	Dec 9	No Class
14	Dec 15	Exam Period – No Class	Dec 16	Take-Home Exam Due (noon – submit online)

*Tutorials marked with an asterisk are ones where a report must be handed in.

Lectures, tutorials and other participatory exercises are integrated and blended activities rather than separate entities. Their form will vary from week to week and will include group discussion and debate, library and written exercises, and viewing film or other material. In addition to in-class participation and weekly course reading, some sessions will involve advance preparation (e.g. reading or online research), for which specific instructions will be provided in class.

Course Materials

There is a **prescribed textbook** for this course, available from the Western bookstore. Ideally you should purchase your own copy. There is also a copy on reserve in the Weldon Library.

The details are:

Williams, Glyn, Meth, Paula and Willis, Katie (2014). *Geographies of Developing Areas: The Global South in a Changing World*, 2nd edition. London and New York: Routledge.

Additional readings, for example relevant newspaper articles, journal articles or websites, may be recommended during the course. You are also encouraged to read independently in web-based media and institutional sources covering international development issues (see Additional Resources below).

Weekly Readings

All listed readings are from the prescribed textbook. You are expected to have read the prescribed chapter(s) in advance as preparation for class each week.

Reading details	To be read by:
Ch 1: Introduction AND Ch 2: Imagining the South	Sept 22
Ch 3: The South in a changing world order	Sept 29
Ch 6: Political lives	Oct 6
Ch 4: The South in a globalizing economy	Oct 13
Ch 7: Making a living	Oct 20
Ch 5: Social and cultural change in the Global South	Oct 27
Ch 8: Ways of living	Nov 3
Ch 9: Governing development	Nov 10
Ch 10: Markets and development	Nov 17
Ch 11: Grassroots development	Nov 24
Ch 12: Conclusion	Dec 1

Additional Resources

Journals: A number of international development journals are subscribed to by the Weldon Library, accessible online via the library catalogue. The use of journal sources will be essential for your essay assignment (see separate handout). Among the most relevant journals are the following:

Canadian Journal of Development Studies
Development and Change
Journal of Development Studies
Journal of International Development
New Internationalist
Third World Quarterly
World Development

Databases: In addition to conventional electronic databases for finding scholarly literature (e.g. Geobase, Scopus, Social Sciences Abstracts, available through the Western Libraries website), one that is particularly recommended for accessing development-related publications, especially for your essay research, is ELDIS (www.eldis.org).

Books: In addition to academic books, there is a large popular literature on global development issues. Although not required, you may find that reading a “non-academic” book (e.g. novel, autobiography, travel writing) will expand your knowledge and enrich your understanding of global poverty and development.

Development Organizations’ Websites: Take a look at the websites of the major international development institutions (e.g. www.undp.org) and national government agencies for international development (e.g. www.international.gc.ca and click on “Development”; www.dfid.gov.uk), as well as those of the numerous international development NGOs (e.g. www.oxfam.org, www.actionaid.org) and more activist-oriented organizations (e.g. www.globaljustice.org.uk, www.sdinet.org, www.avaaz.org). Further suggestions on particular topics will be provided in class. Explore on your own to identify others that appeal to you.

News Media: Documentaries and news broadcasts on television, radio and online streaming or podcasts are also good sources of current information on global poverty and development. For example, on www.bbc.com/news, go to “World” (top menu bar) and then click on a particular region (e.g. Africa). Keep an eye out for features on topical development issues in Canadian and international newspapers or current affairs magazines and broadcast media. A particularly good source is the *Guardian* newspaper’s Global Development section: www.theguardian.com/global-development. Looking at online newspapers from developing countries (e.g. *Times of India*, *South Africa’s Mail and Guardian*) and TV channels and websites such as *Al Jazeera* can offer a balance to more Western and Northern perspectives.

Social media: Facebook, Twitter and other social media contain an abundance of information on global poverty and international development, not all of it reliable but still a valuable source of unfiltered opinion and immediate firsthand experience. Many of the abovementioned organizations and publications are on Facebook or Twitter, so like or follow any that appeal to you. Some of my own current favourites are Africa is a Country (www.africasacountry.com; also on Facebook and Twitter @AfricasaCountry) and following the *Globe and Mail's* Geoffrey York (@geoffreyork) and *Guardian's* David Smith (@SmithInAfrica). Do some exploring and find your own top picks – and share them with others in the class.

Methods of Evaluation

There will be three components to evaluation of student performance in the course: an essay (30%), five tutorial reports (30%), and a final, take-home exam (40%). There is no mid-term test, but the mid-term period is when you should be devoting time to researching and writing your essay.

Essay: A 2000-2500 word essay on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and post-2015 development agenda (see separate handout). Due November 4th.

Tutorial reports: For tutorials in Weeks 1, 3, 9, 10 and 11, you will hand in a short (1-2 page) report. Instructions will be provided in class. Reports will be due the week after the tutorial session.

Take-home exam: The final exam will be a take-home assignment. Instructions will be handed out in class on December 2nd and the exam must be submitted online by noon on December 16th.

Writing

This is an essay course, with a significant written component. You are encouraged to use the services of the Writing Centre. You may also find it helpful to use one of the many style guides that are available e.g. *Making Sense in Geography and Environmental Studies: A student's guide to research, writing, and style* by Margot Northey & David B. Knight.

Note that for essays and other written work, you are expected to follow the APA system of referencing. See www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/APA.pdf

Late Work

Deadlines apply to each assignment and these will be strictly enforced. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day, and a grade of 0% will be recorded if work is submitted more than a week late. If you have genuine extenuating circumstances and cannot submit an assignment on time, please consult the instructor by email in the first instance to request an extension, and if necessary provide documentation to the Academic Counselling Office. See <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> .

Accommodation for Medical Illness

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

You may use a laptop, tablet or other electronic device in class as long as it is being used for class-related purposes such as taking notes, finding information or communicating appropriately with classmates. Please exercise discretion and consideration for the instructor and those around you. The only exam is a take-home that will require online research and thus requires access to a laptop or similar device.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, which is a scholastic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the

system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit the site below for more information on mental health resources:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>.

Western's commitment to accessibility

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Support Services

A number of support and information services are available on campus or online:

Registrarial Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> includes:

- Indigenous Services
- Learning Skills Services
- Psychological Services
- Students with Disabilities
- Volunteers In Progress
- Writing Support Centre

Social Science Academic Counselling: <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/>

Student Success Centre: www.success.uwo.ca – includes Career Services

Social Science Career Services: www.ssc.uwo.ca/careers/

Library Assistance: www.lib.uwo.ca/programs/humangeography/

University Ombudsperson: www.uwo.ca/ombuds/