

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Course
offered by Department of Asian and International Studies
with effect from Semester B in 2014/2015**

Part I

Course Title:	<u>Theories and Approaches in Development Studies</u>
Course Code:	<u>AIS5001</u>
Course Duration:	<u>One semester</u>
Credit Units:	<u>3</u>
Level:	<u>P5</u>
Medium of Instruction:	<u>English</u>
Prerequisites: (<i>Course Code and Title</i>)	<u>Nil</u>
Precursors: (<i>Course Code and Title</i>)	<u>Nil</u>
Equivalent Courses: (<i>Course Code and Title</i>)	<u>Nil</u>
Exclusive Courses: (<i>Course Code and Title</i>)	<u>Nil</u>

Part II

Abstract

Questions around why some countries develop in particular ways and why others do not have long preoccupied philosophers, academics, policy makers, non-governmental organisation (NGO) workers, activists and the general public. Despite the efforts of states and multilateral organisations such as the World Bank, and despite too the celebration of growth in 'emerging markets' and the 'rise of Asia', almost half of the world's population continues to live on less than \$2.50 a day, with Asia home to the largest numbers of the world's poor. Persistent and, indeed, deepening material inequality in the face of massive technological advancement and conspicuous wealth is also common, with more than 80 per cent of the world living in countries where income differentials are increasing. Moreover, nation states often seem unable to provide economic security and material improvement to their populations in ways that some once did. In this course, students will identify dominant approaches and theories of development through lectures, discussions and simulation exercises. Students will also apply development theory to critically evaluate key development models promoted by states, multilateral organisations, activists and NGOs. The course will provide students with the conceptual tools required to understand and discuss pivotal contemporary development issues and, importantly, the *politics of development*. The course would be of general

use to those wishing to work in the public and private sectors, civil society, multilateral organisations, journalism and/or those generally wanting to understand the world and make a difference.

Course Aims

This course aims to introduce students to major development theories and approaches. It equips students with a critical understanding of political and economic issues in development and, importantly, the politics of development processes and development policy. Students will analyse and interpret the development trajectories of countries through case studies and gain an appreciation for the role of public and private actors in development. Upon completing the course, students will be able to apply development theories to make sense of development outcomes and understand and engage in debates over pivotal development issues.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Distinguish between development as a political and historical process/outcome and development practice	15%
2.	Identify key development themes, actors and dilemmas related to development processes and development practice	35%
3.	Compare and contrast different development theories and approaches through critical evaluation of international organisations such as the World Bank, non-governmental organisations, and underdeveloped and recently-developed countries	35%
4.	Describe the latest issues and trends within development	15%

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 1	Lectures/seminars (with AV materials), readings, individual research class participation	
CILO 2	Lectures/seminars (with AV materials), readings, individual research participation in politics of development simulation exercise	
CILO 3	Lectures/seminars (with AV materials), readings, individual research participation in politics of development simulation exercise	
CILO 4	Lectures/seminars (with AV materials), readings, individual research, politics of development simulation exercise	

Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1-4	Class participation	20%	
CILO 1-3	Short development actor profile piece (1000 words)	20%	
CILO 1-4	Participation in politics of development simulation exercise	20%	
CILO 1-4	Major term paper (4000 words)	40%	

Grading of Student Achievement: Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

A-/A/A+	Demonstration of excellent understanding of development theories and approaches through high-quality analysis and presentation of general or specific problems related to development issues; at least very good participation in discussions and debates in class.
B-/B/B+	Demonstration of good to very good understanding of development theories and approaches, through good-quality analysis and competent presentation of general or specific problems related to development issues; at least satisfactory participation in discussions and debates in class.
C-/C/C+	Demonstration of basic but not advanced understanding of development theories and approaches, through partial analysis and presentation of problems but with substantial weaknesses and flaws; at least occasional and useful participation in discussions and debates in class.
D	Partial but very inadequate understanding of development theories and approaches, with partial but seriously inadequate analysis and presentation of problems related to development, with at least some class participation.
F	Failure to demonstrate understanding and analysis of development theories and approaches, or seriously inadequate understanding and presentation with poor attendance and little or no constructive participation

Part III

Keyword Syllabus

- Development, development policy, development theory
- Modernisation theory, dependency/world systems theory, neoliberalism, social conflict theory
- Multilateral and bilateral organisations, International Financial Institutions, non-governmental organisations
- the developmental state, the regulatory state, the enabling state
- Inequality, vulnerability, sustainability, gender, empowerment, participation, growth