

SGO 2500 – North/South - Development

Course content

The course discusses fundamental development concepts, and conveys empirical knowledge of global poverty and inequality. Major issues are economic and social gaps between North and South, and development trends that differentiate the world. The concept of poverty is discussed, and methods of measurement presented. Furthermore, theories that provide different perspectives on the causes of poverty and inequality are discussed. Other major development themes include among others globalization, governance, population, urbanization, gender and food security.

Learning outcomes

The students will gain knowledge about poverty and inequality trends in the world today. They will become familiar with concepts, theories and strategies of development. Moreover, they will achieve skills in analyzing development problems in different context in the South as well as competence in identifying the impact of regional and global processes on people's lives in specific places. The awareness of the importance of a spatial perspective on development problems and processes will enable the students to contribute to finding solutions poverty.

Knowledge

The course provides students with an overview of the major development problems in the South. The theories that explain these problems will be discussed critically giving the students different perspectives on local to global processes and their interconnections.

You should have obtained:

- An understanding of poverty, inequality and other major development issues in the South.
- A familiarity with development theories.
- An insight into the complexities of improving people's living conditions in the South.

Skills

The course seeks to give the students an ability to discuss critically development concepts, theories and strategies. The goal is that the students should become aware of the importance of spatial differences and spatial processes, and thus to be able to conduct analyses on different geographical levels as well as identifying linkages between these levels.

You should be able to:

- Explain competing development concepts, theories and strategies.
- Think critically about development texts.
- Assess the reliability and validity of empirical information, and evaluate the theoretical relevance of such information.

Competence

The course trains the students in thinking critically about one of the most important issues in the world today. Poverty and inequality both in the South and globally will have a decisive impact on the future of the world. The students' knowledge of and ability to analyze development problems are thus an essential basis for finding solutions to poverty.

You should have gained:

- A critical attitude towards information about and solutions to poverty and other development problems.
- An ability to analyze empirical data on poverty, inequality and other development issues in a theoretical perspective.
- An understanding of how different factors and processes in different contexts may be more or less important in explaining poverty.