

SGO4501 - Development

Course content

The course includes economic, social and political aspects of development processes in the South. Emphasis is put on the linkages between local contexts and global forces of change. Examples of development trajectories are drawn from different places, especially in the discussions on the content of the concept of development. There is a focus on debates on development strategies, and how these strategies are linked to development theories.

Learning outcomes

The students will obtain knowledge about key ideas in contemporary development thinking. The emphasis in this course is on strategies to overcome development problems in the South. The students will through oral group presentations and critical discussions gain skills in analyzing empirical information for strategy formulation. They will get enhanced competence in understanding complex development issues and in identifying solutions to poverty.

Knowledge

The course provides students with insight into selected aspects of development. The focus is on how solutions to development problems can be found in different empirical contexts. Ideas of strategies and of international aid will be critically examined giving the students a solid basis for formulating their own view on eradication of poverty.

You will obtain:

- A basis for understanding contemporary development discourses.
- A thorough insight into development problems in the South.
- An ability to distinguish between mainstream and “smallstream” theoretical paradigms and their strategies.

Skills

The course seeks to give the students improved ability to discuss critically contemporary views on development. It is an aim that the students shall be able to analyze complex empirical information, and to formulate adequate strategies to improve people’s lives.

You will be able to:

- Discuss and critically present different development perspectives.
- Analyze the complexities of development issues in writing as well as orally.
- Formulate your independent view on development strategy with a higher level of precision.

Competence

The course trains the students in independent thinking about development issues. It also seeks to give the students the ability to analyze the impact of regional and global processes on the local level in the South.

You will gain:

- A critical understanding of the important ideas in development discourses.
- An ability to analyze different empirical contexts, and assess ideas of strategies to overcome development problems.
- An awareness of dilemmas of development, which is the true sign of mature development thinking.