

SGO2500 – Changes to course description

Course content

The course discusses fundamental trends and issues that explain the difference between the global North and South, conveying empirical knowledge and critical perspectives on global poverty and inequality. **Course material will consider the trajectory of development from its historical foundations through to the current Sustainable Development Goals, examining the various approaches that have sought to meet the complex challenges particular to this field.**

By linking key concepts, theories and strategies of development to the discussion of global poverty, methods of measurement and poverty reduction efforts, students will be able to analyze development problems in different contexts in the South. The awareness of the importance of a spatial perspective to development problems and processes, **highlighted** by a value chain framework, will enable the students to identify and understand the impact of regional and global processes on people's lives in specific places.

The course takes also a closer look at some specific sectors, to explore the impact of North/South relations for the global South.

The course offers two (2) study options:

- A seminar-based option, available for all students committed to compulsory seminar attendance and group work.
- A self-study option, for students unable to follow regular seminar activities.

Students choose ONE study-option upon registration to the course.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

- Key concepts, theories and debates about development.
- Key concepts and debates about global poverty and inequality.
- Understand the link between development strategies and global efforts of poverty reduction.
- An insight into the complexities of improving people's living conditions in the South.

Skills

You should be able to:

- Think critically about and discuss development concepts, theories and strategies.
- Conduct analyses of development, poverty and inequality that are attentive to the importance of spatial differences and processes, identifying different geographical levels as well as linkages between these levels.
- Assess critically information about and solutions to poverty and other development problems.

Competences

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 issues of development, poverty and inequality, based on theoretical perspectives.
- Learn to give constructive feedback to fellow students, as well as to receive feedback from others.
- Experience in writing short opinion pieces on North/South development.

Teaching

Teaching in this course includes lectures and seminars. Seminars are compulsory for students choosing the seminar-option. Students choosing the self-study option do not partake in seminar activities.

Compulsory instruction and coursework

For seminar-based option only:

- Participation in the seminars is compulsory. Valid absence is allowed for a maximum of 2 seminars.
- It is required of the student that he/she writes and presents a joint feature article relevant to the course. Students must be present in the first seminar as they will be assigned to a group.
- A guide for seminar work will be posted in [Canvas](#).

For self-study option only:

- It is required of the student that he/she writes a thematic essay and a short commentary on a given topic.
- The topic will be announced in the [Canvas](#)-platform on week 39.
- The length of the essay is 3000 words (+/-10%) plus references, while the short commentary shall not exceed 500 words.
- The essay and the commentary will be delivered in [Fronter](#) on a given deadline and will be subject to review by the teaching staff.
- A guide for thematic essay will be posted in [Canvas](#).

Completed and approved compulsory course work is valid until the course is no longer offered. Students who have failed to complete the compulsory course work cannot take the exam.

This course will be taught at The University of Oslo, Blindern campus. Other location in Oslo may be used.

The lectures and seminars will be given in English. The course is designed for both Norwegian students and international students.

The course is part of the regular course provision at The Faculty of Social Science. Teaching is mainly held during daytime.

[Application for change of seminar group](#)

Absence from compulsory tuition activities

If you are ill or have another valid reason for being absent from compulsory tuition activities, your absence may be approved or the compulsory activity may be postponed.

- [Report absence from or the need for a postponed deadline on a compulsory tuition activity](#)

Changes in study options can be allowed only until the second week of seminars. No changes will be allowed after that.

Access to teaching

A student who has completed compulsory instruction and coursework and has had these approved, is not entitled to repeat that instruction and coursework. A student who has been admitted to a course, but who has not completed compulsory instruction and coursework or had these approved, is entitled to repeat that instruction and coursework, depending on available capacity.

Examination

A 6-hour school exam will count 100% of the grade.

The exam for this course is digital, using the examination system Inspera. Please check the semester pages regularly for updated information.

The Faculty of Social Science is responsible for all written exams, and these exams are normally held at The University of Oslo, Blindern campus. Other locations in Oslo may be used.

[Previous exams](#)

[Guidelines for writing a school exam \(English\)](#)

[Guidelines for writing a school exam \(Norwegian\)](#)