Political Economy of the Global South: Paradigms, Crises, Alternatives

MPhil in Politics & International Studies (2021-22, Michaelmas Term)

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Teaching Pattern: Wednesday 09:00-11:00am (from 13 October 2021)

Course Description

Since its emergence, the history of global capitalism is marked by its uneven character in terms of development. Some states, mainly in the ‘Global North’, were quickly industrialised and developed, while others, mainly in the ‘Global South’, struggled and remained less developed and/or are still developing. Hence, the problem of ‘catching-up’ with developed countries came to the fore as early as the 19th century. This paper focuses on this question and aims to make sense of the roots, alternative paradigms, and empirical issues of development in the Global South, from the 20th century to the contemporary global political economy.

We begin by debating colonial legacies of North-South relations, alternative definitions of development and the concept of the Global South. Then we discuss various theories of development that have shaped development paradigms in the Global South. The paper then moves on to development trajectories in the 20th century, from state-led development to neoliberalism and the crises associated with them. Following this, alternatives/challenges to neoliberalism are discussed. Finally, we examine climate change and justice from the perspective of the Global South.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the module the students will be able to:

- Critically analyse and explain the different theories of development and their strengths and weaknesses
- Demonstrate the ability to critically assess the historical trajectories of development in the Global South from 20th century to the contemporary era
- Critically assess contemporary issues pertinent to Global South such as the rise of the BRICS, South-South Cooperation, and Climate Justice.

Course Structure
Weekly 1.5-2 hour seminars (7 weeks). Core readings form the most important aspect of the seminars, hence students are expected to read core material and contribute actively to the discussion. Students will also do one short presentation; details of which will be discussed early in the term.

**Assessment**

3000 word essay, due on 3 December 2021.

**Week 1. Debating Conceptual Framework and History: Colonial Legacies, Global South and Development**

**Core Reading**


**Further Reading**


**Week 2. Conventional Theories of Development: Liberal political economy, modernization theory, statist political economy**

**Core Reading**


**Further Reading**


**Week 3. Critical Approaches to Development & Underdevelopment: Structuralist, Marxist, Feminist Perspectives**

**Core Reading**


Selwyn, B. (2014). *The Global Development Crisis*, Cambridge: Polity, Ch. 3. ‘Karl Marx, class struggle and social development’, pp. 53-75


Further Reading


Week 4. State-led Development in the Global South in the 20th Century

Core Reading


Further Reading


Milor, V. (1990). The genesis of planning in Turkey, New Perspectives on Turkey, 4, Fall 1990, pp.1-30


Week 5. Neoliberal Development Strategies in the Global South: Policies and Crises

Core Reading


Further Reading


**Week 6. Alternatives to Neoliberalism? - BRICS - South-South Cooperation**

**Core Reading**


**Further Reading**


**Week 7. Climate Change and the Global South: Unevenness, Injustices, Alternatives**

**Core Reading**


Further Reading


