

Syllabus for SMGT 435 International Development and Sustainability

Course Description

Prerequisite: SMGT 235

This course considers the historical roots of the societal idea of development. It investigates economic theories of growth and their implications for economic development and sustainability. The course explores interrelationships among population growth, consumerism, food security, poverty, inequality, urbanization, health, technological change, savings and investment, international trade and environmental change at local, regional, and global scales. Contemporary issues and alternatives will be explored.

Course Learning Outcomes

This course will help begin a serious consideration of issues that are seen as directly related to economic development and the broader globalization process.

The focus will be exploration and personal understanding as part of a shared educational process. We will read, analyze, and discuss some of the key ideas that have shaped and continue to shape the widening debate on economic development. We will compare and contrast the paradigms and contextual or analytical frameworks within which to consider the interrelated themes of growth, development, and sustainability. We will familiarize ourselves with some of the emerging issues that are seen as directly related to and part of the broader globalization process.

While the course is, by name and description, focused on economic development within a global context, a number of related themes and areas of considerable debate and differences of opinion and analysis will be explored as well. They include:

- The role of growth in the development process.
- Understanding economic de-growth and sustainability.
- The relative roles of state and market institutions.
- Interrelationships between sustainability and key factors influencing human welfare such as education, health, agricultural and industrial development, globalization, urbanization, environment and natural resource management, freshwater supply, energy sources, and waste management.
- Initiating a paradigm shift in thinking toward sustainable household and business practices using a system thinking approach and possible implications of system failure.

The course will, necessarily, cut across traditional academic disciplines. It is meant to be inclusive, integrative, and holistic. It will, however, emphasize the underlying roles and implications of economic processes, players, policies, and problems as a type of analytical thread to tie together the range of topics covered.

In the end, this course will ideally mark the beginning of a serious consideration of what each of us can and wants to say about economic development. We will consider the merits and demerits of various approaches or understandings and judge each one accordingly. There are no "right" answers. But we can get better about asking the "right" questions that will help us "process" what we are hearing, reading, seeing, feeling, and experiencing.

Course Materials

Information on course materials can be found in the [textbook section](#) of the SMGT website.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

You are expected to complete assigned readings and to complete and submit all assignments on time. You will participate in discussions, read lecture notes, and watch videos as assigned, as well as conduct research and complete an issue/research paper.

Discussion Assignments

There will be four (4) discussion assignments.

Writing Assignments

There will be eight (8) writing assignments, with each assignment being your response to one particular issue related to the unit in a *reflection paper format*.

Issue Paper

You are responsible for a substantive paper of at least ten (10) pages (typed and double-spaced) that demonstrates your ability to analyze a question or issue of interest within the broad topical area of international development economics and sustainability. You are expected to clearly explain in this paper the implications of what you have found and learned. The Issue Paper involves an iterative process that includes several steps/separate assignments.

Examinations

There will be a midterm and final examination. Exams include a combination of multiple-choice and essay questions. Students may not submit exams late without *prior* permission from the instructor.

Grading Policy

Discussion Assignments (5 percent each)	20 percent
Writing Assignments (5 percent each, top seven of eight scores)	35 percent
Midterm Exam	12.5 percent
Final Exam	12.5 percent
Issue Paper	20 percent
Total	100 percent

The corresponding letter grades are as follows:

92.5 to 100.0	A
90.0 to 92.49	A-
87.5 to 89.9	B+
82.5 to 87.49	B
80.0 to 82.49	B-
77.5 to 79.9	C+
72.5 to 77.49	C
70.0 to 72.49	C-
67.5 to 69.9	D+
62.5 to 67.49	D
60.0 to 62.49	D-
Below 60.00	F

Your final grade for the course will be a weighted average in accordance with the course breakdown shown above.