Syllabus

Dept. Relaciones Internacionales y Ciencia Política

Unit: Theories and practice of development
Key: LPT3021

Professor: Dr. Viviana Ramírez
Office: CS236
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Classes:
Section 1: Tuesday and Thursday 13:00 to 14:15 hrs.   Room CS113
Section 2: Tuesday and Thursday 16:00 to 17:15 hrs.   Room NE112

Office Hours: With appointment only. To set an appointment please send me an email and include the question or topic you want to discuss during the session.

Unit aims and learning outcomes:

Throughout this unit the students will study the foundations of development through the theories, concepts and methodologies that inform the discipline, with the purpose of understanding the key debates around what is social progress, what are its purposes and whether it can be reached or achieved.

The unit will explore some of the historical experiences of development at the international sphere, as well as the most important contemporary debates about how these ideas of development can be transformed into social and public policies. At the end of the term, we will review some of the key issues around this subject including gender, class, poverty and inequality, all of which play a central role in who benefits and who is excluded from social progress.

Unit structure:

Introduction

Theme 1. What is development?
    1.1 Constructing an international development project
    1.2 Development as a concept and as an indicator
    1.3 Colonialism and its impact on current status quo

Theories of development

Theme 2. Mercantilism and Modernization
    2.1 Modernization theory
    2.2 Mercantilism

Theme 3. Structuralism and Socialism: The role of the State in development
    3.1 Dependency Theory
    3.2 Marxist theories of development

Theme 4. 'Natural' explanations of social progress
    4.1 Malthusianism
    4.2 Overpopulation, the environment and development

Theme 5. The role of the Market in development
    5.1 Neoliberalism and the Washington Consensus
    5.2 Structural adjustment programmes
    5.3 The post-Washington Consensus era

Partial exam 1

Key concepts

Theme 6. Poverty

Theme 7. Gender

Theme 8. Class

Theme 9. Culture and ethnicity

Partial exam 2

The future of development

Theme 10. International agencies and grassroots development
    10.1 The role of international agencies
    10.2 The importance of bottom-up development: decentralising progress and the role of
        NGOs
    10.3 Participation, empowerment and other new concepts

Theme 11. Alternatives of development and alternatives to development

Final essay and oral presentation

Learning methods:

This unit will be delivered in two ways: (1) theoretical lectures and (2) seminars. The professor will provide theoretical lectures of the themes above with the aim of transferring knowledge to the students. These lectures will then be complemented with the seminars on the theme of the week in which the students and will discuss relevant case studies, examples, and videos. The aim of the seminars is to provide a space for the co-production of knowledge between students. Therefore, the participation, attendance and preparation of prior work from the students is essential.

Evaluation methods:

The unit assessment is based on six criteria:

    20% Seminars, activities and homework
    20% Partial Exam 1
    20% Partial Exam 2
 + 40% Final Report and Oral Presentation
    100% Final Mark

The main evaluation criterion will be the quality of student's participation. Thus, the students should arrive well prepared for each session (lecture or seminar). This might involve reading a paper at home, doing a piece of work, or being ready to discuss a subject.

To reach the 20% mark of the seminars, activities and homework, students must actively participate in each lecture and seminar, as well as submit all homework and activities at the time/day established.

In addition, the unit is assessed based on two partial exams and on one final essay that will be presented and defended in front of the class.

General evaluation criteria:

- All documents requested ought to fulfil with the evaluation requirements established by the professor.
- The concepts studied in class need to be adequately applied to each document submitted.
- These should present quality information in an appropriate and clear structure.
- These should offer an argument that is clear and at an undergraduate degree level.
- The adequate use of formal references and bibliography is essential to show knowledge and avoid plagiarism.
- Any instance of *plagiarism* will receive a mark of CERO in the plagiarised document.
- All documents must be submitted in Word and/or PowerPoint formats (not PDF or others).
- All documents must be submitted through **Blackboard** within the time/day established for each piece of work. Not submitting it on time will warrant a penalty of ONE point of the final grade of that document (1/10).
- All documents must meet the extension (word limit) required. Not doing so will warrant a penalty of ONE point of the final grade of that document (1/10).

Main Bibliography:

HC59.72 P6 P6.9 2000   Tim Allen and Alan Thomas eds. (2000) Poverty and Development into the 21st Century. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (*Available at the entrance of the Library*)

Bibliography by theme: *Please frequently check the updates in Blackboard (important!)*

Unit Policies:

Work Submission: With the goal of keeping consistency and being fair with all students, late submissions will not be accepted for any work or document (only in case of emergencies that have a formal justification).

Not attending to the oral presentation of any class assignment will merit a mark of CERO for the absent student.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is strongly punished in this course. Plagiarism implies using the work of another person without referencing her or him correctly. For example, using cheat sheets (acordeones) during exams, copying the work of other classmates, using information from own or other's notes, books, articles, or webpages without appropriately referencing them through any citing format. Plagiarism also involves translating or copying a text and presenting it exactly as the original form without showing it is a direct quote from somebody else.

Every piece of work submitted for this class is expected to present all the literature and references that the student used to do the work both on the appropriate section of the text and in the bibliography section at the end of the document. Academic bibliography should be given preference at all times (e.g. academic articles and books).

Order and behaviour during class: The students have the responsibility of making this class a respectful and effective learning space for all throughout the semester. To achieve this, the students must avoid any act of rudeness or disrespect towards others.

Overall, any act of **dishonesty** (copying during exams; partial, total, voluntary or involuntary plagiarism; falsifying information, cloning homework or essays from this or other units or semesters) and **any act of disrespect during class, will be punished with CERO in the grade of such work or in some cases will be warranted the maximum penalty established by the "Reglamento General del Estudiante" of the university**.

Using electronic devices: The use of cell phones during class must be avoided at all times. Laptops are accepted only if used exclusively for any work related to class or for taking notes. However, electronic devices cannot be used for activities that distract students from the class. If anybody is discovered using these devises for unrelated activities, all electronic devices will be prohibited for everyone for the rest of the semester. Be respectful to your classmates.

Recording or taking pictures during class is prohibited.

Syllabus: Although the syllabus is sufficiently stable, the professor reserves the right of making changes to it.

The student is responsible of regularly checking (at least once a week) his or her university email as well as visiting the Blackboard site for this unit.

Student must be aware of the "Reglamento General de Estudiantes" and the guidelines that derive from it. This regulation can be found at the following link:

http://comunidad.udlap.mx/departamentos/normatividad/Documents/Estudiantes_General%20Reglamento.pdf