

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code / Title : HS4027 Cultural Politics of Development and the Environment

Pre-requisites : HS1001 Person and Society
HS2001 Classical Social Theory
HS2002 Doing Social Research
HS3001 Contemporary Social Theory
HS3002 Understanding Social Statistics

No. of AUs. : 4

Contact Hours : 52

Course Aims

This course will introduce you to the critical intersection between development and the environment with an emphasis on cultural politics, political ecology, the global South, and theories of power. It will cover a range of perspectives and frameworks, including Foucaultian, Global Commodity Chain, actor network theory, political economy, gendered/racialized identities, neoliberal paradox, and environmental governance. Given the unique conditions generated by the neoliberal globalization, understanding cultural politics of development and the environment through different lenses is crucial for the students. It will evaluate competing interpretations and often very high and multiple stakes in understanding and/or representing environmental loss, claims, and knowledge(s) in development discourse; and examine how the historical, political economic, and cultural discourses and practices constitute these environmental contestations. The course will enable you to critically analyze economic patterns, environmental landscapes, and social structures, and hence will enhance your analytical skill

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Explain the critical intersection between development and the environment, and the kind of cultural politics it generates such as the struggles over nature as struggles over place, identity, meanings, representations, and livelihoods.
2. Describe key theories of development, environment and power and their implications for the struggle of the marginal communities in the world.
3. Articulate connections between local environmental and social changes and global processes.

Apply critical lenses to environmental loss, claims, and knowledge(s) in development discourse.

Course Content

Week 1: Introduction: Rethinking development and the environment

Week 2: Development and the Environment: Critical Intersections

Week 3: Classical theories of development, nature-society relations, and power: I

Week 4: The crises of neoliberal capitalism/globalization

Week 5: Critical theories of development, nature-society relations, and power: II

Week 6: Colonial/ orientalist/ and postcolonial readings of nature and development

Week 7: Post-colonial development discourse and regimes of power

Week 8: Tale of three worlds: Constructions and subjections

Week 9: Food Revolutions and Development Subjectivities

Week 10: Cultural struggles of subalterns: Voices from the South

Week 11: Neoliberal globalization and governance

Week 12: Neoliberal security/governmentality

Week 13: Semester-end review/revision

Course Assessment

CA1 In-class exercise : 20%

CA2 Learning Portfolio : 20%

CA3 Class presentation : 20%

CA4 Essay : 40%

Total -----
100%