

Environment and Development Course

Syllabus

Instructor: SAKAPAJI Stephen Chitengi (Ph.D.)

Course Title: Environment and Development

Course Level: [200]

Term: [Spring]

Course Duration: 14 weeks

Class Schedule: [Wed-2nd Period]

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Course Overview:

This course examines the complex relationship between environmental issues and development processes, focusing on the interplay between economic development, environmental degradation, and social well-being. The course integrates theoretical perspectives from political ecology, sustainable development, and environmental governance with real-world case studies from both the Global North and South. Students will critically explore themes such as climate change, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, environmental justice, and sustainable development.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Understand the key concepts and debates in the field of environment and development.
2. Critically assess the environmental impacts of various development models.
3. Explore the role of international, national, and local institutions in managing environmental challenges.
4. Analyze case studies from different regions and assess sustainable development initiatives.
5. Evaluate policy responses to environmental challenges and their implications for equity and social justice.

Course Structure:

The course will be structured around weekly lectures, class discussions, debates, and readings from textbooks and articles. Each session will focus on a specific theme or case study, allowing students to delve into the core concepts and engage critically with the material.

Textbooks and References:

Primary Textbook:

- Robbins, P., Hintz, J., & Moore, S. (2014). *Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction* (2nd Edition). Wiley-Blackwell.

Additional Readings:

- Escobar, A. (1995). *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton University Press.
- Guha, R., & Martinez-Alier, J. (1997). *Varieties of Environmentalism: Essays North and South*. Earthscan.
- Adams, W. M. (2009). *Green Development: Environment and Sustainability in a Developing World* (3rd Edition). Routledge.
- Peet, R., & Watts, M. (2004). *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, and Social Movements*. Routledge.
- Shiva, V. (2016). *Who Really Feeds the World? The Failures of Agribusiness and the Promise of Agroecology*. North Atlantic Books.
- Weekly articles, reports, and multimedia sources will also be assigned, and all readings will be available via the course learning management system.

Week	Topic	Key Concepts/Activities	Readings
1	Introduction to Environment and Development	Overview of course themes and objectives. Key concepts: Development, sustainability, and political ecology.	Robbins et al., <i>Environment and Society</i> , Ch. 1
2	Theories of Development and Environmental Change	Historical perspectives on development and environmental degradation. Development paradigms: Modernization, dependency theory, and neoliberalism.	Escobar, <i>Encountering Development</i> , Ch. 1 & 2
3	Sustainable Development and Global Environmental Governance	The concept of sustainable development: Critiques and alternatives. Global institutions and agreements: UN, SDGs, and international conventions.	Adams, <i>Green Development</i> , Ch. 2 & 3
4	Climate Change and Development	Climate change science, impacts, and global inequalities. Policy responses: Mitigation, adaptation, and climate finance.	IPCC Reports (selected sections), Robbins et al., Ch. 8

5	Conservation and Development	The politics of conservation: Biodiversity, protected areas, biodiversity offsets, and community-based conservation.	Adams, <i>Green Development</i> , Ch. 5
6	Environmental Justice and Development	Environmental justice: North-South inequalities, vulnerable populations, and activism. Case studies: Industrial pollution, deforestation, and climate displacement.	Peet & Watts, <i>Liberation Ecologies</i> , Ch. 6
7	Group Presentation	Group Presentation	-
8	Natural Resource Management and Development	The political economy of natural resources: Land, water, and energy. Case studies: Land grabs, mining, and deforestation in the Global South.	Robbins et al., Ch. 6; Guha & Martinez-Alier, <i>Varieties of Environmentalism</i> , Ch. 3
9	Agriculture, Food Security, and Development	Industrial agriculture vs. sustainable agriculture. Case studies: Agroecology, food sovereignty, and corporate farming.	Shiva, <i>Who Really Feeds the World?</i> , Ch. 1-3
10	Urbanization, Development, and the Environment	Urban sustainability: Green cities, infrastructure, and social equity. Case studies: Mega-cities and informal settlements in the Global South.	Adams, <i>Green Development</i> , Ch. 6
11	Water Security, Development, and Conflict	Water as a critical resource: Access, privatization, and conflict. Case studies: Water rights and hydropower projects.	Robbins et al., Ch. 7
12	Globalization, Trade, and the Environment	The impact of globalization on the environment: Trade, consumption, and environmental degradation. Case studies: Supply chains, trade agreements, and ecological footprints.	Escobar, <i>Encountering Development</i> , Ch. 5
13	Environmental Movements and Social Change	Grassroots movements, activism, and environmental resistance. Case studies: Indigenous movements, climate protests, and ecofeminism.	Peet & Watts, <i>Liberation Ecologies</i> , Ch. 9
14	Future Directions in Environment and Development	Final reflections on the future of development in a climate-constrained world. Review of course themes and preparation for final assignments.	Adams, <i>Green Development</i> , Ch. 8

Course Assignments and Evaluation

1. **Class Participation (30%)**

Active participation in class discussions/presentations/reflection paper/debates and demonstrating engagement with class readings.

2. **Group Presentation (30%):** Students will select a topic of their choice from a given list of discussed class topics.

3. **Final Exam (40%):** A mix of **multiple-choice questions** and **short essay questions** covering key concepts from **five key topics** discussed in class.

Course Policies

- **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction.
 - **Late Submissions:** Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a penalty of 5% per day late.
 - **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to university policies.
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