Global Economic and Social Development

Goals and Description of the Course:
The goal of this course is to examine the main drivers, consequences and challenges of the increasing interaction and interdependence among countries, as well as the role of international institutions in global development. The course will highlight the economic and social dimensions of globalization, addressing internationally agreed development goals, contemporary issues of international significance and the nuances of global governance.

This course is intended for students interested in studying the complexities and fluidity of the modern world, with special emphasis on political, economic and social variables. The course aims at building up analytical skills and interpretive abilities essential for understanding global politics, including the intergovernmental policy process of the United Nations. A broad set of issues related to economic and social development will be covered, including population dynamics and urbanization trends, cross-border flows of trade, investment and finance, the significance of international migration, the clean energy and sustainable development, issues of well-being, gender, employment and inclusion, as well as the specifics and evolution of the international institutional framework and the normative foundations of international system.

The curriculum design strives to reflect the major themes of international development discourse, engaging students in inquiry and exploration of important contemporary ideas and trends. The course aims at imparting basic factual knowledge regarding modern governance, as well as national and international policy concerns, along with the ability to grasp an overall picture underlying a mosaic of seemingly loosely connected topics and facts, and to develop skills to undertake the evaluation of ideas and policy outcomes in a self-reliant and independent manner.
Course Requirements and Grading:

Students are required to do the assigned readings before each seminar and should participate actively in class discussions. The materials assigned for the course will be available in electronic format. A two-tiered system applies to the assigned literature, which includes mandatory required reading intended for the entire class as well as voluntary recommended literature for those who would like to expand their knowledge of the subject. In addition, students are expected to have access to Internet and be fluent in oral and written English. Performance assessments are designed to reveal the extent of their step-by-step understanding of the knowledge acquired. The mid-term test and the final paper should be typed. Participation through presentations, debates and class discussion will count for 40 percent of the grade, the mid-term test 25 percent and the final exam 35 percent. Class attendance of both lectures and seminars on time is essential. Absence from any class requires prior permission from the instructor and, in the event of an emergency, report to the instructor immediately afterwards.

Lecture 1. Population dynamics, international migration and world urbanization trends

Seminar 1. Demographic changes, urbanization and migration flows.

Questions for discussion:

a) Key characteristics of the demographic transformation.
b) World urbanization trends
c) Migration flows and development
d) Intergenerational solidarity and justice

Required reading:

World Population Prospects. The 2015 Revision. Key Findings and Advance Tables, UN DESA, New York, 2014 (ESA/P/WP.241, pp.1-11);


Nicholas Eberstadt. World Population Prospects and the Global Economic Outlook: The Shape of things to come, AEI, 2011

Recommended literature:
Lecture 2. Structural changes in the world economy and the growing economic integration

Seminar 2. Globalization: its nature and impact

Questions for discussion

a) Main drivers of globalization and its institutional context.
b) Foreign direct investment and transnational corporations
c) Foreign trade
d) Financial flows

Required reading:

Recommended literature:


Seminar 3. Evolution of the development agenda. Global cooperation and international policy coordination

Questions for discussion
a) Multilateral cooperation and the process of creating regimes

b) International organizations as key actors in global politics

c) Key considerations and essential elements in shaping the global outlook. Global solidarity

**Required reading:**


The United Nations System (diagram)

**Recommended literature:**


**Lecture  4. Social Dimensions of Development: Addressing Poverty and Inequality. Gender agenda**

**Seminar 4. Social policy: Addressing poverty and inequality. Gender issues**

**Questions for discussion**

a) Why poverty and inequality matter

b) Gender agenda

c) Social protection: who needs to be protected? Evolution and functions of social protection in modern society

d) Global and national efforts to reduce poverty

**Required reading:**


**Recommended literature**


Lecture 5. Limits of global governance and sustainable development challenges

Seminar 5. Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**Questions for discussion**

a) From the Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Agenda
b) Redressing inequality, eradicating poverty
c) Development of the global indicator framework
d) Moving from commitments to results: the key issues

**Required reading:**


Lecture 6

Emerging challenges and the quest for policy responses

Seminar 6.

Emerging issues in socio-economic area: today and tomorrow

Questions for Discussion

a) Systemic risks in the global economy
b) The future of work: what policy measures to consider?
c) Human security: what does it mean today?
d) Enabling environment for people-centered development
e) Financial resources for development

Required reading:


Recommended literature


http://www.unrisd.org/road-to-addis-caliari

