

# PSC 4278 - Political Economy of Development

## Introduction

The focus of this course is on political issues as well as consequences of economic development in the contemporary world, with an emphasis on social, ideological and international dimensions of development. It is designed around some major issues concerning modern development: cultural and civilizational conflicts, different paradigms and discourses of development and social and political issues in development.

## Course Objectives

This course seeks to enable students:

- i To understand the extent to which the economic development processes are linked to social, economic and political issues, and
- ii. To critically understand the challenges of development in a broad context of social conflict and competing claims to development outcomes.

## Course Outcomes

On completion of this course, student will be able to

- i. Critically understand how political issues impact on development,
- ii. Examine issues in development in relation to their own society, and
- iii.. Develop their own critical perspectives on modern development processes.

## Course Contents

### 1. Political Issues in Development Discourse

- I. Why politics is important to understand development issues.
- II. Social and group conflicts and competition for resources.
- III. Global and national forces in "development" processes.
- IV. Recent changes in development policy paradigms.

### 2. Cultural/Civilization Conflicts and Challenge to Development

- I. Understanding cultures and development.
- II. Cultural change and conflict and its impact on development.

### 3. Internal Conflicts and Development Issues

- I. Refugees and transmigration.
- II. Reconstruction and rehabilitation in conflict zones.
- III. Militarization and its impact on development.
- IV. Gender conflict and challenge to development.

#### 4. Security and Challenge to Development.

- I. Food security.
- II. Environmental security.
- III Political security.
- IV. Economic security.

#### 5. Sustainable Development

- I. Sustainable development as a critical paradigm
- II. Sustainable development and the developing world
- III. Problems of sustainable development under globalization

#### 6. Equity, Justice and Social Welfare in Development

- I. Recent changes in the development discourse
- II. Market vs. the state in development
- III. Relevance of equality, social welfare & social justice in development process.

### Method of Assessment

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|------------------------------------|-----|
| Classroom Test                     | 15% |
| Take -home Assignment              | 15% |
| Attendance and Class Participation | 10% |
| End of semester Examination Total  | 60% |

### Recommended Reading

Bastian, Sunil, 2008, *Conflict, Peace and Development*, Colombo: ICES.

Centre for Poverty Analysis, 2003, *Poverty Issues in Sri Lanka: Towards New Empirical Insights*, Colombo: Center for Poverty Analysis.

Caporaso, James, 1992, *Theories of Political Economy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hahnel, Robin, 2002, *The ABC of Political Economy: A Modern Approach*, London: Pluto Press.

Leitner, Helga, Jamie Peck, and Eric S. Sheppard (Eds.), 2007, *Contesting Neo-Liberalism*, London: Guilford Press.

Smith, Baylies Tim, and Wanmali Sharma (Eds.), 1986, *Development, Socio -Cultural Dimension*, Jaipur: Rawat Publications.

Vignarajah, Ponna, 1989, *South Asia Challenge to Development*, New Delhi; SAGE.