Introduction to Development and Sustainability

Development and Sustainability 201

Section: D100

Term: 2012 Fall

Instructor:

Discussion Topics: This course provides a critical introduction to the study of various aspects of sustainability that arise from the complex relationship between development and the environment. The course material is divided into three parts. Part one provides students with critical understandings of development and related notions of growth, poverty, inequality, deprivation, exclusion, etc. After a brief survey of some major theories of development, we discuss different ways of measuring and applying these concepts qualitatively and quantitatively using various economic, political, social (e.g., education, health, etc) and other indicators, and the problems and challenges. Part two provides a survey of mainstream and critical approaches to sustainable development. We also discuss various perspectives on environmental ethics focusing on how development disparities and patterns of inequality globally and locally affect vulnerability to environmental harm, including notions of environmental racism. We then proceed to examine impacts of major drivers of environmental change caused by development processes particularly in the areas of agricultural and industrial development, and pressures from population growth/migration, including land use conversion, pollution and resource depletion, and impacts on freshwater supply and on ecosystems. Part three examines some of the policy and practical challenges in implementing sustainable development measures at various scales. Here, we discuss selected case-studies illustrating conservation measures and sustainable resource use (e.g., Integrated Water Resource Management, biodiversity conservation systems such as Protected Areas and Adaptive Co-management), and climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives (e.g., Clean Development Mechanism projects). We also examine evolving notions of sustainable livelihoods and sustainable human development.

Grading: Analytical paper (2) 20% Review paper 10%
Final Exam 35% Research Essay 35%

Required Texts: Required readings will be available in a custom courseware book and/or on short-term reserve in the library.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: None.

Notes: A two-hour lecture and one-hour tutorial each week.

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