Syllabus

UTVC05

Development Cooperation in Practice

A. 1st Cycle, 15 credits, G2F

The syllabus was approved by the Board of the Department 2011-03-14, and the syllabus was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences 2011-04-14. This syllabus is valid from 1 July, 2011.

B. Type of Course

The course is offered as a compulsory course within the program Bachelor in Development Studies. The language of instruction is English.

C. Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall be able to

- demonstrate historical and contemporary knowledge of economic, political, geographical and social aspects of development cooperation and assistance;
- demonstrate knowledge on economic, organisational, political, and technological trends in development cooperation and assistance;
- give an account of and discuss relevant empirical cases exemplifying how national and international politics have influenced development cooperation and assistance;
- understand the role and practice of non-state actors in contemporary development cooperation and assistance and how they respond to political trends and discourses in development philosophy;
- analyse, independently and individually, a relevant example of development cooperation and assistance and to give a written and/or oral account of that analysis.
D. Course Content

The course aims to give the student basic knowledge and understanding of the development process.

The course is an introduction to development studies and puts current discourses on development assistance in a historical and contemporary light. The course is divided into two parts.

Part 1: Contemporary Framework of Development Assistance, 7.5 credits

Part one focuses on the present framework of development assistance, and places this framework within a both contemporary and historical perspective. It focuses on the state of the art of theory and practice in contemporary development cooperation and assistance. Drawing on mainstream approaches, critical perspectives and alternative schools of thought, the course highlights the key ideas that influence the current perception and vision of development. Special emphasis is given to the practical impact of the most influential ideas and how they have shaped the formula of intervention in developing countries.

Key content:
- From GDP to ethics – development philosophy at the turn of the millennium;
- State, market, society;
- Entitlements, rights and gender;
- Managing sustainability;
- Understanding poverty – beyond income and consumption;
- Techniques and methods, e.g. PRA, SLF, education and learning reversals.
- Contemporary aims, capacity building, empowerment.

Part 2: Stakeholders in development, 7.5 credits

The second part focuses on the role and aim of various stakeholders and actors in development cooperation. It deals specifically with NGOs and international donors and the ways in which they collaborate, but private businesses and consultancy firms are also considered. The course draws initially on lectures and seminars that summarize the aim of different actors and how they work. The second part is based on a series of workshops where CSOs; CBOs, NGOs etc. and private firms are invited to describe their role in development and exchange views with the students.

Key content:
- The ‘big players’ – aim and structure of the international donor community;
- The role of CSOs, CBOs, NGOs etc. – aim and structure;
- Private businesses – CSR and the way forward;
- The role of consultancy firms;
- Insider perspectives – perspectives from NGOs etc. (during the workshops).
E. Teaching and Assessment

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars. Students shall make oral and written presentations at seminars, as continuous examination is applied. The course is examined through oral and written assignments, active participation in seminars and through a final/project paper.

In connection with the course students are offered three examinations, a regular examination, a re-examination and one additional re-examination. Within one year after the course, students are offered a minimum of two additional re-examinations. Thereafter, more examinations are offered but in accordance with current course content.

The University views plagiarism very seriously, and will take disciplinary actions against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University.

F. Grades

The grades awarded are Pass with Distinction, Pass and Fail. To receive Pass the student must fulfil the learning outcomes specified for the course. To receive a Pass with Distinction, the student must also demonstrate an independent, reflective, highly knowledgeable and critical relation to the research field, theories and methodologies presented in this course.

G Specific Entry Requirements

To be eligible for the course requires that 75 per cent of the course work, or the equivalent, for the first and second year of the programme has been completed.

H Literature

See attachment
List of Literature
UTVC05 – Development Cooperation in Practice


Stokke, Olav 2009: The UN and Development: From Aid to Cooperation, United Nations Intellectual History Project Series, Indiana University Press, Bloomington. 500 pages

Articles according to instructions from the teachers – 300 pages

Total: 1139 pages