
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

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About the Program

The Global Development Studies (GDS) Program offers an interdisciplinary minor that focuses on the transformations associated with development. Since development entails transformations at the individual, local, national, and global levels, the program consists of courses that address multiple thematic and regional dimensions of development processes.

Courses in the program allow students to explore the empirical, philosophical, and policy dimensions of development. Faculty members at Puget Sound with development expertise teach in several departments and thus can provide students with a comprehensive set of skills and experiences for future development studies or work.

Program Objectives

By working with diverse disciplinary lenses, textual forms, and theoretical models, students who complete a minor in Global Development Studies should demonstrate the ability to:

1. Explain how, and by whom, the concept of development has historically been defined and practiced.
2. Identify the assumptions that have shaped development policy goals and the diverse kinds of evidence used to evaluate their effectiveness.
3. Understand and critically evaluate a range of development theoretical frameworks.
4. Articulate connections among the political, economic, and sociocultural dimensions of global development.
5. Demonstrate analytical, research, and writing skills through the completion of a senior capstone course.
6. Apply skills or engage in experiences that will enable future studies or work in the field of global development.

To qualify for the minor in Global Development Studies, a student must meet the requirements specified below. While students self-select their participation in the program by completing and submitting a form to the Academic Advising office, they are strongly encouraged to meet with one of the advisory committee members to coordinate their planned curricular trajectory.

Though courses that reflect a focus on development are represented in some First-Year Seminars, they do not count towards the minor in Global Development Studies. Students interested in development processes are nevertheless encouraged to consider these courses.

Most courses offered in the program require no related prior study; however, students who take any of the few upper division courses with prerequisites must satisfy the associated requirements.

General Requirements for the Minor

General university degree requirements stipulate that 1) three units of the minor be taken in residence at Puget Sound; 2) students earn a GPA of 2.0 in courses taken for the minor; and 3) all courses taken for a minor must be taken for graded credit. Any exceptions to these stipulations are indicated in the minor degree requirements listed below.

Requirements for the Minor

The Global Development Studies minor requires 6 units:

1. GDS 211
2. One of the following two “core” courses:

- a. ECON 268
 - b. SOAN 316
3. Three units of electives from the program curriculum listed below. Students must take at least one unit from the “Topical” group and one unit from the “Regional” group. At least two of three electives must be at the 200 level or higher. Students who take both GDS core courses (ECON 268 and SOAN 316) will receive elective credit (Topical) for the second course
 4. GDS 400.

Notes

1. If approved by a member of the Advisory Committee, substitution of requirements may be possible using courses not already listed as approved electives, including courses taken during study abroad. Approval of these petitions will be determined according to the extent the courses address political, social, economic or cultural changes associated with development processes. Courses applicable to the minor in Global Development Studies may be taken at any time in a student’s academic trajectory.
2. No more than two courses taken for the GDS minor may also be used to satisfy the requirements of a major or another minor.

Course Offerings: Topical Electives

BUS/IPE 361 Business and the Base of the Pyramid
COMM 460 Technology, Organization, and Globalization
ECON 271 International Economics
ECON 327 Climate Change: Economics, Policy, and Politics
ENVR/PG 382 Global Environmental Politics
IPE 205 The Political Economy of International Trade and Finance
IPE 321 The Business of Alleviating Poverty : NGOs, Corporations, and Social Entrepreneurs
IPE/SOAN 323 The Political, Economic, and Social Context of International Tourism
IPE 331 The International Political Economy of Food and Agriculture
IPE 367 Cosmopolitan Countrysides: Understanding Rural Places in Global Context
IPE 382 The Illicit Global Economy
IPE 389 Global Struggles over Intellectual Property
IPE/SOAN 407 Political Ecology
PG 328 Development, Exploitation, and Political Change
SOAN 230 Indigenous Peoples: Alternative Political Economies
SOAN 316 Cultural Politics of Global Development
SOAN 318 Gender, Work, and Globalization
SOAN 350 Border Crossings: Transnational Migration and Diaspora Studies
SOAN 352 Critical Studies of Organizations, Work, and Management
SOAN 365 Global Health

Course Offerings: Regional Electives

BUS 472 Business in Latin America
BUS 474 Business in India and South Asia
CONN 334 Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa and Beyond
CONN 395 China and Latin America: A New Era of Transpacific Relations
ENGL 361 South Asian Fiction
HIST 280 Colonial Latin America
HIST 281 Modern Latin America
HIST 291 Modern Africa
HIST 380 Modern Mexico: From Revolution to NAFTA

HIST 382 Comparative Revolutions in Twentieth-Century Latin America
HIST 384 Transnational Latin America
HIST 391 Nelson Mandela and 20th Century South Africa
HIST 392 Men and Women in Colonial Africa
IPE 333 Political Economy of Southeast Asia
LAS 100 Introduction to Latin American Studies
LAS 380 Around Macondo in Eighty Days
LAS/PG 399 Latin American Travel Seminar
PG 325 African Politics
SOAN 222 Culture and Society of Southeast Asia
SOAN 315 Identity Politics in Latin America
SOAN 416 Modern India and Diaspora
SPAN 402 Seminar in Nineteenth-Century Latin America

Course Offerings

Unless otherwise specified, each course carries 1 unit of credit and is offered at least once each academic year. Please see “Frequency of Course Offerings” on page 18.

GDS Transfer Courses (GDS)

211 Introduction to Global Development This course serves as an introduction to global development and provides an overview of several problems associated with development and globalization. There are two themes that run throughout the course. First, what are the tradeoffs inherent to the process of industrialization, globalization, and economic growth? Second, what are the political, social, and economic challenges faced by low-income countries? In pursuing these two themes, this course will cover several topics related to development and globalization: the historical trajectory and meaning of the development idea; the role played by colonialism in shaping the contours of the contemporary world; the policy dimensions of development and globalization; the tradeoffs associated with the modernization of agriculture; the causes and consequences of the debt crisis; patterns of health and illness in low-income countries; the environmental impact of industrialization and growing global consumerism; and the challenges faced by women in low-income countries. *Cross-listed as GDS/IPE 211. Satisfies the Knowledge, Identity, Power graduation requirement. Cannot be taken Credit/No Credit.*

400 Research Seminar in Global Development Studies This capstone course allows Global Development Studies (GDS) minors to consolidate their knowledge and engage in meaningful conversations about that knowledge with other students in the program. Students in this seminar undertake an in-depth examination of a specialized topic of interest within the field of global development. Working both as a class and in small groups through the semester, students are expected to research, write, and present a senior thesis. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. *Cannot be taken Credit/No Credit.*

495 Independent Study Variable credit up to 1.00 unit. Independent study credit is available to students who demonstrate legitimate educational needs not met through regular course offerings. Students must have junior or senior class standing. Petition for admission is required and requests evaluated on an individual basis. *Can be taken only once and cannot be repeated for credit.*