

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
**Globalization and Development**

Name coordinator: Wiebe Nauta - w.nauta@maastrichtuniversity.nl  
Full period of this minor: 1-3  
ECTS credits in total of this minor: 24/30  
Language of instruction: ENGLISH  
Teaching methods: PBL, Lectures, Skills, Work in subgroups, Presentation(s)  
Assessment methods: Assignment, Participation, Written exam, Attendance.

Keywords:

Globalization, Inequalities, Development, Poverties, the Sustainable Development Goals, Colonialism, Agencies of development, Democratization, Human Rights, Global Health, HIV/AIDS, NGOs, Migration, Remittances, Climate change, Food security, Natural resources, Land grabbing and Global crises, BRICS, G20, South-South development cooperation, Poverty, Urbanization, Infrastructures, Big Data, Surveillance, Ecology, Space, Identity

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**Course period 1: Globalization and Inequality**

Course code: MGD3000

Course Period: 1

ECTS credits of this course: 12

Full course description

This course critically focuses on structural issues of development in a global context. Globalization refers to the increasing interdependence of markets, states and civil societies and the resulting effects on people and their environment. By also addressing inequalities, the structural differentiations among actors in terms of access to means, opportunities and resources, issues of (re-)distribution are taken into account as well. The course acknowledges colonial legacies in the field of development by examining development agendas in the post-colonial period and discovering how (neo-)colonial thinking, policies, actors and spaces still play a role in 21<sup>st</sup> century development challenges. Moreover, it investigates interdependencies on a global, transnational, national and local level, while considering the role of public, private and civil society actors. Thus, it aims to understand underlying development processes and unlock the ongoing debates. The course focuses on the following themes:

Globalization and development; the Sustainable Development Goals; a history of colonialism and inequality; the agencies of development; democratization, human rights and development;

health and development; global migration and remittances; and climate crisis, consumption patterns and the North-South divide.

#### Course objectives

At the end of the course, students:

- can understand and analyze issues of globalization and inequality from several disciplinary perspectives;
- can connect issues of globalization, inequality, poverty and development;
- are able to understand theories, concepts and historical roots of global social, political and economic inequality;
- are able to describe and institutionally place the main global and international actors and networks in the field of development, including their aim, impact and effectiveness;
- are able to critically discuss contemporary issues in development and the developing world, in particular:
  - (Post-)colonial legacies;
  - Democratization, human rights and development;
  - Health and development;
  - Global Migration and remittances;
  - Climate crisis, consumption patterns and the North-South divide;
- are able to analyze changes in 21<sup>st</sup> century geopolitical perspectives with regards to development, including the growing impact of the emerging (e.g. China, BRICS) countries and South-South development initiatives;
- are able to discuss the relations between the various global crises and recent development policies (e.g. the Sustainable Development Goals).

#### Prerequisites

n/a

**Course period 2: Urban Development & Poverty in the 21st Century**

Course code: MGD3001

Course Period: 2

ECTS credits of this course: 12

**Full course description**

Each year and all over the world, millions of people move to cities. But what does urbanization look like in the Global South? This course frames 'the city' as "a heuristic space – a space capable of producing knowledge about some of the major transformations of an epoch" (Sassen, 2012, p. 1) and as a lens through which to acquire knowledge about development and poverty in our globally interconnected and troublesome world.

Through readings in this course we delve into the human aspects of these contrasting and contradictory spaces, and we analyze social, economic and political processes in cities of particularly less/differently developed countries in the Global South. We discuss connections and tensions between urban communities and economic development; the creation of vulnerable populations through urbanization and the precariousness of labour; the structural failures of slum ecologies and how they affect people; and also how citizens nevertheless find myriad modes of making the city their home.

Fundamentally, this course takes as a starting point the question what it takes to live and survive in a city when one is very poor, marginalized, silenced, made invisible, or otherwise rendered peripheral. We take such qualifications to be effects of not only how cities are organized and governed 'from above', but also of specific ways of conceptualizing how cities and their inhabitants operate. Key to our point of departure is the notion, coined by Simone (2010) of 'cityness', "the city as a thing in the making (...) [where] at the heart of city life is the capacity for its different people, spaces, activities, and things to interact in ways that exceed any attempt to regulate them" (Simone, 2010, p. 3). Thus, we look at the constraints the urban poor are facing, but also at the opportunities people have to make a living and contribute crucially to what cities are.

**Course objectives**

At the end of this course, students:

- can understand and analyze approaches to urban poverty from below
- can conceptualize and discuss the work it takes from the urban poor to survive in cities
- can conceptualize and discuss the contribution of the urban poor to cities
- can produce a narrative of agency
- are able to analyze, understand and critically discuss the work of survival of the urban poor and their contribution to cities with the use of the following concepts and approaches:
  - The right to the city (Unit 1)
  - Urban infrastructures –planned and unplanned– and their role in connectivity (Unit 2)
  - Survival entrepreneurship (Unit 3)

- Migration, gender and links to counter-geographies of globalization (Unit 4)
- Digital infrastructures, big data, surveillance, and counter-mapping (Unit 5)
- Cultural production from the ghetto (Unit 6)
- Cityness (Unit 7)

Prerequisites

n/a

**Course period 3: Globalization Seminar & Symposium**

Course code: MGD3002

Course Period: 3

ECTS credits of this course: 6

**Full course description**

This course provides students the opportunity to research diverse topics on various themes related to Globalization and Development. The chosen themes are connected to the preceding courses in period I and II. They have a global and structural dimension as well as cultural, local and personal features. The topics students work on should have a present-day importance and can be approached from a more abstract and theoretical, as well as an empirical and/or historical perspectives. Students will work on a paper and discuss work in progress with fellow students and tutors in the various seminars/tutorials in the course. They will present their final paper at the concluding Minor Symposium (for which all-day participation is mandatory) to their fellow students and invited guests. This final symposium starts with a keynote speaker with expertise in one of the themes of the Minor Globalization and Development.

**Course objectives**

At the end of the course, students:

- can describe and critically engage with several main debates in the field of migration studies;
- are able to find, assess, and critically make use of secondary and primary data; are able to formulate a research question; are able to build an academic argument;
- are able to conduct a literature review;
- are able to deal with and incorporate feedback;
- are able to write a full, well-referenced, research paper and position themselves in an academic debate;
- are able to present their own work at a symposium.

**Prerequisites**

MGD3000 &

MGD3001