

International Development Policies

(9 credits)

Spring semester 2024

Monday 12pm 3 pm (Aula B9)

Friday 4pm 7pm (Aula B9)

Professor

Marco d'Errico

marco.derrico@uniroma1.it

Course Overview

IDP2023 provides students with an opportunity to understand the problems of poverty and hunger in developing countries. An important objective of the course will be to explore strategies that United Nations agencies, governmental bodies, and international non-governmental organizations employ in response to poverty and hunger. To understand the problem of poverty and hunger, we will examine the economic factors, socio-political pressures, and agro-ecological conditions unique to developing countries. To understand how UN-System and other key actors measure the effectiveness of their policies, we will look at key concepts such as resilience, vulnerability, poverty, inequality. To understand the range of strategic responses to the problems of poverty and hunger, the priorities, and programs of various organizations (United Nations bodies and international aid agencies) will be analyzed.

The bulk of the course is structured around main topics of international development policies (food security; resilience; poverty and inequality; monitoring and evaluation; gender). Additionally, the students will have the possibility to delve into key aspects of our work: pastoralists, conflicts, and territorial approach.

IDP2023 is a class for those interested in international development. Within the broad field of international development, the course is focused on the causes, consequences, and strategic orientations toward the problems of poverty and hunger in developing countries. To understand strategic orientations, we will examine various responses to poverty and hunger, particularly the strategies employed by United Nations agencies, governmental bodies, and international non-governmental organizations. This will require a holistic understanding of the problems of poverty and hunger; we will not only consider the sociopolitical pressures, agroecological conditions, and economic factors that affect food and nutrition security but will also seek to understand the rationales that motivate various approaches to aid.

While the course is structured around a set of issues of importance to development assistance and humanitarian aid, the advancement of **writing skills** will also be incentivized. Content provided in assigned readings, information obtained from student-initiated investigations, and insights gained from in-class discussion provide a platform on which a sequence of writing tasks will be based. Using poverty and hunger as a theme for the course, the point of all writing tasks is to support the development of clear and coherent written expression. This will be accomplished by generating critical readings assignments, each of which will be supported by reviews from instructional staff in open debates in class.

The coursework is built around a backbone of drafts, peer-review activities, and detailed reviews of writing. There is no handbook or manual; the students will employ the presentations lectured, reading lists provided, and additional support material.

At least three international experts will lecture on pastoralists, conflicts, and policy negotiations in agricultural development.

Parallel to this, the course will have a **laboratory on impact evaluation**. The student will go over the techniques employed, while also learning how to build and use a questionnaire. s/he will also practice how to implement interviews and handle data.

Course Outcomes

Students who enroll in this class will develop the capacity to demonstrate knowledge of the International Development Analysis and Policies. Additional outcomes of the course are for students to:

- Develop the capacity to evaluate evidence and express ideas coherently
- Understand the ways in which poverty and food insecurity are measured and distributed across the globe
- Understand how economic pressures (food prices, market failures, supply chain problems), natural disasters (droughts, floods) and political conflict affect poverty and food security
- Identify and assess strategic orientations that various organizations use to address problems of poverty and hunger
- Assess the effect of both existing risks and emerging challenges that undermine efforts to improve the well-being of populations who suffer from poverty and experience food insecurity.

Instructional Approach

The course is structured as a seminar that involves a high degree of student participation. Reactions to assigned readings, the content of written work generated by students, ideas introduced during lectures, and students' critical viewpoints provide the main points of reference for in-class discussion.

Course Requirements

Part of the course will be lectures on key international development policy and analysis topics. There will also be practical sessions where Critical Reading Assignments will be given. Students will also be given the possibility of developing group-work into the form of small dissertation; the grades obtained will be included in the final grades.

Active participation in classes is required.

Final Grades. The course is worth 9 credits. The exam will be in written form, comprised of 4 questions. The students who have completed the group-dissertation will be exempted from the last question.

3 questions on material of the course

1 question on the lab on Impact Evaluation