

# Development Studies

**Convener:** Dr Salim Lakha (School of Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies)

Development studies at the University of Melbourne is one of the fastest growing programs in Australia. The program considers economic, environmental and social changes that occur in societies undergoing development. It offers students the opportunity to study these issues in depth and from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Development studies is an interdisciplinary program within the School of Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies (SAGES) that encompasses a range of related disciplines including anthropology, geography, environmental studies, politics, indigenous studies, public policy, sociology, health, law and economics. Students will develop a wide range of skills in analysis, survey writing, communication, group work and computing and will enrich their knowledge of social and environmental interactions.

The development studies program covers areas that have direct relevance to practical and impact-oriented developmental practices. Recent growth in the development industry (international aid agencies, non-government organisations and private sector consulting companies) testifies to the relevance of the program in development studies at the University of Melbourne. Students who specialise in development studies develop transferable skills that will substantially enhance their career options. Alternatively, they are able to expand on their interest and knowledge through an articulated structure of higher degree study at the University of Melbourne.

## Time commitment to study

As well as scheduled contact hours for lectures, tutorial and seminars a considerable additional time commitment is needed to complete the academic requirements of each subject.

A subject-specific time commitment to study will be provided by your lecturer or tutor at the beginning of semester to help you schedule your workload and successfully manage your time during the semester. In addition, general estimates of the total time commitment required to study a 12.5-point single semester subject in the Faculty of Arts can be found on page 1.

## Prerequisites

The program commences in first year. However, students who have completed 50 points of first-year social science subjects may apply to the convener for entry.

## Diploma in Arts (Development Studies)

The Diploma in Arts (Development Studies) is only available to students who are currently enrolled in a degree course at the University of Melbourne. It consists of a three-year sequence of study, and adds one year to the duration of your degree.

Students must complete 25 points of first-year subjects, including 121-110 Famine in the Modern World (*p.2*), and 75 points of second/third-year subjects selected from the lists below, including 121-015 Development and the Third World (*p.2*).

## Requirements for a major

A major in development usually consists of nine 12.5-point subjects, totalling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first-year subjects (25 points), which must include:
  - 121-110 Famine in the Modern World (*p.2*); and
  - at least one other subject from the list of first-year social science subjects below; and
- seven second/third-year subjects (87.5 points) which must include:
  - 121-015 Development and the Third World (*p.2*); and
  - three core subjects; and
  - three subjects from the list of optional subjects below.

Students seeking to make a career in development are strongly advised to construct an undergraduate program that combines a major in development with a major in one of the social sciences (anthropology, economics, geography, political science, sociology).

**First-year compulsory subject** Sem.  
121-110 Famine in the Modern World (*p.2*) 1

**First-year optional subjects** Sem.  
**Anthropology**

121-107 Social Order and Social Change (*p.2*) 2

121-108 Varieties of Human Experience (*p.2*) 1

**Economics**

**First-year optional subjects** Sem.  
316-101 Introductory Macroeconomics (*p.1*) 1 rep 2  
316-102 Introductory Microeconomics (*p.1*) 1 rep 2

**History**  
131-154 The Modern World 1: The Nuclear Shadow (*p.4*) 1  
131-155 The Modern World 2: People Power (*p.4*) 2

**Linguistics and applied linguistics**  
175-108 Cross-Cultural Communication (*p.2*) 2

**Political science**  
166-103 Global Politics (*p.1*) 2  
166-130 Globalisation, the Self & Society (*p.2*) 1

**Second/third-year compulsory subject** Sem.  
121-015 Development and the Third World (*p.2*) 2

**Second/third-year core subjects** Sem.  
**at least three of:**

121-026 The Mobile World: Migrancy, Home & Exile (*p.3*) 1  
121-028 Sustainable Development (*p.4*) 2  
121-065 Working with Value (*p.3*) 2  
121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality (*p.2*) 2  
121-066 Sexing the Self (*p.3*) 2  
121-436 The Geopolitics of Peace and Development (*p.2*) 1

**Second/third-year optional subjects** Sem.  
121-023 China in Transition (*p.3*) 1

121-061 Applied Anthropology (*p.2*) N/A

121-067 Cooperation and Conflict (*p.3*) N/A

121-068 Redefining Nature (*p.3*) 2

121-224 Garma Fieldwork (*p.4*) (25 points) 2

121-226 Native Title (*p.4*) N/A

121-457 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (*p.4*) (third/fourth-year subject) N/A

121-494 Africa: Environment, Development, People (*p.7*) 1

**Architecture**  
705-289 Urbanisation and Urban Development (*p.21*) 2

**Asian studies**  
110-417 Gender and Agency in East Asia (*p.10*) (third/fourth year subject) 2

**Chinese studies**  
110-442 Contemporary Chinese Society (*p.10*) 2

**History**  
131-038 Gender and Development (*p.7*) 1

**Islamic studies**  
110-231 Muslim Women and Islamic Feminism (*p.3*) 2

**Indonesian studies**  
110-218 Mass Media in Indonesia (*p.4*) 2

110-419 Popular Cultures in Indonesia (*p.4*) (third/fourth year subject) 1

**Management**  
325-226 Business and Economy in South East Asia (*p.3*) 1

**Political science**  
166-018 Chinese Politics and Society (*p.4*) 1

166-022 Public Policy Making (*p.5*) 1

166-024 International Gender Politics (*p.5*) 2

166-029 World Politics in Transition (*p.5*) 2

166-038 Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage (*p.6*) 2

166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies (*p.3*) 2

166-212 Global Environmental Politics (*p.6*) 2

166-218 Colonial/Postcolonial S.E.Asian Politics (*p.7*) N/A

**Students should note that some of the above subjects have prerequisites.**

**Consult the relevant area of study entries of this Handbook for details.**

## Honours requirements

It is not possible to complete honours in development studies on a part time basis. Students must complete the honours year full-time over two consecutive semesters of study.

For information on how to apply see *Applying for Honours* (*p.13*).

**Pure honours** Sem.

Students undertaking pure honours in development must complete a thesis (50 points) and four coursework subjects (50 points) comprising:

One thesis subject  
121-526 Development Studies Thesis (*p.2*) 1 rep 2

and three compulsory subjects

121-439 Directed Study in Development (*p.2*) 1 rep 2

121-503 Research Methods and Design (*p.8*) Summer

**Pure honours**

121-545	Understanding Development (p.3)	Sem. 1
and one elective subject from the following list:		
121-516	Gender Issues in Development (p.2)	2
121-525	The Political Ecology of Development (p.3)	1
121-529	Social Impact Assessment and Evaluation (p.2)	2
131-546	Gender, Globalisation and Development (p.22)	1
166-413	Network Society (p.9)	1
166-427	Governance and Complexity (p.10)	2
166-444	The Emerging World (Dis)Order (p.10)	1
166-445	Postcolonial Concerns, Postmodern Theory (p.11)	N/A
705-289	Urbanisation and Urban Development (p.21)	2
705-218	Transport and Land Use Planning (p.21)	1

or other fourth-year subject/s with permission from the honours coordinator and subject coordinator.

**Combined honours**

Students undertaking their thesis in the combining department must complete 37.5 points of development coursework subjects comprising:		
the core subject:		
121-545	Understanding Development (p.3)	1
and two elective subjects from the following list (note that you may not elect to undertake more than one subject from the same department):		
121-439	Directed Study in Development (p.2)	1 rep 2
121-516	Gender Issues in Development (p.2)	2
121-525	The Political Ecology of Development (p.3)	1
121-529	Social Impact Assessment and Evaluation (p.2)	2
131-546	Gender, Globalisation and Development (p.22)	1
166-413	Network Society (p.9)	1
166-427	Governance and Complexity (p.10)	2
166-444	The Emerging World (Dis)Order (p.10)	1
166-445	Postcolonial Concerns, Postmodern Theory (p.11)	N/A

or other fourth-year subject/s with permission of the honours coordinator and subject coordinator.

**Combined honours with thesis in development**

Students undertaking their thesis in development must complete 62.5 points in development studies comprising:		
121-526	Development Studies Thesis (p.2)	1 rep 2
and		
121-545	Understanding Development (p.3)	1

and 37.5 points of coursework from the combining department.

**Further study**

Students who wish to undertake further study can enrol in postgraduate courses in development studies, or in anthropology, geography, environmental studies and gender studies.

**For more information**

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**Third/fourth-year subjects****121-436 The Geopolitics of Peace and Development**

**Availability:** 3rd and 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** To be advised

**Prerequisites:** Completion of 200 points of study including at least 50 points of geography, development studies or politics.

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** This subject examines the ways in which geopolitical thought shapes practices of peace and development, and the ways in which peace and development are themselves interrelated. States shape their security and development policies according to their understanding of the geography of the world and other states. It is therefore important to understand these geopolitical reasonings in order to comprehend the causes of violence and poverty and strategies for their elimination. This subject uses key texts and case stud-

ies to illustrate the interconnections between geopolitics, peace and development. Students will develop an ability to think clearly and critically about past and contemporary world affairs.

**Assessment:** For 3rd year students: a 10-minute tutorial presentation 10%, an associated written tutorial paper of 1000 words 20% (due one week after the tutorial presentation) and a 3000 word essay 70% (due at the end of semester). For 4th year students: a 10-minute tutorial presentation 10%, an associated written tutorial paper of 1000 words 20% (due one week after the tutorial presentation), a 3000 word essay 50% (due at the end of semester) and a 20-minute tutorial presentation on the major essay 20% (due in the last week of term).

**Fourth-year subjects****121-526 Development Studies Thesis**

**Note:** Students must have the written permission of the coordinator to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 50

**Coordinator:** Dr Salim Lakha

**Prerequisites:** Mid-year admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in development.

**Contact:** Regular contact with the supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

**Description:** An original, supervised research project on a topic to be decided in consultation with members of SAGES and the supervisor.

**Assessment:** A thesis of 15,000 words. A hurdle requirement is the submission of a statement of a research problem at a date to be specified by the first week of the first semester of enrolment.

**121-439 Directed Study in Development**

**Note:** Formerly available as 121-106. Students who have completed 121-106 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Salim Lakha

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in development and prior permission of the course coordinator.

**Contact:** A 1-hour weekly meeting with the supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

**Description:** This subject involves a critical assessment of the literature of a research area in development studies, chosen by the student in consultation with the supervisor. The area of review will be determined during regular meetings and discussions between student and supervisor. Regular meetings will be held to discuss the development of academic arguments in the review. Preparation of the review will include an extensive literature search by the student on the defined topic and critical appraisal of drafts by the supervisor prior to final submission of the review.

**Assessment:** A written review essay of 5000 words 100% (due at the end of semester).

**121-503 Research Methods and Design**

See full subject details on page 8.

**121-516 Gender Issues in Development**

**Availability:** 4th year and postgraduate

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** To be advised

**Prerequisites:** Admission to postgraduate studies or fourth year honours in development.

**Contact:** This subject is taught in intensive mode. Details of teaching arrangements can be obtained from the subject coordinator. Twenty four hours of seminars (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** This subject addresses the complexities of development by systematically reviewing the conceptual, ideological and sociocultural context in which development planning decisions are made, particularly in developing countries. This subject concentrates on the theory and practice of development, theories of social change and development in the light of challenges to traditional goals of development, ie. economic growth, poverty alleviation and social justice. Consideration is also given to the role of the state and international organisations, and alternative strategies and paradigms of development. Case studies of the patterns of development in the Asia-Pacific region will be utilised to highlight development strategies, successes and failures. Particular focus will be given to consideration of issues of gender and environment.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 5000 words comprising of a 3500 word essay due at the end of semester (50%), 1000 word proposal (25%), oral presentation equivalent to 500 words due during semester (15%) and class participation (10%).

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### 121-525 The Political Ecology of Development

**Availability:** 4th year and postgraduate

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Simon Batterbury

**Prerequisites:** Admission to a postgraduate coursework program or fourth year honours in development studies, environmental studies, geography or anthropology, or permission of the subject coordinator.

**Contact:** A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** The subject provides postgraduate and honours students with a critical understanding of the institutions that regulate the interactions between society and the natural environment, using a political ecology perspective. The topics explored in this subject will help students understand why development, conservation, and resource management (as an ideal, or in an actual project setting) fails or succeeds, or why environmental degradation results. This subject focuses on the international development 'industry', in its multiple guises, and thus on the environmental and social outcomes of specific development policies. Firstly, we introduce and discuss a range of explanatory frameworks that political ecologists have developed, showing how they have been applied in practice. We critically analyze a number of development initiatives that are reconstituting human-environment relationships and, in some cases, promoting new forms of 'environmental governance'. The range of topics may change each year, and some indicative ones are; supporting rural livelihoods; water management; conservation policy; urban environmental governance; gender and environment; and the outcomes of corporate misdeeds. Students will ask how different institutions, and the politics surrounding them, impose constraints upon, and present opportunities for, the promotion of sustainable and equitable development. Students of this subject will learn appreciate the complexity of these issues, and the need to analyse and understand them before initiating development planning.

**Assessment:** An essay of 4000 words 80% (due at the end semester), an oral presentation 10% (during the semester), seminar participation throughout the semester 10%. The last two components are equivalent to 1000 words.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available on the Learning Management System at the start of semester.

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### 121-545 Understanding Development

**Note:** Formerly available as 121-105. Students who have completed 121-105 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** postgraduate

**Credit points:** 12.5

**Coordinator:** Dr Salim Lakha

**Prerequisites:** Admission to postgraduate studies or fourth year honours in development.

**Contact:** Twenty four hours of seminars (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** This subject forms an introduction to the main past and current theories of development, involving the approaches of several social science disciplines. Students should become familiar with the relationship between global trends in development, on-the-ground changes to people's lives, and the activities of government and non-government organisations. Some seminars will consist of participants' and other professionals' reflections about the relations between their activities and larger scale development problems.

**Assessment:** A 15-minute briefing presentation working in a group on an allocated topic 10% (begun in week 4), an associated group-prepared 3000 word briefing paper 30% (due one week after the presentation) and a 3000 word individual essay 60% (due at the end of semester).

