

Development Studies

Convener: Dr Salim Lakha (School of Social and Environmental Inquiry)

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 Social and Environmental Inquiry that encompasses a range of related disciplines including anthropology, geography, environmental studies, politics, indigenous studies, 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 an undergraduate 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 eight 12.5-point subjects, totaling 100 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
- six second/third-year subjects (75 points), which must include:
 - 121-015 Development and the Third World (*p.2*); and
 - three core subjects; and
 - two 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 (<i>p.2</i>)	1

First-year optional subjects	Sem.
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Anthropology	
121-107 Consuming Culture and Society (<i>p.2</i>)	2
121-108 Varieties of Human Experience (<i>p.2</i>)	1

Economics	
316-101 Introductory Macroeconomics (<i>p.1</i>)	1 rep 2
316-102 Introductory Microeconomics (<i>p.1</i>)	1 rep 2

First-year optional subjects	Sem.
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History	
131-154 The Modern World 1: The Nuclear Shadow (<i>p.4</i>)	1
131-155 The Modern World 2: People Power (<i>p.4</i>)	2

Linguistics and applied linguistics	
175-108 Cross-Cultural Communication (<i>p.2</i>)	2

Management	
325-103 Managing in the Asia Pacific Region	

Political science	
166-103 Global Politics (<i>p.2</i>)	2
166-130 Globalisation, the Social and Identity (<i>p.2</i>)	1

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

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

121-022 Development and Urban Environments (<i>p.3</i>)	1
121-026 The Mobile World: Migration and Tourism (<i>p.3</i>)	1 rep 2
121-028 Sustainable Development (<i>p.3</i>)	2
121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality (<i>p.2</i>)	1
121-063 Culture Change and Protest Movements (<i>p.3</i>)	2
121-065 Working with Value (<i>p.3</i>)	1
121-066 Sexing the Self (<i>p.3</i>)	N/A
121-231 Indigenous Peoples & Resource Management (<i>p.5</i>)	N/A
121-415 Migrancy, Home and Exile (<i>p.4</i>) (third/fourth-year subject)	1
121-436 The Geopolitics of Peace and Development (<i>p.2</i>) (third/fourth-year subject)	1
121-494 Africa: Environment, Development, People (<i>p.7</i>) (third/fourth-year subject)	1

Second/third-year optional subjects	Sem.
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121-023 China in Transition (<i>p.3</i>)	N/A
121-055 Keeping the Body in Mind (<i>p.2</i>)	1
121-061 Applied Anthropology (<i>p.2</i>)	N/A
121-067 Cooperation and Conflict (<i>p.3</i>)	N/A
121-068 Redefining Nature (<i>p.3</i>)	2
121-224 Garma Fieldwork (<i>p.4</i>) (25 points)	2
121-226 Native Title (<i>p.4</i>)	N/A
121-457 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (<i>p.4</i>) (third/fourth-year subject)	2

Chinese studies	
110-442 Contemporary Chinese Society (<i>p.11</i>)	1

History	
131-038 Gender and Development (<i>p.6</i>)	1

Indonesian studies	
110-419 Popular Cultures in Indonesia (<i>p.5</i>) (third/fourth year subject)	N/A

Management	
325-226 Business and Economy in South East Asia (<i>p.3</i>)	1

Political science	
166-018 Chinese Politics and Society (<i>p.4</i>)	1
166-022 Public Policy Making (<i>p.4</i>)	1
166-024 International Gender Politics (<i>p.4</i>)	1
166-029 Global Politics: Key Questions (<i>p.5</i>)	2
166-038 Indigenous Rights: Land and Heritage (<i>p.5</i>)	1
166-086 Qualitative Research Strategies (<i>p.3</i>)	1
166-212 Global Environmental Politics (<i>p.6</i>)	2
166-218 Colonial/Postcolonial S.E.Asian Politics (<i>p.7</i>)	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.

The prerequisites for entry to fourth-year honours in development studies are:

- completion of all the requirements of the BA;
- completion of a major in development studies;
- an average grade of H2A (75%) or higher over the second/third-year subjects within the major.

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

Pure honours	Sem.
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Students undertaking pure honours in development studies must complete a thesis and four coursework subjects comprising:	
121-526 Development Studies Thesis (<i>p.2</i>) (50 points)	1 rep 2

Pure honours**and three compulsory subjects (37.5 points)**

121-439	Directed Study in Development (p.2)	Sem.	
121-503	Research Methods and Design (p.7)	1 rep 2	
121-545	Understanding Development (p.3)	Summer	
		1	
and one elective subject from the following list (12.5 points)			
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.20)		1
166-413	Network Society (p.9)		1
166-427	Governance and Complexity (p.9)	N/A	
166-444	The Emerging World (Dis)Order (p.10)		1
705-218	Transport and Land Use Planning (p.20)		1

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

Combined honours**Students in combined honours with the thesis in development studies complete:**

121-526	Development Studies Thesis (p.2) (50 points); and	1 rep 2	
121-545	Understanding Development (p.3) (12.5 points); and	1	
three coursework subjects from the combining program (37.5 points).			

Students in combined honours with the thesis in the combining program complete:

thesis subject (37.5 points); and
coursework subjects from the combining program (25 points); and
121-545 Understanding Development (p.3) (12.5 points); and
two elective subjects from the following list (25 points). Note that you may not elect to undertake more than one subject from the same program:

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.20)	1	
166-413	Network Society (p.9)	1	
166-427	Governance and Complexity (p.9)	N/A	
166-444	The Emerging World (Dis)Order (p.10)	1	

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

Further study

Students who wish to undertake further study can enrol in postgraduate courses in development studies, such as the Master of Development Studies (coursework).

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 studies 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). Masters students will write a 5000 word essay worth 100%.

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: 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 the coordinator 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 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 7.

121-516 Gender Issues in Development

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: To be advised

Semester: Semester 2

Description: This subject will focus on feminist engagements with development theory. Case studies will consider the place of women and men in rural social orders, the relationship between gender, the environment and ethnicity, the gendered dimensions of governance and civil society, and the connection between changes in the world economic system and the social construction of masculinity, femininity, and gender specific roles in the former colonial world. Discussions will focus on the relationship between feminist actions and critiques and the practices of development agencies, international organizations, non-government organizations, state level actors, and local and global financial interests. Students who complete this subject should be familiar with theories of development and feminist critiques; and be able to apply these perspectives to contemporary issues involving development agencies and their practices.

Assessment: Written reports totalling 5000 words, comprising of a final essay of 3500 words on a topic to be agreed upon with the lecturer, worth 60% (due late September), a proposal for the final essay of 750 words 15% (due mid semester), an informal presentation of one article or topic combined

with leading the seminar in a discussion of that presentation of 750 words 15% and attendance and participation 10%.

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 equivalent to 1000 words 20% (due during the semester).

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

121-545 Understanding Development

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr Salim Lakha

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

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

Description: This subject forms an introduction to the major past and current theories of development, involving the approaches of several social science disciplines. It also considers many of the major issues in development, including the environment, gender, human rights, globalisation, governance, non-governmental organisation, poverty, and trade. Students should become familiar with the relationship between theories of development and development practice. The subject seeks to foster skills in critical thinking, communication, and group work.

Assessment: A 15 minute briefing presentation 10% (working in a group on an allocated topic beginning in week 4 of semester), 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).

