# Economia del Global South

## Prof. Sara Balestri

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course focuses on the study of economic development in the Global South from a long-term perspective and it aims to provide students with a general understanding of the international economic integration process of developing countries. The course also aims to enhance knowledge and capacity for discernment regarding policy objectives and tools on a national and global level in relation to sustainable development and real integration. This requires assessing the effectiveness, efficiency, and fairness of the various options available in implementing economic policy, both in theoretical and concrete situations. Finally, the course aims to enhance students’ awareness of increasing interdependence in the world and in particular to examine the relationships between economic policies, integration process and economic development in the Global South.

*Knowledge and understanding*

The course is designed to provide students with stylized facts concerning development and international integration processes; the complex interconnections between economic growth, development policies and sustainability; the concepts of economic and social inequality and poverty.

The course covers some of the main challenges and areas of action for developing countries (growth, inequality, development of the agricultural sector and food security, urbanization, dependence on extractive resources) and the different economic policy options as far as regards foreign trade in commodities; migration; international investments and international acquisition of natural resources. The course also introduces the role of global governance systems with specific reference to the trade of natural resources. Students will become aware of the role of global and regional value chains and their impact on national and global growth paths and related economic policies.

Students will finally be able to understand descriptive analyses of data and graphic representations of economic theoretical models.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will be able to examine and interpret the specific social, economic, and institutional forms that characterize the *Global* *South* economies, with specific attention to the relationship between development, growth and sustainability.

Students will be able to examine the political and social implications of alternative economic and institutional policy choices. They will be able to identify conditions for different policies to be effective, efficient and promote equality, also with reference to real situations.

Students will be able to interpret reports and studies produced by international development institutions and research centres; they will be able to use databases and develop descriptive analyses of relevant data.

*Independence of judgement*

Students will be able to present and support their conclusions on theoretical development perspectives, the interconnections between national and international economic policies, the effects of real economic integration and global governance systems.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will address the following topics:

– Introduction to theoretical growth models.

– Analysis of development indicators and the link between poverty, inequality and growth also in the light of the process of international economic integration between countries.

– Challenging national dimensions of Global South economies, such as rural development and food security, dependence on extractive resources, sustainability, and urbanization.

– Trade as a driver of economic growth and poverty reduction: trade flows, interdependence, Global Value Chains,and development.

– International economic integration: direct foreign investment

– Commercial policies, trade liberalization, economic partnership agreements and development.

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

The reading list required for preparing the exam will be provided to students at the beginning of the course.

Detailed information on the topics covered in class, required chapters, and complete reading lists, as well as texts and materials to be discussed in class will be made available by the lecturer on Blackboard. The Blackboard platform will also be used to communicate timetable changes and information on the exam, any changes to the syllabus etc. All students – including non-attending and supplementary-year students - should register on the Blackboard course page and log in regularly.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is mainly taught through frontal lectures. Students are invited to actively participate in class discussions about suggested case studies to provide real examples of the topics addressed in the course. According to the class dimension, students may take part in a group activity that requires submitting a short paper and a final presentation to the class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students are assessed through a final written test that is divided into three parts:

– a first part in which students must answer multiple choice questions (20% of the final mark);

– a second part in which students must provide definitions and examples relating to the key concepts of the course (40% of the final mark)

– a third part in which students can choose among different open-ended questions. Depending on the question, the answer requires students to draw or explain graphs, to discuss how certain concepts apply to specific situations, to analyse socio-economic implications of economic policies (40% of the final mark).

Students will be marked on their understanding and knowledge of module content, as well as the quality of their answers (structure, accuracy, and comprehensiveness). Students are invited to view the corrections and comments on their final exam during the lecturer's office hours.

To encourage active learning, attending students will be invited to participate to class discussions and take part to a group activity which includes the elaboration of short paper presented to the class at the end of the course. This assignment, together with the final class presentation, will contribute to the final mark by providing additional points to the mark obtained in the written exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In terms of content and method, the course requires basic knowledge of (international) economics. Students are strongly encouraged to verify the suitability of their basic knowledge and to bridge any gaps by using the tools provided on Economics courses taken during their undergraduate degree.

Regular attendance to the lectures as well as gradually reading the suggested reading list materials, and active participation in class are recommended.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

1. I testi indicati nella bibliografia sono acquistabili presso le librerie di Ateneo; è possibile acquistarli anche presso altri rivenditori. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)