



UNIPID
FINNISH UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Course instructions

August 2025

ESSENTIALS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Dear student, here we have listed the general course instructions. We hope you have fruitful learning experiences during the course!

Structure of the course.

The Essentials in Development Studies course consists of five modules:

1. What is Development?
2. Major Theories of Development
3. Actors, Institutions and Policies of Development
4. Current topics in Development Studies
5. Reflections on Development and Alternatives

Evaluation methods.

The course is graded on a pass-fail basis. Successful completion requires reading or listening to the learning material and completing the assessment activities, including quizzes after each module. Completed grades will be recorded in the SISU system at the University of Jyväskylä (JYU). Final grading will be done at the end of the course, after enrolling via ILPO portal or JYU Sisu (more instructions on this step are provided below under the section "*Aiming to Obtain Study Credits After Completion? Register via ILPO or Sisu!*").

The MOOC "*Essentials in Development Studies*" is worth 5 ECTS. You may go through the content and course material even if you do not aim to earn credits. In this case, there is no need to complete the assessment activities or enrolling via ILPO/Sisu at the end of the course. However, you are encouraged to actively participate in the discussion forums, as this will help foster more engagement with other course participants and teachers.

Time allocation for the course.

As a 5 ECTS course, we recommend allocating 140 hours to complete it successfully. You can work through the course at your own pace but be sure to fulfill all the requirements **by 11 December 2025**.

Aiming to Obtain Study Credits After Completion? Register via ILPO or Sisu!

To be eligible for ECTS credits, you must enroll in the course through ILPO or Sisu (JYU students). The ECTS credits will then be entered into the University of Jyväskylä's study register. Course materials (without credits) are available to everyone without official enrollment.

The certificate of completions (course credits) is **free of charge for the degree students of the University of Jyväskylä and for all that study in [UniPID member universities](#)**. For others, course fee is €100.

Once you complete all the assessment activities and pass the quizzes, a new section will appear on the DigiCampus platform titled, *"If you want to receive credits for the course, see registration instructions below."*

This section contains three subsections with enrollment instructions that vary depending on your affiliation. Please read them carefully and follow the instructions that best apply to your case.

The three subsections are as follows:

- **Students NOT affiliated to UniPID member universities:** Enroll via ILPO and pay the €100 fee.
- **UniPID member universities' students:** After completing all course assignments, UniPID Virtual Studies Coordination will contact you within 10 days with a voucher code for the ILPO platform. This means you enroll via ILPO but do not need to pay the €100 enrolment fee.
 - It is very important that you register in DigiCampus using your **institutional email account**. Otherwise, you will not receive the code.
- **University of Jyväskylä's students:** Enroll directly through Sisu. No enrolment via ILPO is required.

Once your enrolment is complete, course credits will be registered in the University of Jyväskylä's study register within three weeks. If you encounter any issues during the enrolment process, feel free to contact Ana Tarazona (ana.tarazonagalvis@helsinki.fi)

Learning goals.

The overall objective of the course is to provide students with fundamentals to the multidisciplinary discipline of development studies and motivate students to further their knowledge in the field. During the course, you will:

- Distinguish between development as a historical process of change and as an intentional intervention with defined outcomes.
- Be familiar with selected/major theories of development.
- Identify and analyze actors, institutions and policies of development.
- Be acquainted with current debates on development studies/development research.
- Reflect development from conventional, critical and alternative perspectives as well as from the point of view of inclusion and exclusion.

Learning material.

The learning content includes reading material, video lectures, reflective assignments, and other material such as listening to podcast episodes. All the compulsory course material is open access. Each module also has recommendations for extra material for those who are interested in studying more. The language of the course is English.

Track your progress.

You can track your progress on the course via progress trackers. You will find them on the course front page. Every module has also their own progress tracking. By pointing the cursors to different parts of the bar, you can see which tasks you have completed, and which are still missing.

Feedback to course developers.

We hope this course offers enriching learning experiences. For this reason, we kindly ask for your feedback to help improve the course. On the course platform, there is an open forum where you can share your thoughts: How engaging did you find the modules? Were there any challenging concepts to grasp? Did you encounter any technical issues? Furthermore, upon completing the course, we will ask you to fill in a survey for anonymous feedback. Please find it here: <https://www.unipid.fi/vs-forms/unipid-essentials-in-development-studies-course-feedback/>

How to cite the course?

UniPID. (2025). Essentials in Development Studies Course [MOOC]. Retrieved June 20, 2023, from <https://digicampus.fi/course/view.php?id=6226>

Code of conduct.

The activities on the course assume that the course participants are genuinely motivated to engage in honest and academically sound learning about development studies. This entails the expectation that participants will appropriately reference and cite ideas and materials when relevant, while refraining from presenting someone else's ideas as their own.

In order to foster an inclusive and supportive learning environment, we, as the course contributors and developers, are committed to ensuring that everyone's participation in the course is free from harassment. We strictly prohibit any form of discrimination, harassment, or bullying.

We expect every course participant to promote the following behaviors:

- Using welcoming and inclusive language.
- Being respectful of differing viewpoints and experiences, strengths and personal boundaries.
- Avoiding making assumptions about others.
- Listening attentively to others and offering apologies if unintentionally causing harm.
- Being open to forgiveness if accidentally hurt by someone else.
- Accepting constructive criticism.
- Demonstrating empathy towards fellow course participants.

As course maintainers, it is our responsibility to promptly address and rectify any instances of unacceptable behavior. We reserve the right and responsibility to remove, edit or reject comments or contributions that do not align with this Code of Conduct.

This Code of Conduct applies to all modules of the course, ensuring a respectful and inclusive learning environment throughout.

Instances of abusive, harassing or other unacceptable behavior during the course, we ask you to contact unipid-info@helsinki.fi or hairintayhdysenkilo@hyy.fi or tyohyvinvointi@helsinki.fi

The code of Conduct is adapted from the [Contributor Covenant](https://www.contributor-covenant.org/version/2/1/code_of_conduct.html), version 2.1., available at https://www.contributor-covenant.org/version/2/1/code_of_conduct.html.

IMPORTANT: remember to tick the box agreeing on the code of conduct. You can find it here: <https://digicampus.fi/mod/choice/view.php?id=391358>.

Contact people.

If you have any questions related to the course content, please contact Happy Tirivangasi (happy.m.tirivangasi@jyu.fi), the course's teacher.

If any technical problems occur during the registration process in ILPO, please contact HelpJYU here: https://help.jyu.fi/jp?id=sc_cat_item&sys_id=1a07a9a6c3c195509cedf1177d0131bf.

You can also contact the UniPID Virtual Studies coordinator, Ana Tarazona (ana.tarazonagalvis@helsinki.fi) with any questions.