



Department of Sociology & Industrial Sociology
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SOCIOLOGY II

2025: FOURTH TERM

SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT



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MODULE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the second-year module on the sociology of development! This module explores the challenges associated with social change, focusing specifically on the concept and process of "development." We will start with an introduction to the sociological theories, concepts, and key figures that have shaped debates surrounding the so-called "development project" since the 1940s.

We will critically examine development from a range of theoretical perspectives and approaches. The module takes a comparative and historical perspective, interrogating the concept of development from a sociological standpoint and highlighting both the theoretical and practical aspects of the developmental process. Our discussions on development will be organised around three main themes:

1. *Development and underdevelopment*
2. *The human development approach*
3. *Globalisation and neoliberalism*

The discussion will connect these themes to the current development challenges in sub-Saharan Africa. Students need to study the themes against the background of global trends, as well as specific national and local issues. We discuss each theme over a period of two weeks. We also examine the surge in popularity of concepts like development, underdevelopment, and modernisation from the 1940s until late in the 20th century. This period was marked by sporadic waves of decolonisation, the intensification of the Cold War and the United States of America's (USA) struggle for global hegemony. We analyse how the USA promoted the so-called 'development project' – a specific proposal for a planned social and economic transformation – after the Second World War. We also analyse how many post-independence African states adopted the 'development project', underwritten by newly established global institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the World Trade Organisation and the International Monetary Fund.

Implemented in a diverse range of non-Western countries, the 'development project' promoted industrialisation, agricultural transformation, and nation and state-building strategies. It promised that Third World countries would "catch up" with the First World through economic growth, technological transfer and Westernisation. We will examine neo-liberal theory and how debt and structural adjustment policies have operated as key mechanisms for integrating national economies and societies into a more intensively globalised system.

We also discuss the increasing displacement of modernisation by the globalisation project since the 1970s. In particular, we discuss how globalisation emerged in the context of economic, environmental and debt crises, as well as accelerating technological change and radical ideological shifts. We also turn to focus on the South African context and examine the post-apartheid development strategies in light of current development challenges. This attempts to deepen comparative and historical understanding of the specificities and commonalities of development debates and processes in different societies. To make sense of this broad and

complex field of sociology and to enrich historical comparison, students are encouraged to draw on their own experiences, previous studies and historical knowledge.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the term, students should:

- Have developed a basic understanding of different meanings and definitions of development.
- Be able to discuss and comment on some of the key theories and concepts that have dominated the development process, thinking and practice.
- Have gained basic skills in applying established principles and sociological approaches to comment on the development process and policy in Africa.
- Have a deeper understanding and be able to offer a cogent critique of the history, character and origins of development in the so-called Third World societies.

MODULE EVALUATION

As a Department, we are committed to reflecting on our teaching practices and module content to strengthen our courses and modules. Towards the end of the term, you will be asked to participate in a module evaluation process. Please take this seriously and evaluate the module honestly and comprehensively. Your input will be highly appreciated and will enhance teaching and learning in the Department.

ASSESSMENTS

In this module, students will be assessed in the following manner:

One essay and one test. Collectively, the essay and the test count 40% of the module mark. Please see the information below on the two assessments:

Assessment 1: Essay

Question: *Provide a critique of modernisation theory, emphasising its impact on the post-World War II 'development project' in Africa. Use relevant examples from the experiences of Southern African countries.*

The essay must be typed with one-and-a-half spacing in Times New Roman font and must not exceed 2000 words. Hard copies of the essays must be submitted with Turnitin reports to the administrators at the Department of Sociology offices. The lecturer will create a Turnitin link on RUConnected. A marking rubric will be provided for both essays.

Due date for the essay: Friday, 12 September

Prescribed readings for the essay assignment:

Bond, P. (2001). The IMF and World Bank reconsidered. In: J. K. Coetzee, J. Graaff, F. Hendricks, F. & G. Wood (eds.). *Development: Theory, policy and practice*, pp. 27-44. Cape Town: Oxford University Press.

Cornwall, A. (2007). Buzzwords and fuzzwords: Deconstructing development discourse. *Development in Practice*, Vol. 17 (4-5), pp. 471-484.

Coetzee, J. K. (2001). Modernisation theory. In: J. K. Coetzee, J. Graaff, F. Hendricks, F. & G. Wood (eds.). *Development: Theory, policy and practice*, pp.27-44. Cape Town: Oxford University Press.

Rist, G. (2014). *The history of development: From Western origins to global faith*. New York: Zed Books.

Leave of Absence and Extensions

Without a valid LOA, no extensions to the due date will be granted. LOA forms are available in the department – please consult with the departmental administrator (j.fuller@ru.ac.za) in this regard. An application for an LOA must be accompanied by relevant supporting documentation (doctor's note, letter from a warden, letter from a psychologist, etc.). You must find out if your application has been approved, as the granting of an LOA by the Head of Department is not automatic (see the *Sociology Handbook* on RUconnected for details).

Plagiarism Policy

Please consult the *Sociology Handbook* for an outline of the University's policy on plagiarism, guidelines on the formatting and writing of assignments, the departmental rules regarding citations and referencing, and the criteria for assessing written work. A copy of the Assignment Cover Sheet, which must accompany all assignments submitted to the Department, is also available in the Handbook. Rhodes University's *Common Faculty Policy on Plagiarism* has also been uploaded on this module's page on RUConnected.

Assessment 2: Test

Friday, 26 September, 14h00, Bioscience Major

November Examination

The exam constitutes 60% of your overall course grade. You will be required to write three essays during the three-hour exam.

Consultations

Students should set up appointments by emailing Prof Mnwana and cc'ing Ms Noluvuyo Sakata (noluvuyo.sakata@ru.ac.za).

LECTURE TIMES AND VENUE

Lecture Venue: Bioscience Major

Lecture Times: Monday: 11:25 to 12:10

Wednesday: 08:40 to 09:25

Thursday: 09:35 to 10:20

Friday: 10:30 to 11:15

MODULE STRUCTURE

Weeks 1 & 2: Development and Underdevelopment

This theme introduces students to various definitions and meanings of development. It also encourages a critical reflection on how the concepts of development, underdevelopment, and modernisation were prominent in the 1940s and 1950s, particularly against the backdrop of the growing decolonisation struggles in Africa and the Cold War. During this time, the United States was vying for dominance in the global political economy.

As we explore this theme, we will discuss how strategies related to industrialisation and nation-building created the promise that Third World countries would be able to "catch up" with the First World. Finally, we will critique the modernisation approach to development through the lens of the dependency school of thought.

Key Readings

Amin, S. (1972). Underdevelopment and dependence in Black Africa – Origins and contemporary forms. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, Vol.10 (4), pp.503-524.

Bond, P. (2001) The IMF and World Bank reconsidered. In: J. K. Coetzee, J. Graaff, F. Hendricks, F.& G. Wood (eds.). *Development: Theory, policy and practice*, pp. 27-44. Cape Town: Oxford University Press.

Bush, R. (2008). Scrambling to the bottom? Mining, resources & underdevelopment. *Review of African Political Economy*, Vol.35 (117), pp.361-366.

Cooper, F. & Packard, R. (1997). *International development and the social sciences: Essays on the history and politics of knowledge*. Los Angeles: University of California Press, [Chapter 1 'Introduction'].

Cornwall, A. (2007). Buzzwords and fuzzwords: Deconstructing development discourse. *Development in Practice*, Vol. 17 (4-5), pp. 471-484.

Coetzee, J. K. (2001). Modernization theory. In: J. K. Coetzee, J. Graaff, F. Hendricks, F. & G. Wood (eds.). *Development: Theory, policy and practice*, pp.27-44. Cape Town:Oxford University Press.

Frank, A.G. (1966). *The development of underdevelopment*. New York: Routledge. (Chapter 1 in Latin America: Underdevelopment or Revolution). (On RUConnected) Available at: http://www.bresserpereira.org.br/terceiros/cursos/2010/1970.the_development_of_underdevelopment.pdf

Graaff, J. & Venter, D. (2001). Understanding the world system. In: J. K. Coetzee, J. Graaff, F. Hendricks, F. & G. Wood (eds.). *Development: Theory, policy and practice*, pp. 77-96. Cape Town: Oxford University Press.

Rist, G. (2014). *The history of development: From Western origins to global faith*. New York: Zed Books.

Roberts, J. T., Hite, A. B. &Chorev, N. (eds.). (2014). *The globalization and development reader: Perspectives on development and global change*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. [Chapters 1-9]

Rodney, W. (1982). *How Europe underdeveloped Africa*. Washington, D.C: Howard University Press.

Weeks 3 & 4: Human Development Approach, Freedom and Capabilities

The theme traces the origins and details the key main arguments of human development theory. Drawing on the human development approach, the theme covered in weeks 3 and 4 offers a critique of the 'trickle-down' model of economic development. Most importantly, it details the meaning of 'development as freedom' and how the human development approach sees enhancing people's capabilities and choices as being central to development.

Key Readings

Nussbaum, M.C. (2009). Creating capabilities: The human development approach and its implementation. *Hypatia*, Vol. 24 (3), pp.211-215.

Nussbaum, M. C. (1997). Capabilities and human rights. *Fordham Law Review*, Vol. 66 (2), pp. 273-3

Nyerere, J. (1973). *Freedom and development*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Chapter 12]

Sen, A. (2005). Human rights and capabilities. *Journal of Human Development*, Vol. 6 (2), pp. 151-166.

Sen, A. (1999). *Development as freedom*. New York: Anchor Books.

Stewart, F., Gustav, R. & Samman, E. (2018). The evolution of development thought: from growth to human development. In: F. Stewart, R. Gustav & E. Samman. (2018). *Advancing human development: Theory and practice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press [E-Book – RU Library].

Weeks 5, 6 & 7: Globalisation and Neoliberalism

The discussion on this theme begins with understanding the concept of neoliberalism, particularly its usefulness in discussions on the interface between the state and the economy for more than four decades. The second segment of the theme focuses on globalisation. We explore some of the dominant definitions of globalisation. We also discuss a critique of the concept, specifically focusing on whether globalisation plays a positive role in development and social change in Africa. We critically evaluate the role of globalisation in reducing or escalating inequalities between rich and poor countries. The theme draws examples from South Africa and other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. As a case study, we explore South Africa's development path by critically analysing various policy interventions and the subsequent empirical outcomes. We also analyse South Africa's post-1994 policy strategies, including the Reconstruction and Development Programme, Employment and Redistribution, New Growth Path and the National Development Plan.

Key Readings

Ashman S., Fine B., Newman S. (2011). The crisis in South Africa: Neoliberalism, financialization and uneven and combined development. *Socialist Register*, Vol. 47, pp.174-195.

Bond, P. (2005) Globalisation/commodification or deglobalisation/decommodification in urban South Africa. *Policy Studies*, Vol. 26 (3/4), pp. 337-358.

Bond, P. (2001). The IMF and World Bank reconsidered. In: J. K. Coetzee, J. Graaf, F.Hendricks& G. Wood (eds.). *Development: Theory, policy and practice*. Cape Town: Oxford University Press.

Heron, T. (2008). Globalization, neoliberalism and the exercise of human agency. *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, Vol. 20(1), pp.85-101.

Moore, D., (2001). Neoliberal globalisation and the triple crisisof 'modernisation' in Africa: Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Africa. *Third World Quarterly*, Vol.22(6), pp.909-929.

Narsiah, S. (2002) Neoliberalism and privatisation in South Africa. *GeoJournal*, Vol. 57(1), pp.3-13.

Roberts, J. T., Hite, A. B., &Chorev, N. (eds.). (2014). *The globalization and development reader: Perspectives on development and global change*. John Wiley & Sons. UK [Chapters 14, 20, 21]

ADDITIONAL READINGS

You are expected to read broadly, beyond the key readings listed under the three themes. Below are the additional readings for the entire course.

Allen, T. & Thomas, A. (eds.) (1992). *Poverty and development in the 1990s*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Allen, T. & Thomas, A. (eds.) (2000). *Poverty and development into the 21st century*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Chapters 2, 11, 13 & 16]

Apter, D. E. (1987). *Rethinking development: Modernization, dependency, and postmodern politics*. Newbury, California: SAGE Publications.[Chapters 1 & 2]

Binns, T., Dixon, A. & Nel, E. (2012). *Africa: diversity and development*. London: Routledge.

Bøås M. & McNeill, D. (2004). *Global institutions and development: Framing the world?* London: Routledge.

Bond, P. (2001). The IMF and World Bank reconsidered. In: J. K. Coetzee, J. Graaff, F. Hendricks & G. Wood (eds.). *Development: Theory, policy and practice*. Cape Town: Oxford University Press.

Castells, M. (2003). *The information age: Economy, society and culture* (second edition). Cambridge, Massachusetts: Blackwell.

Coetzee, J. K. & Graaf, J. (eds.) (1996). *Reconstruction, development and people*. Johannesburg: International Thomson. [Chapters 14 & 15]

Coetzee, J. K., Graaff, J., Hendricks, F. & Wood, G. (eds.) (2001). *Development: Theory, policy and practice*. Cape Town: Oxford University Press. [Chapters 3, 5 & 6]

Cowen, M. P. & Shenton, R. W. (1996). *Doctrines of development*. London: Routledge. [Pages 12-21 & Chapter 6 (case studies)]

Daniel, J., Naidoo, P., Pillay D. & Southall R. (eds.) (2013). *New South African review3: The second phase - tragedy or farce?* Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press.

Giugale, M. M. (2014). *Economic development: What everyone needs to know*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Goldthorpe, J. E. (1996). *The sociology of post-colonial societies: Economic disparity, cultural diversity, and development*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Chapters 1, 3,10, 11, 12 & 13]

Goudzwaard, B. & de Lange, H. (1995). *Beyond poverty and affluence: Toward an economy of care with a twelve-step program for economic recovery*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing.

Graaff, J. (2003). *Poverty and development*. Cape Town: Oxford University Press.

- Greenfeld, L. (2001). *The spirit of capitalism: Nationalism and economic growth*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.
- Hammouda, H. B. (2003). *The political economy of post-adjustment: Towards new theories and strategies of development*. Hants: Ashgate Publishing.
- Harrison, D. (1988). *The sociology of modernization and development*. Winchester, Massachusetts: Unwin Hyman. [Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 5]
- Hart, G. P. (2002). *Disabling globalization: Places of power in post-apartheid South Africa*. Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press.
- Hollands, G. & Ansell, G. (eds.) (1998). *Winds of small change: Civil society interaction with the African state*. Proceedings of multilateral workshops on good governance, sustainable development and democracy, Graz, Austria– Kampala, Uganda. East London: Afesis-Corplan.
- Larrain, J. (1989). *Theories of development: Capitalism, colonialism, and dependency*. New York: Blackwell. [Chapters 2, 4, 5 & 6]
- Lensink, R. (1996). *Structural adjustment in sub-Saharan Africa*. New York: Longman.
- Leys, C. (1996). *The rise and fall of development theory*. London: James Currey. [Chapter 2]
- Meer, S. (ed.) (1997). *Women, land and authority: Perspectives from South Africa*. Oxford: Oxfam.
- Mengisteab, K. & B. I. Logan. (eds.) (1995). *Beyond economic liberalization in Africa: Structural adjustment and alternatives*. London: Zed Books. [Chapter 1]
- Mkandawire, T. (2001). Thinking about developmental states in Africa. *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, Vol. 25 (3), pp. 289-313
- Paul, S. (1987). *Community participation in development projects: The World Bank experience*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.
- Peet, R. & Hartwick, E. R. (2009). *Theories of development: Contentions, arguments, alternatives*. New York: The Guilford Press.
- Preston, P. W. (1982). *Theories of development*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul. [Chapter 4]
- Preston, P. W. (1996). *Development theory: An introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell. [Chapters 8, 9, 10, 13 & 15]
- Reinert, K. A. (2018). *No small hope: Towards the universal provision of basic goods*. New York: Oxford University Press. [E-Book]
- Rodney, W. (1982). *How Europe underdeveloped Africa*. Washington, D.C: Howard University Press. [Chapters 1 & 5]

- Roxborough, I. (1979). *Theories of underdevelopment*. London: Macmillan. [Chapters 4 & 5]
- Sachs, W. (ed.). (1992). *The development dictionary: A guide to knowledge as power*. London: Zed Books.
- Sall, A. (2003). *Africa 2025: What possible futures for sub-Saharan Africa?* Pretoria: University of South Africa and Africa Futures.
- Sen, A. (1979). *Equality of what?* The Tanner lecture on human values. Delivered at Stanford University, May 22.
- Sen, A. (1989). Development as capability expansion. *Journal of Development Planning*, Vol. 19, pp. 41–58.
- Sen, A. (1999). *Development as freedom*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Sen, A. (2004a). UN Human Development Report. Chapter 1: Cultural Liberty and Human Development. Available at: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/265/hdr_2004_complete.pdf
- Sen, A. (2004b). Capabilities, lists and public reason: Continuing the conversation. *Feminist Economics*, Vol. 10 (3), pp. 77-80.
- Simon, D. (2006). *Fifty key thinkers on development*. London: Routledge.
- Sklair, L. (ed.) (1994). *Capitalism and development*. London: Routledge.
- Smith, B. C. (2003). *Understanding Third World politics: Theories of political change and development*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Stewart, F., Gustav, R. & Samman, E. (2018). *Advancing human development: Theory and practice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press [E-Book].
- Swanepoel, H. & de Beer, F. (eds.). (1997). *Introduction to development studies*. Johannesburg: International Thomson.
- United Nations Development Programme. (1990). *Human development report*. Available at:
- Wallerstein, I. (2000). *The essential Wallerstein*. New York: New York University Press. [Chapters 4, 7 & 8]
- Webster, A. (1990). *Introduction to the sociology of development* (second edition). London: Macmillan. [Chapters 3 & 4]
- Willis, K. (2005). *Theories and practices of development*. London: Routledge
- World Bank. (2013). *Atlas of global development: A visual guide to the world's greatest challenges*. <http://data.worldbank.org/products/atlas>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Selected Documentaries

1. Last Grave at Dimbaza
2. Dying for Gold

Academic Journals

- *Development and Change*
- *Development Policy Review*
- *Journal of Development Studies*
- *Journal of International Development*
- *Oxford Development Studies*
- *Studies in Comparative International Development*
- *Third World Quarterly*
- *World Development*
- *IDS Bulletin*