Course in Development Practices and Challenges (IDS)

Om kurset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Internationale udviklingsstudier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity type</td>
<td>master course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching language</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisite for participation</td>
<td>It is expected that the student possesses a basic knowledge of international development corresponding to that taught in the Bachelor subject International Studies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learning outcomes/assessment criteria

Knowledge

• Knowledge of key discussions and concepts in International Development Studies in relation to contemporary development practices and their results. • Deeper understanding of the interrelated processes that characterise development efforts, from their planning to their implementation and results. • Insight into the development-related techniques and procedures routinely used by public entities, international organisations, multinational companies and NGOs.

Skills

• The skill to recognise important challenges to, and recurrent strategies used by, both development actors and target groups (or recipients) affected by the impact of development initiatives. • The ability to undertake a policy analysis and formulate relevant policy recommendations. • Strategic skills in engaging in international discussions relating to global development issues.

Competencies

• Competency in communicating and disseminating research results to a wider, non-expert audience. • Competency in applying complex theoretical knowledge to real-world situations.

Overall content

The course in development practices and challenges focuses on applying various understandings of current development challenges. Challenges are analysed in an interdisciplinary manner from three different perspectives: political, cultural-sociological and political-economic. In this context, the course provides the student with practical knowledge and skills relating to work with international development issues, and discusses how to apply academic knowledge in practice and utilise practical experience in an academic context.

The course thus helps students to prepare for internship in the third semester by focusing on the link between academic knowledge and practical experience.

By drawing upon various categories of literature, the course familiarises students with the methodological tools required to analyse development policies and projects. Policy analysis consists of a systematic, empirical study of project and policy cycles, including problem definition, objectives, policy and project formulation, implementation and evaluation. Ultimately, these skills give the students a better understanding of the strengths, weaknesses and feasibility of specific development initiatives and interventions.

Detailed description of content

The Development Practices and Challenges course focuses on the interlinks between development practice and research. It does so by introducing students to key contemporary development challenges and how policy analysis can be used as a tool to better understand and analyze policies and practices that are formulated by politicians, donors and practitioners to address these challenges. The course thus explores how to apply research in practice as well as utilize practical experience academically. It supplements the 'Theory in International Development Studies' course's focus on foundational theories, arguments and debates within international development studies. Specifically, the course includes the following dimensions:

1) presenting and analyzing key contemporary development challenges from political, sociocultural and political-economic perspectives

2) introducing students to key techniques and practices, including policy analysis, that are commonly used within the development sector to address these challenges, thereby also preparing students for an internship during the third semester

3) engaging students through lectures, in group exercises using cases and an excursion.

Knowledge:

• Knowledge about key debates and concepts in international development studies pertaining to the dynamics and outcomes of contemporary development practices;
- Deeper understanding of the interlinked processes that characterise development interventions from their planning to their implementation and outcomes;
- Insights into the development techniques and practices used routinely in government entities, international organisations, multinational corporations, and NGOs.

**Skills:**
- Ability to recognize key challenges and recurrent strategies by both development actors and target groups or 'beneficiaries' facing the effects produced by development interventions
- Capacity to analyse development policy and projects and to formulate policy relevant recommendations
- Strategic skills in engaging in international debates related to global development issues

**Competencies:**
- Competences to communicate and disseminate research findings to a broader, non-expert audience
- Competences to apply complex theoretical knowledge in real-life situations and vice versa.

**Teaching and working methods**
The course includes lectures, group work and an excursion. In addition to the lectures on policy analysis, project formulation/evaluation and major contemporary challenges, students will practice policy analysis in relation to specific cases. Finally, practitioner(s) from a government ministry, international organization, multinational corporation, and/or NGOs will discuss practical experiences regarding contemporary challenges in connection with an excursion to their workplaces.

**Expected work effort (ects-declaration)**
5 ECTS point = 135 work hours
- Participation in classes = 20 hours
- Preparation (reading assigned texts and preparing small exercises): ca. 75 hours (7.5 hour's preparation pr. week)  
- Examination: 40 hours

**Course material and reading list**
Texts will be available online at https://rex.kb.dk or as attachments on Moodle. The following are examples of literature from the course:


**Form of examination**
The examination consists of an oral examination without preparation time.
The examination questions are chosen by the examiner. The examination duration is 30 minutes, including assessment.

**Form of re-examination**
Re-examination takes the same form as the ordinary examination.

**Examination type**
Individual examination

**Assessment**
7-point grading scale

**Moderation**
Internal (i.e. course lecturer and an internal examiner assess)

**Evaluation and feedback forms**
This course will be evaluated electronically twice: a mid-term evaluation and a final evaluation. These evaluations will both take place in class and last approximately 10 mins. This is to allow the students' input into the future design and delivery of the course. The students will receive feedback during group work and feedback is given to each student individually at the examination.

**The responsible course lecturer**
Mette Fog Olwig (mettefo@ruc.dk)

**Teacher**
Thorkil Casse (casse@ruc.dk)
Mette Fog Olwig (mettefo@ruc.dk)
The first session introduces the students to the various actors and institutions, and associated complexity of goals and approaches, that constitute the development sector as a field of study and area of work. It provides an overview of the major development issues, cases and techniques and practices that will be covered in the course. Finally, the idea of students as actors in the development sector will be introduced.

**Literature:**


**Assignment**

In order to use the literature for today to think critically about your own (previous or future) role in development, please choose one quote from each of the three key texts assigned for today and explain (briefly) how these quotes help you to rethink or better understand your own role in development. We will use your response during group work in class.
Combining Research and Practical Work Experience

This session discusses how to apply academic knowledge in practice as well as utilize practical experience academically. Students often attain a fair amount of practical experience through student jobs and internships. This session focuses on how these experiences can become a platform for utilizing the more theoretical knowledge the students have acquired during their education and for incorporating their practical experiences into future learning. It also offers general reflections on the possibilities and challenges involved in working in, and doing research on, the development field in Denmark and abroad including the challenges of analyzing a practical hands-on experience academically. Students are introduced to three specific approaches that combine research and practical work experience: ethnography from within, reflexivity and constructive deconstruction.

Pensum

Literature:

Additional literature:

Assignment Select one “buzzword” from an organization relevant to IDS in which you would like to be an intern/future employee. Based on documents or web documents from your organization, prepare and submit:
- A brief description of the buzzword including the organization’s definition and operationalization of these buzzwords.
- A list of references (documents/web-documents).

Your assignments will form the basis for group work during class.
Development Practices and Challenges // Lecture 4 (IDS)

Tidspunkt 28-09-2018 08:15 til 28-09-2018 10:00
Forberedelsesnorm Ikke valgt
Forberedelsesnorm d-vip Ikke valgt
Sted 23.1-009 - teori (65)
Underviser Thorkil Casse (casse@ruc.dk)

Development Practices and Challenges // Lecture 5 (IDS)

Tidspunkt 05-10-2018 08:15 til 05-10-2018 10:00
Forberedelsesnorm Ikke valgt
Forberedelsesnorm d-vip Ikke valgt
Sted 23.1-009 - teori (65)
Underviser Thorkil Casse (casse@ruc.dk)

Development Practices and Challenges // Lecture 6 (IDS)

Tidspunkt 12-10-2018 08:15 til 12-10-2018 10:00
Forberedelsesnorm Ikke valgt
Forberedelsesnorm d-vip Ikke valgt
Sted 23.1-009 - teori (65)
Underviser Thorkil Casse (casse@ruc.dk)

Development Practices and Challenges // Lecture 7 (IDS)

Tidspunkt 19-10-2018 08:15 til 19-10-2018 10:00
Forberedelsesnorm Ikke valgt
Forberedelsesnorm d-vip Ikke valgt
Sted 23.1-009 - teori (65)
Underviser Thorkil Casse (casse@ruc.dk)

Development Practices and Challenges // Lecture 8 (IDS)

Tidspunkt 26-10-2018 10:15 til 26-10-2018 12:00
Forberedelsesnorm Ikke valgt
Forberedelsesnorm d-vip Ikke valgt
Sted 15.0-003 - auditorie 15 (68)
Underviser Mette Fog Olwig (mettefo@ruc.dk)
Development Practices and Challenges // Lecture 9 (IDS)

Tidspunkt
02-11-2018 08:15 til 02-11-2018 19:00

Forberedelsesnorm
Ikke valgt

Forberedelsesnorm d-vip
Ikke valgt

Sted
Uden for ruc, se indholdsbeskrivelse for yderligere info

Underviser
Mette Fog Olwig (mettefo@ruc.dk)

Development Practices and Challenges // Lecture 10 (IDS)

Tidspunkt
09-11-2018 08:15 til 09-11-2018 10:00

Forberedelsesnorm
Ikke valgt

Forberedelsesnorm d-vip
Ikke valgt

Sted
23.1-009 - teori (65)

Underviser
Mette Fog Olwig (mettefo@ruc.dk)

Exam

Tidspunkt
05-12-2018 08:15 til 07-12-2018 19:00

Forberedelsesnorm
Ikke valgt

Forberedelsesnorm d-vip
Ikke valgt

Indhold
The examination consists of an oral examination without preparation time.
The examination questions are chosen by the examiner.
The examination duration is 30 minutes, including assessment.

Re-exam

Tidspunkt
19-02-2019 08:15 til 20-02-2019 19:00

Forberedelsesnorm
Ikke valgt

Forberedelsesnorm d-vip
Ikke valgt

Sted
23.2-023 - møde (10)

STADS stamdata
Kandidatkursus: Belastning: 5 ECTS
Prøveform: mundtlig
Aktivitetskode: U40597
Bedømmelse: 7-trinsskala
Censur: Intern censur