



**Centre for the Study of Law and Governance
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi-110067**

Outline of Optional Course

LG 625 Contemporary Issues In Development

This course is designed to introduce students to the dilemmas of development theory and practice, particularly the complexities introduced by the varied socio-cultural contexts into which standard models of economic development are introduced. Students will be taught to understand the politics inherent in defining the problem, identifying the range of actors involved, exploring possible solutions in the light of consequences, both intended and unintended. The course will draw upon various ethnographic cases of development practice, seeking through these cases to introduce students to the range of possibilities open in any development encounter – from adoption and adaptation to resistance, to negotiation, to transformation. The course will also have a special focus on development in relation to the environment and gender. The course will be useful both for those interested in the theory of state practice and politics more widely as well as those who plan to take up a career in development, administration or the media.

Topics to be covered:

I. Development: Definitions and Theories

- Defining development
- Modernisation theory
- Dependency and world systems theories
- Post-structural approaches

II. Anthropological Political Economy

- Ethnographic experiences with 'development'
- Capitalism and resistance (also everyday resistance)
- development practice and culture

III. Discourses of Development

- constructions of backwardness and poverty
- participation
- community

IV. State and Civil Society

- NGOs
- Social movements
- Role of media and other institutions

V. Globalisation and the New Economic Order

- Aid Industry
- WTO regime
- patents, indigenous knowledge

VI. India's Development Experience

- History of capitalism in India
- Experience of Planned Development
- Human development

- Alternatives to standard model - Gandhian, Left etc.

VII. Gender and Development

- WID vs. GAD theories (empowerment etc.)
- feminisation of poverty
- Women in the informal sector
- National income accounting and women's work

VIII. Gender and Environment

- Eco-feminism
- Critiques of eco-feminism
- Women and property

IX. Environmental Politics

- Historicising degradation
- Theories of sustainable development
- Environment and security (the politics of oil and other natural resources)