OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: GDS 320	**Number of Credits:** 3 Course credit policy (105)

Course Full Title: Decolonizing Aid and Development
Course Short Title: Decolonizing Aid & Development

Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences	**Department:** School of Social Justice and Global Stewardship

Calendar Description:

Students explore critical perspectives of development through the examination of post-colonial and post-development theories, as well as recent approaches and efforts to decolonize development practice. Students analyze the ethics and actions of a range of global development actors, and the impacts of the aid sector on systemic causes of oppression and inequality.

Prerequisites (or NONE):	45 university level credits.
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	

Antirequisite Courses *(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)*	**Course Details**
Former course code/number:	Special Topics course: **No**
Cross-listed with:	*(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)*
Equivalent course(s):	Directed Study course: **No**
(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)	*(See policy 207 for more information.)*
	Grading System: **Letter grades**
	Delivery Mode: **May be offered in multiple delivery modes**
	Expected frequency: **Annually**
	Maximum enrolment (for information only)**: 36**

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours

Lecture/seminar	45
Total hours	**45**

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

PLAR is available for this course.

Scheduled Laboratory Hours

Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: ☒ No ☐ Yes

Transfer Credit *(See **bctransferguide.ca**.)*

Transfer credit already exists: **No**

Submit outline for (re)articulation: **No**
 (If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)

Department approval	**Date of meeting:**	October 2022
Faculty Council approval	**Date of meeting:**	December 9, 2022
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	**Date of meeting:**	March 24, 2023

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explore the colonial underpinnings of the meaning and practice of development.
2. Examine post-colonial and post-development theories, and anthropological critiques of development.
3. Analyze the Western-centric nature of development approaches, and the impacts of the aid sector in the global South.
4. Evaluate the roles and responsibilities of different development actors to decolonize development.
5. Evaluate efforts to decolonize the development aid sector through participation, partnerships, and localization.
6. Investigate case studies that centre diversity, local knowledge, and equity in development interventions.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Assignments:	40%	Project:	35%	Final exam:	25%
	%		%		%

Details:

Assignments include: presentation (15%); blog/op-ed/review writing assignments (25%)

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. Open Educational Resources (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form.)*

	Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1.	Textbook	Kothari, A., Salleh, A., Escobar, A., Demaria F., & Acosta, A.	Pluriverse: A Post-Development Dictionary, Tulika Books (Ingram Academic Services)	2019
2.	Textbook	Van Wessel, M., Kontinen, J., & Bawole, N.	Reimagining Civil Society Collaborations in Development: Starting from the South, Routledge.	2023
3.	Online resource	Adeso & Peace Direct	Time to Decolonise Aid: Insights and Lessons from a Global Consultation - Full Report	2021
4.				
5.				

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

None

Course Content and Topics

Theories and critical perspectives of development module:
- History of development as a colonial project, modernization, economic growth
- Post-colonial critiques of development
- Post-development theories of development, alternative developments
- Anthropology of development, anthropological critiques

Contemporary critiques of development practice module:
- Ethnographies of aid
- Western-centric notions, understandings, knowledge, language, and approaches
- "Othering", power asymmetries, ethical issues
- Race, racism, and development
- Rights, empowerment, participation, and other development "buzzwords"

Decolonizing the aid sector: case studies and examples module:
- Local participation, PRA methods, "immersion"
- Role of NGOs, local grassroots organizations, partnerships
- Role of aid donors, funding, and the "localization" agenda
- Addressing race, diversity, culture, local knowledge, equity
- Decolonizing approaches: the way forward