

**Fall 2025**

**GEOG 4245: Geography of International Development**  
**9.30 am - 10.50 am Tuesdays and Thursdays (Room: ENV 345)**

**Instructor:** Dr. Waquar Ahmed

Office: ENV 310C

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 am to noon, and by appointment.

Email: [Waquar.Ahmed@unt.edu](mailto:Waquar.Ahmed@unt.edu)

**Overview:**

GEOG 4245, *Geography of International Development* is a course offered by the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of North Texas. Development means progress, advancement, and a better life for everyone. In this highly uneven world, where inter-regional, inter-class, inter-group, and inter-gender differences in development are expanding, this course will critically examine what constitutes progress, advancement, or betterment, and conceptually explore whether and how equality, progress, freedom, and liberation can become goals for all societies. This course will debate global policy regimes produced by organizations like World Bank, IMF, and WTO to understand how the geography of global development, and in turn development in the Global South, is shaped and sustained.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Understanding multiple approaches (theories, policies, and strategies) to international development.
- Understanding the advantages and constraints of contemporary development policies.
- Critically understanding the alternatives to mainstream development policies and strategies.

**Readings:**

*Required books:*

Peet, R., and E. Hartwick. 2015. *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*. Third ed: Guilford Press.

**Additional** readings are posted on canvas.

**Course Requirements:**

**Participation** – You are expected to participate in class discussions.

**Abstract for term/research paper**

**Mid-Term Exam** – this will be held in class.

**Research Paper** – Each student must write a 10-page (excluding references) research paper (1-inch margin on all sides, font size not less than 11.5 and no greater than 12, and line spacing of 2). Your paper must have a good balance between the theoretical and the empirical content. You are expected to engage extensively with the assigned readings for this course to develop your conceptual or theoretical framework in your research paper. You will present your paper at the end of the semester.

## **Presentation of Research Paper**

**End term exam** – This will be an in-class examination.

### **Attendance**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

### **Grading:**

**Abstract for research paper:** 2 percent of your total grade.

**Mid-term exam:** 25 percent of your total grade.

**Attendance:** 15 percent of your total grade.

**Participation:** 10 percent of your total grade.

**Research Paper:** 18 percent of your total grade.

**Presentation of Research Paper:** 10 percent of your total grades.

**End-term essay:** 20 percent of your total grades

Your points will be added up at the end of the semester and grades will be awarded as follows:

<b>A</b>	85 to 100
<b>B</b>	75 to <85
<b>C</b>	70 to <75
<b>D</b>	65 to <70
<b>F</b>	< 65

### **Points for attendance**

<i>Attendance Percentage</i>	<i>Points (out of 15)</i>
100%	15
95% and above but less than 100%	14
85 % and above but less than 95%	12
75 % and above but less than 85%	9
70 % and above but less than 75%	5
Less than 70%	0

Grades are important, get a good one.

I reserve the right to make reasonable and responsible changes in the syllabus based on our progress, and any special requirement that may arise as the semester progresses. You will be notified about these changes well in advance.

### **Important Dates:**

- Abstract of research paper – due on October 2 by 11.59 pm
- Mid-Term exam – October 16
- Research paper – due on November 14 by 11.59 pm
- End-term exam – December 4

### **Generative AI Policy:**

*In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools like Claude, Grok, ChatGPT, and Gemini are not permitted.*

*While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the [Student Academic Integrity](#) policy.*

*Tools like Grammarly, spellcheck, predictive text, speech-to-text, and translation tools or search engines like google scholar or google, however, **are allowed** to search for academic articles and data or database – cite your work or quotations correctly to avoid charges of UNT student academic integrity violation.*

### **Disability Accommodation:**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to the faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodation at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>.

### **August 19 and 21: Introduction – Growth Vs. Development**

Peet, R., and E. Hartwick. 2015. *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*. Second ed: Guilford Press. Chapter 1 (pp.1-22)

### **Part I: Theories of Development**

#### **August 26 and August 28: Classical and Neoclassical Economics**

Peet, R., and E. Hartwick. 2015. *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*. Second ed: Guilford Press. Pp. 23-62 (Chapter 2).

Peet, R. 2009. Ten pages that changed the world: deconstructing Ricardo. *Human Geography* 2 (1): 81-95. (available on canvas)

### **September 2 and 4: From Keynesian Economics to Neoliberalism**

Peet, R., and E. Hartwick. 2015. *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*. Second ed: Guilford Press. Pp. 63-118 (Chapter 3)

### **September 9 and 11: Development as Modernization**

Peet, R., and E. Hartwick. 2015. *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*. Second ed: Guilford Press. Chapter 4. Pp 119-160

Rostow, W. W. 1959. The Stages of Economic Growth. *The Economic History Review* 12 (1): 1-16. (available on canvas)

### **September 16, 18 and 23: Marxism, Socialism and Development.**

Peet, R., and E. Hartwick. 2015. *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*. Second ed: Guilford Press. Chapter 5. Pp 163-221

Harvey, D. 2018. Does socialism affect freedom?  
<http://anticapitalistchronicles.libsyn.com/does-socialism-affect-freedom>

AHMED, W. 2023. Understanding 'Marxist development' in Marx's terms in a world of climate change. *Area Development and Policy* [Online]. Available:  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23792949.2023.2199070?scroll=top&needAccess=true&role=tab> [Accessed Aug 21, 2023].

### **September 25 and 30, and October 2: Poststructuralism, Postcolonialism and Post-developmentalism. (focus on Latin America)**

Peet, R., and E. Hartwick. 2015. *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*. Second ed: Guilford Press. Chapter 6. Pp 222-268

Escobar, A. 1995. *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 and 2. (available on canvas)

### **October 7 and 9: Feminist Theories of Development**

Peet, R., and E. Hartwick. 2015. *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*. Second ed: Guilford Press. Chapter 7.

Gibson-Graham, J. K. 1996. *The end of capitalism (as we knew it): A feminist critique of political economy*. Chapters 4 (How do we get out of this capitalist place, pp 72-91), 6 (Querying Globalization, pp 120-147), Chapter 8 (Towards a New Class Politics of Distribution, pp 174-205) (available on Canvas)

## **Part II: International Development**

### **October 14: Humanitarianism, AID and Development**

Chomsky, N. (2008). Humanitarian Imperialism: The New Doctrine of Imperial Right. *Monthly Review*, 60(4), 1-20.

### **October 16: Mid-term Exam**

### **October 21: Sustainability, Climate and Global Capitalism**

Fraser, N. (2021) *Climates of Capital: For a Trans-Environmental Eco-Socialism*. *New Left Review*, 127, 94-127.

### **October 23 and 28: Arab World, occupation and underdevelopment**

SACHS, J. 2018. Ending America's War of Choice in the Middle East. *Horizons: Journal of International Relations and Sustainable Development*, 20-31.

Gökay, B. (2021). Two Pillars of US Global Hegemony: Middle Eastern Oil and the Petrodollar. In *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism* (pp. 2673-2684). [https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-29901-9\\_334](https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-29901-9_334)

### **October 30: Sub-Saharan Africa, Aid and Development**

Narsiah, S. (2025). Empire and land reform in South Africa. *Human Geography*. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1177/19427786251329015>

Ola, T. P. (2021). Networks of Multilateral Imperialism: The Politics of Foreign Aid and the State of Sub-Saharan Africa. *IUP Journal of International Relations*, 15(4), 52-62.

### **November 4: India**

Ahmed, W. (2009) From mixed economy to neo-liberalism: class and caste in India's economic transition. *Human Geography*, 2, 37-51.  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/194277860900200305>

### **November 6 and 11: War on terror, Pakistan and Afghanistan**

Ali T (2021) Debacle in Afghanistan. *Sidecar*. (accessed 23 August 2021).

Conversation with History: Tariq Ali: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_IHSa6Zva0Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IHSa6Zva0Y)

### **November 13: China**

Harvey, D. 2005. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Chapters 5. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Lou, Y. (2025). The impact of the China-US tariff war on China and China's countermeasures. *Geopolitics under Globalization*, 6(1), 4-16.  
[https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.21511/gg.06\(1\).2025.02](https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.21511/gg.06(1).2025.02)

### **November 18: Russia's invasion of Ukraine and NATO**

MEARSHEIMER, J. J. 2019. Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault. Available from: <https://www.mearsheimer.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Why-the-Ukraine-Crisis-Is.pdf> [Accessed August 15 2024].

MEARSHEIMER, J. J. 2022. *The causes and consequences of the Ukraine war* [Online]. YouTube: The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies. Available:

[https://www.youtube.com/live/qciVozNtCDM?si=mgCgm7\\_\\_JSF\\_2\\_0Q](https://www.youtube.com/live/qciVozNtCDM?si=mgCgm7__JSF_2_0Q)  
[Accessed August 15 2024].

**November 20 and December 2: Presentation of research papers.**

**December 4: End-term Exam**