

SOC 300 – Sociology of Developing Countries

Course Description

This course is a sociological examination of the status of the less developed countries (LDCs) in economic, political, and social arenas. Topics covered range from the question of democracy to the role of women, religion, military, climate change, terrorism, political economy, and other global, sociological and political issues. The course suggests a variety of different approaches to development and discusses the crucial role LDCs play in their interaction with the industrial world, from migration to producing raw materials, and contributing to a market for the finished products of the developed world. Rising powers such as China, India, and Brazil and the dynamics of their growth will also be discussed.

Instructional Materials

Soomo, *Understanding Development*, 4e [Webtext], (Asheville, NC: Soomo Publishing, 2013).

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Discover what is it like having to live on \$1 a day.
2. Determine to what extent living on \$1 a day permeates the Third World.
3. Analyze the oldest and most basic form of development.
4. Examine the history of aid and its more significant successes and failures.
5. Discover how infrastructure has improved from its earliest efforts in the developing world.
6. Evaluate the extent to which local improvement in developing countries has succeeded.
7. Identify how schools help students make intelligent economic choices.
8. Determine how human capital is used and what effect gender disparity has on these decisions.
9. Analyze how funding in the form of aid, investment, and loans moves from industrialized nations to the developing world to alleviate the problems caused by warfare.
10. Analyze what the North/South divide means.
11. Determine what role health plays in developing economies.
12. Assess the difference between programs that provide help and those that enable self-help.
13. Decide what strategies are working for developing rural communities.
14. Assess the roles that culture and religion play in rural development.
15. Examine the role that the International Monetary Fund and World Bank play in transfers and the conditions they set to effect this funding.
16. Determine what non-state investment from multinational corporations (MNCs) consists of.
17. Discover what microloans are and how MNCs help exploit the use of human capital in a positive manner.
18. Assess the ways that high wages, an open economy and controlling inflation can contribute to success for developing states.
19. Determine why private investment, open political competition and the intelligent use of natural resources can serve as incentives to further economic development.
20. Decide why good governance, a sound financial system, and a fair system of judicial justice are necessary to development.
21. Assess why enforceable environmental regulations are critical to sustaining development.
22. Use technology and information resources to research issues in sociology of developing countries.