

Courses taught in English at the Department of Development and Environmental Studies

Winter semester

Code	Course name	Credits
MRS/WDAF	Development of Africa	5 ECTS
MRS/WSPD	Sport and Development	4 ECTS
MRS/WDTA	Development Theories and Anthropology	5 ECTS
MRS/WFOR	Foresight	5 ECTS
MRS/WDLA	Development Opportunities of Latin America	5 ECTS
MRS/WGDE	Global Development	6 ECTS
MRS/WGEG	Global Environmental Geography	5 ECTS
MRS/WPGP	Politico-geographical Processes in the Developing World	4 ECTS
MRS/WRM	Research Methods	6 ECTS
MRS/WSD	Sustainable Development	4 ECTS
MRS/WDC1	Development Challenges 1*	2 ECTS
MRS/WIG	Introduction to GIS	5 ECTS
MRS/WPM	Project Management	6 ECTS
MRS/ANG1	English Language 1	6 ECTS
MRS/ZKAJ1	Conversation in English 1	3 ECTS
VCJ/CFE	Czech for Foreigners	4 ECTS

Please note that some of the courses may not be available in a given semester.

*Short-term courses are taught by guest lecturers and topics vary greatly. Students are notified during the semester, the course may not be available in a given semester.

Bachelor and Master Students are obliged to receive at least 20 ECTS per semester. Half of the ECTS must be acquired within our department. Students can also choose from courses that are offered by other departments and faculties. PhD students do not need to acquire any ECTS.

MRS/WDAF – Development of Africa, 5 ECTS

Course objectives

The aim of the course is to critically examine the Africa-specific development opportunities and limits for development from economic, political, social and geographical perspectives.

Requirements on student

For successful completion of the course, students are required to do a series of presentations on given topics, as well as to complete a written exam covering the course material.

Content

This course provides a broad overview of the economic, political and social development of Africa. Certain key development issues such as the role of state, conflicts and economic growth in Africa are explored, on purpose to improve students' understanding of the possibilities of African development and the existing impediments currently standing in its way.

MRS/WSPD – Sport and Development, 4 ECTS

Course objectives

The main aim of the course is to provide students with a basic overview of the concept of Sport and Development.

Requirements on student

For successful completion of the course, students are required to complete an exam covering the course material. As well, students are required to prepare for every seminar, using the recommended readings. During the semester each of the students has to prepare a presentation on the selected topic.

Content

This course should provide students with the basic overview in the field of Sport and Development. The development cooperation through sport activities are analyzed and different approaches and theories are discussed. The seminars are elaborated based on reading assessments. Different stakeholders are introduced. NGOs actively involved in the field of Sport and Development are described.

MRS/WDTA – Development Theories and Anthropology, 5 ECTS

Course objectives

The course will introduce selected anthropological and development theories and the relationship between them.

1. History of cultural anthropology
2. History of anthropological thinking
3. Theory of culture and cultural change
4. Theory based on modernity
5. Colonialism and neocolonialism and their influence on the development
6. Alternative theory of development and alternatives to development
7. Practical implications of development theory

MRS/WFOR – Foresight, 5 ECTS

Course objectives

Introduction to Foresight is an introductory course for students of Foresight for Environment and Development program. Students will learn about the history of possible futures and foresight, the most important persons of this field of study as well as internationally recognized institutions focusing on foresight. The opportunities and limits of foresight studies will be discussed in comparison with the study of history (while we can fully interpret history without having an opportunity to influence it, we cannot fully learn about the future but we have options and opportunities to influence it). Basic concepts and terms will be introduced (framing, scanning, forecasting, visioning, planning and acting).

Requirements on student

Presentation, test

Content

Students will learn about the history of possible futures and foresight, the most important persons of this field of study as well as internationally recognized institutions focusing on foresight. The opportunities and limits of foresight studies will be discussed in comparison with the study of history (while we can fully interpret history without having an opportunity to influence it, we cannot fully learn about the future but we have options and opportunities to influence it). Basic concepts and terms will be introduced (framing, scanning, forecasting, visioning, planning and acting).

MRS/WDLA – Development Opportunities of Latin America, 5 ECTS

Course objectives

The course is aimed at problems of development in Latin America.

Requirements on student

The course is assessed by oral and/or written examination.

Content

During the course will be presented following topics: regional division of Latin America from the socio-geographic and economic point of view. Historical determination of region development - history, colonialism, ways of decolonization and their impact on development. Postcolonial period and Cold war influence. Situation after the end of the Cold war and main causes of following development. Ethnography, cultures, religion. The most important issues of the region, their description and trends. Natural conditions and resources - their influence on the development of the countries. Demographic growth in each country, prognosis. Contemporary security risks and future threats. Agriculture and nutrition issues. Development cooperation and its effectiveness. Latin America countries' position on the global market. Detailed analysis and evaluation of implemented projects as a part of Czech development cooperation in the last decade.

MRS/ WGDE – Global Development, 6 ECTS

Course objectives

The course is about measurement, problems, and prospects of development in the globalized world. It takes a broad picture and provides an analytical overview of ten development topics and three development regions. While the focus is on developing countries, many topics are relevant also for advanced countries. The role of national and international policies is emphasized throughout the course. Though the course is rather non-technical, the most common applied perspective is economic, and so the knowledge of introductory economics is an advantage. Additionally, the use of geography and reading of maps as analytical tool is emphasized in regional development section (D).

Content

A. Development

1. Development concept
2. Development measurement

B. Poverty, inequality, growth

3. Poverty
4. Inequality

- 5. Growth
- C. Sustainability and human resources
- 6. Sustainability
- 7. Population
- 8. Health
- D. Regional Development
- 9. Africa
- 10. Asia
- 11. Latin America
- E. Aid and trade
- 12. Development aid
- 13. Trade

MRS/WGEG – Global Environmental Geography, 5 ECTS

Course objectives

The main aim of the course is to provide the understanding of the ways environment and society are related and interconnected in the less developed countries.

Requirements on student

For successful completion of the course, students are required to complete an exam covering the course material.

Content

The course Environmental geography is focused on interactions between humans and the natural world in the less developed countries, combining approaches of human geography and physical geography. The course will provide understanding of the ways environment and society are related and affect each other. The course addresses various topics, in the first part both theoretical and actual (real-world) links between the environment and human wellbeing are explored. This part describes the state and character of human wellbeing and environment interdependencies in the case of four distinctive ecological systems which are common in the developing world: drylands, (tropical) forest systems, mountains systems and finally urban systems. Second part deals with the possible responses and solutions on perceived problems of interactions between human beings and their environment. Hence traditional nature conservation and its alternatives (namely Community Based Natural Resource Management) are presented. According to the dynamism of the course, the final part may deal with the topical issues of environmental security and justice.

MRS/ WPGP – Politico-geographical Processes in the Developing World, 4 ECTS

Course objectives

The aim of this course is to provide orientation in the selected issues related to the internal political processes in developing regions as well as current issues in international politics and security that have impact on the developing regions.

Grounded in the current theoretical debates, the critical analysis of the issues shall help the students to deepen their understanding of the broader context of the international politics and the interconnection of the international issues with the specific politico-geographical situation in the developing regions and vice versa.

Requirements on student

For successful completion of the course, students are required to actively participate in discussions (based on assigned literature and case studies) and assess analysis.

Content

The course shall pay attention to the selected issues related to the internal political processes in developing countries as well as to the relevant current issues in the international politics and security, focusing on contemporary debates on modern states formation, political systems in developing countries, democracy designs and good governance, concepts of failing and de-facto states, international terrorism etc.

MRS/WRM – Research Methods, 6 ECTS

Course objectives

The aim of the course is to deepen students' knowledge and skills in the field of qualitative and quantitative research. The qualitative part will focus on the practical tasks - practice of data collection methods, their analysis and coding, evaluation and presentation of results. The quantitative part of the course will focus on statistical estimation, hypothesis testing and dependency analysis (correlation and regression analysis) by using statistical software.

Requirements on student

attendance, written test

Content

1. Research project and design, ethics, sample selection
2. Qualitative research - methods of data collection, methods of analysis, participatory research, work with ATLAS.ti software
3. Quantitative research - repetition (descriptive statistics, probability distribution), statistical estimates, hypothesis tests, dependency analysis (correlation and regression analysis) by using statistical software STATA

MRS/WSD – Sustainable Development, 4 ECTS

Course objectives

The main aim of the course is to introduce students to historical development, present situation and future perspectives of mutual political and economic relations as well as cooperation between the EU and developing countries.

Requirements on student

For successful completion of the course, students are required to complete a written and oral exam covering the course material.

Content

The course analyzes basic principles of sustainable development. Main topics included are the following: history, definition and principles of sustainable development, human values compatible with sustainable development, economic instruments of sustainable development, technologies for sustainable development, political and institutional aspects of sustainable development, sectoral aspects of sustainable development, indicators of sustainable development, strategies for sustainable development, and actors of sustainable development.

MRS/WDC1 – Development Challenges 1, 2 ECTS

Course objectives

The main aim of the course is to introduce students to selected topics of development studies through seminars given by foreign lecturers.

Requirements on student

As specified by foreign lecturer.

Content

The course is based on a series of seminars given by foreign lecturer on a specific topic of development studies during a short time period (usually one or two weeks) or as a series of video-lectures during the whole semester

MRS/WIG – Introduction to GIS, 5 ECTS

Course objectives

The main aim of the course is to introduce geographic information systems (GIS) to students and demonstrate its potential usage in the field of environmental studies and international development.

Requirements on student

For successful completion of the course, students are required to complete a practical exam covering the course material.

Content

The aim of the course is to introduce possibilities of using GIS in the field of development and provide students with practical knowledge, sufficient for the application of GIS software. The subject focuses on practical skills with different GIS interfaces. Students are taught to use mainly QGIS. There is no previous GIS experience required, although previous experience with IT is an asset. At the end of the semester students are expected to compile their own GIS project.

MRS/WPM – Project Management, 6 ECTS

Course objectives

At the beginning of the course students are introduced to the phases of project cycle management (programming, identification, formulation, implementation and evaluation). The core of the course is focused on the application of the logical framework approach used for project planning. Based on a case study students draft the stakeholder, problem, objective and strategy analyses, finally being able to formulate the logical framework matrix as well as budget and timetable of a project. Students also become familiar with project methodology of the European Structural Funds as implemented in the Czech Republic.

Requirements on student

Active participation, preparation of a group project proposal, written test covering the lectures.

Content

At the beginning of the course, students are introduced to the phases of the project cycle (programming, identification, formulation, implementation and evaluation). The core of the course is focused on the application of the logical framework approach used for project planning. Using the assigned case study, students draft the stakeholder, problem, objective and strategy analyses, finally being able to formulate the logical framework matrix as well as budget and timetable of a project. Students also become familiar with an alternative approach

used for project planning, with the Theory of Change. Topics that will be covered: theory of the project cycle, application of the logical framework approach, stakeholder, problem, objective and strategy analyses, setting up logical framework matrix, activity scheduling and budgeting, preparing project proposal, Theory of Change

MRS/ANG1 – English Language 1, 6 ECTS

Course objectives

The course provides students with vocabulary and grammar skills, with a special focus on topics related to development studies.

Requirements on student

The course is assessed by oral and/or written examination.

Content

English grammar: the system of English tenses (present, past, future, present perfect, past perfect, simple and continuous tenses), modal verbs, irregular verbs, reflexive verbs, conditionals, gerund, participle, infinitive verb phrases, subordinate clauses (conditional, proposal, concessive), indirect speech, indirect questions.

Apart from the grammatical part, the focus of the course is also on developing communication skills and enriching vocabulary related to the field of development studies.

MRS/ZKAJ1 – Conversation in English 1, 3 ECTS

Course objectives

The course is aimed at the skills, vocabularies and grammar for the conversation use.

Requirements on student

The course is assessed by oral and/or written examination.

Content

The course is aimed at the skills, vocabularies and grammar for the conversation use. Special attention is paid to conversational themes of the development studies. The aim of the course is to upgrade the student's language expression.

VCJ/CFF – Czech for Foreigners, 4 ECTS

Course objectives

Course of Czech language for foreigners, taught in English, focusing on conversation in everyday situations. For beginners (level A0).

Summer semester

Code	Course name	Credits
MRS/WDE	Development Economics	4 ECTS
MRS/WDT	Development Topics (short-term courses)*	2 ECTS
MRS/WTSC	Technological & Social Change	6 ECTS
MRS/WDAS	Development Opportunities of Asia	6 ECTS
MRS/WHF	History of Future	4 ECTS
MRS/YHIST	Lessons from History	4 ECTS
MRS/WMW	Migration in Today's World	4 ECTS
MRS/WDA	Development Assistance	5 ECTS
MRS/WEDP	Evaluations of Development Projects	4 ECTS
MRS/WDC2	Development Challenges (short-term courses)*	2 ECTS
MRS/WSCD	Security, Conflict and Development	5 ECTS
MRS/SAD	Sport and Development	4 ECTS
MRS/ANG2	English Language 2	3 ECTS
MRS/WGPS	Globalization, Prosperity, Sustainability	4 ECTS
VCJ/CFE	Czech for Foreigners	4 ECTS
PRF/EUGEO	Impact of European Union Policies on GeoSciences	6 ECTS

Please note that some of the courses may not be available in a given semester.

*Short-term courses are taught by guest lecturers and topics vary greatly. Students are notified during the semester, the course may not be available in a given semester.

MRS/WDE (Development Economics), 4 ECTS

Course objectives

The main aim of the course is to analyze the major economic issues faced by developing countries, especially from the micro-economic perspective.

Requirements on student

For successful completion of the course, students are required to complete a written exam covering the course materials.

Content

The course analyzes issues faced by developing countries, with a special focus on the microeconomic perspective at the graduate level. Following an introduction to the subject, the course focuses on economic growth, new growth theories and contemporary models of development and underdevelopment. Other discussed topics include: poverty, inequality, population growth, the issues of human capital (education and health), urbanization and rural-urban interaction, land reform, labor markets, credits and insurance issues, roles of markets and states and strategies of economic development.

MRS/WTSC (Technological & Social Change), 6 ECTS

Course objectives

Too often in the study of history we focus on politics, armed conflicts, social structures, economics, or art. We often leave out the history of technology and innovations and its social impact. This course is designed to guide students through key technologies and innovations that have had a profound impact on the structure of human society.

Content

The introductory lecture is dedicated to an overview of key technologies and innovations. From this list (typically more than 100 items), students and I will select the ten topics of most interest and in subsequent classes we will explore each of them in more detail in the form of reports. In the pilot run of this course, we looked in more detail at the following topics:

- The Agricultural Revolution
- Religion and Mythology
- Nuclear technology, nuclear energy and nuclear weapons
- Contraception
- Vaccinations and antibiotics

- Taxes and money
- Terrorism

MRS/WDAS (Development Opportunities of Asia), 6 ECTS

Course objectives

The main aim of the course is to provide students with an overview of the situation in the field of development in the region of Asia.

Requirements on student

For successful completion of the course, students are required to complete a written exam covering the course material. Active participation during the lectures and discussions, as well as a presentation of a project is necessary for the successful completion of the course.

Content

The course is focused on development in the region of Asia. It focuses mainly on Asian developing regions - Central Asia and the Caucasus, South and Southeast Asia, the Middle East. Attention is focused on individual regions and states, their geography and policies, and development problems and opportunities. The aim of the course is to possess complex knowledge and understanding of the situation in the region of Asia.

Thematic areas:

1. Historical and geographical overview
2. South Asia - characteristics, development problems and opportunities
3. Southeast Asia - characteristics, development problems and opportunities
4. Central Asia - characteristics, development problems and opportunities
5. Caucasus - characteristics, development problems and opportunities
6. Middle East - characteristics, development problems and opportunities

MRS/WHF (History of Future), 4 ECTS

Course objectives

The aim of this course is to introduce students briefly to evolution in history, principal current global issues and key challenges of the future. These challenges are not just often discussed in information technologies, nanotechnologies and biotechnologies, but also potential collapse of Western civilization and following transformation and regeneration.

Content

Main topics of course are:

Cultural evolution

Safety dimensions
Challenges for the near future
West in danger
Collapse, transformation and regeneration
The "super-natural" world

MRS/ YHIST (Lessons from History), 4 ECTS

Course objectives

The aim of the course is to present main global problems (environmental crisis, migration, the clash of the civilizations, the erosion of the democratic institutions) in the historical context.

Requirements on student

We will analyze how the problems mentioned above contributed to the collapse of major civilizations, states and empires of the past and present, and also the positive examples in the course of history, how such situations could be avoided. The course will be based on lectures, reading the historical documents (in English translation), films and presentations.

Content

Participation in the course, presentation.

MRS/WMW (Migration in Today's World) 4 ECTS

Course objectives

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the various issues concerning migration in today's world.

Requirements on student

Active participation, presentation, exam

Content

Migration in today's world is a one-semester course intended for students with active interest in migration and asylum issues. The course covers the following topics: theory of international migration, multifactor conditionality of migration process, boundaries between voluntary and forced migration (with special emphasis on environmental migration); changing profile of migrants; refugees and asylum; consequences of migration for countries and migrants; ethical dilemmas related to migration and migration policy. Theoretical reasoning is accompanied by examples or case studies taken from various countries.

MRS/WDA (Development Assistance), 5 ECTS

Course objectives

The aim of the course is to facilitate an advanced and critical understanding of contemporary issues in international development cooperation.

Requirements on student

Active participation, essay and presentation of results, written exam covering the lectures and required reading.

Content

The course analyzes basic concepts in development cooperation with a major focus on current debates. Second part analyzes the development assistance of selected bilateral donors from the recipient perspective, and focuses on issues such as donor harmonization, coordination and complementarity. Furthermore, the course provides an in-depth analysis of development assistance of the re-emerging donors of the Visegrad Group. The complexity of multilateral development assistance is illustrated in the case of the European Union. The course also analyzes problems of aid effectiveness and discusses new approaches and institutions designed to improve aid. The last part critically assesses the role of NGOs and civil society in development cooperation.

MRS/WEDP (Evaluations of Development Projects), 4 ECTS

Course objectives

The aim of the course is to provide students both with theoretical knowledge and up-to-date tools for development evaluation.

Requirements on student

Active participation, evaluation assessment, written exam covering the lectures.

Content

The course provides students with theoretical knowledge for designing, conducting and managing development evaluations. Throughout the course the following topics are covered: evaluation approaches, results-based monitoring and evaluation, evaluation questions, evaluation design, data collection methods, presentation of results, ethical questions, and evaluation standards. Besides the essential theory students will be also equipped with skills necessary for conducting development evaluations. Prerequisite is successful completion of Project Cycle Management course.

MRS/WSCD (Security, Conflict and Development), 5 ECTS

Course objectives

The main aim of the course is to provide the grounding for critical exploration of the range of ways of the possible linkages between development and conflict.

Requirements on student

For successful completion of the course, students are required to complete the final written exam, actively and competently participate in the class, including the assigned simulations, training exercises and case studies.

Content

In the course of the semester the following topics will be explored: the inherent causes of insecurity as a barrier for the development, the dynamics of the conflict and its changing character, potential tools for working in and on conflict, the "DO NO HARM" concept, etc. Particular role of development cooperation and the multiple functions it could serve in the field of security will also be introduced: the course will focus on the current theoretical debate on different challenges for development cooperation as a factor of prevention, early warning or reconstruction

MRS/SAD (Sport and Development), 4 ECTS

Course objectives

The main aim of the course is to provide students with a basic overview of the concept of Sport and Development.

Requirements on student

For successful completion of the course, students are required to complete an exam covering the course material. As well, students are required to prepare for every seminar, using the recommended readings. During the semester each of the students has to prepare a presentation on the selected topic.

Content

This course should provide students with the basic overview in the field of Sport and Development. The development cooperation through sport activities are analyzed and different approaches and theories are discussed. The seminars are elaborated based on reading Assessments. Different stakeholders are introduced. NGOs actively involved in the field of Sport and Development are described.

MRS/ANG2 (English Language 2), 3 ECTS

Course objectives

The course is focused on English grammar, vocabulary and conversational skills related to the topics from the field of development studies.

Requirements on student

The course is assessed by oral and/or written examination.

Content

English grammar: the system of English tenses (present, past, future, present perfect, past perfect, simple and continuous tenses), modal verbs, irregular verbs, reflexive verbs, conditionals, gerund, participle, infinitive verb phrases, subordinate clauses (conditional, proposal, concessive), indirect speech, indirect questions.

Apart from the grammatical part, the focus of the course is also put on developing communication skills and expansion of the vocabulary, concerning development topics.

MRS/WGPS (Globalization, Prosperity, Sustainability), 4 ECTS

Course objectives

The course consists of several seminars with discussions of books on current topics. The books are related to at least one of the three areas: (i) globalization and capitalism, (ii) prosperity and inequality, (iii) sustainability and future.

Provided there is at least one foreign student without knowledge of Czech language enrolled in the course, the course will run in English.

Requirements on student

Assessment is based on tests at the beginning of each seminar and on active participation in the seminars.

Content

Key topics

1. Globalization and Capitalism

Growing interdependence in the world and the economic system that rules it. Can they be managed for the common good?

2. Prosperity and Inequality

Are we better off and moving forward? Is prosperity shared within and across countries?

3. Sustainability and Future

Can prosperity be shared across generations? How to think about the long-term future?

Books for 2022 semester

1. Nudge: The Final Edition (Thaler and Sunstein, 2008/updated 2021) | česky Nudge (šřouch)
2. The Growth Delusion (Pilling, 2018)
3. Oneness vs the 1% (Shiva, 2020)
4. Good Economics for Hard Times (Banerjee and Duflo, 2019) OR Death of Despair and the Future of Capitalism (Case and Deaton, 2020)

VCJ/CFF (Czech for Foreigners), 4 ECTS

Course of Czech language for foreigners, taught in English, focusing on conversation in everyday situations. For beginners (level A0).

PRF/EUGEO (Impact of European Union Policies on GeoSciences), 6 ECTS

Course objectives

The aim of the subject is to adopt knowledge and skills resulting from the linkage between European Union policies (e.g. Regional Policy, INSPIRE directive, the role of The Joint Research Centre, Urban/Rural policies, Environment policies) and GeoSciences (geography, geoinformatics, and development studies) with emphasis on the impact of the policies to GeoSciences. The whole subject is organized into three thematic blocks, for which the different departments are responsible. The seminars of the course will complement the lectures in a way that students will practically use and apply newly gained knowledge. The seminars will be tied with the topic of lectures. The emphasis will be put on 1) open-discussions about the specific aspect of the lecture topic, 2) the hands-on training in case of working with (geo)data, 3) practical involvement on the GeoParticipation activities (participatory and emotional mapping), and 4) mini-project assignment with a poster as the main output for presentation. Additionally, a one-day round table debate with EU experts is scheduled at the end of the semester, and an excursion to the GSA center in Prague will be organized.

Requirements on student

- Working on thematic project and its defense
- Presentation of the thematic project (poster)
- Oral/written exam

Content

1. Introduction to the EU and GeoSciences (Department of Geography)
 - EU (history, institutions, principles, current state, future outlook)
 - GeoSciences (history, classification, modern trends)

- EU and regional geography (role of EU in regional geopolitics)
- EU policies on climate change (general overview European environmental policy)
- 2. Impact of EU policies on GeoSciences (Department of Geoinformatics)
 - European Union and GIScience
 - INSPIRE directive (principles, themes, implementation rules, web-services and geoportal)
 - EU institutions and agencies relating to GeoSciences
 - EU (geo)data resources and services
 - Remote sensing, GNSS and its services within the EU context
- 3. EU, development aid and active citizenship (Department of Development and Environmental Studies)
 - Development Policies and Development Cooperation of the EU
 - European perspective on GeoParticipation
 - Active citizenship and geospatial tools

MRS/WDC2 (Development Challenges – short-term course), MRS/WDT (Development Topics – short-term course), 2 ECTS

Course objectives

The main aim of the course is to introduce students to selected topics of development studies through seminars given by foreign lecturers.

Requirements on student

As specified by foreign lecturer.

Content

The course is based on a series of seminars given by foreign lecturers on a specific topic of development studies during a short time period (usually one or two weeks) or as a series of video-lectures during the whole semester.