

Ethics of Sustainable Development

The GREEN Program & Kathmandu University: Department of Development Studies

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Sagar R. Sharma

Feb 14-28, 2022 cohort

This course is a general introduction to the theories and practice of sustainable development in the world, with a special focus on developing countries. It starts out with a brief review of the different concepts and meanings of development, with a special focus on sustainable development. Development has been a contested concept and has had its share of controversies. The fact that poverty and inequality in many poor countries has not reduced significantly, in spite of significant international effort, has posed both conceptual and practical problems. The recent focus on sustainable development has been a result of alarming environmental and climate degradation, but also because of a conscious effort in advocating and campaigning for this issue throughout the world. But there are its critiques too. This course will attempt to cover this debate from different angles, and look at some good and not so good practices from around the world. It will end with a capstone project of the students that will help put their learnings into action.

The readings mentioned are recommended and provided as additional resources; however, the book, Ishmael, will be discussed halfway through the course. Students are provided with the reading materials in their student portal.

Course Plan: Total 32 hours: Mon-Fri: 8-10PM EDT; Saturday: 9AM-1PM ET; Last Sunday: 9 AM-11 AM ET

Day /Date	Contents	Reference Materials
Theme: Multidimensional Development		
Day 1: Mon, 2/14 8-10PM ET 2hrs	Introduction to the course. Getting to know each other. Capstone Launch	Assessing the current global/national context COP26 discussion - What's happening and why is it important? Introduction to the course and the capstone project. Cohort introductions.
Day 2: Tues, 2/15 8-10PM ET 2hrs	Introduction to Nepal. What is development?	<u>Conceptualising Contested Development – From Grand Narratives to the Nitty-gritty of the Everyday</u> . Geiser, U. in <u>Contested Development in Nepal: Experiences and Reflections</u> . Sharma SR <i>et.al.</i> (2015).
Day 3: Wed, 2/16 8-10PM ET 2hrs	What is development? How/why is development contested?	<u>Readings in Human Development: Concepts, Measures and Policies for a Development Paradigm</u> . Sakiko Fukuda Parr and A.K Shiva Kumar. (2003). Chapter 1.1: Development as capability expansion Chapter 1.2: The human development paradigm <u>Introducing the Human Development and Capability Approach</u> . Sabina Alkire and Séverine Deneulin. (2012). Berlin, I. (1969). Two Concepts of Liberty. Four Essays on Liberty, Oxford, England: Oxford University Press.

Day 4: Thurs, 2/17 8-10PM ET 2hrs	Conceptual Foundations of Human dimensions of development (HD) and Economic Development	<p><u>Readings in Human Development: Concepts, Measures and Policies for a Development Paradigm</u>. Sakiko Fukuda Parr and A.K Shiva Kumar. (2003). Chapter 1.1: Development as capability expansion Chapter 1.2: The human development paradigm <u>Introducing the Human Development and Capability Approach</u>. Sabina Alkire and Séverine Deneulin. (2012). Berlin, I. (1969). Two Concepts of Liberty. Four Essays on Liberty, Oxford, England: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Documentaries to watch before Day 5 class: 1. History of Poverty (58 min) 2. Poverty in El Salvador (8 min)</p>
Day 5: Fri, 2/18 8-10PM ET 2hrs	Concept of human poverty, Poverty and inequality: Why do they persist?	<p><u>Readings in Human Development</u> Chapter 1.4: The concept of human poverty Chapter 3.4: The politics of poverty eradication Gans, HJ. (2012). The Benefits of Poverty, Challenge, 55:1, 114-125</p>
Theme: Dissecting Sustainable Development		
Day 6: Sat, 2/19 9-1PM ET 4hrs	Introduction to Sustainable development Why sustainable development? Capstone Milestone (Forming groups and ideas)	<p><u>The Age of Sustainable Development by Jeffery Sachs (2015)</u></p> <p><u>Indicators of Sustainable Development Guidelines and Methodologies (2007) 3rd Edition United Nations</u> (Making sense of sustainability) Raworth, K. (2017). Doughnut Economics</p>
Day 7: Mon, 2/21 8-10PM ET 2hrs	Critiquing Sustainable Development Business as usual vs sustainability	<p><u>An Historian's Critique of Sustainability</u> By Kathleen R. Smythe, <i>Culture Unbound</i>, Volume 6, 2014: 913–929 <u>Criticism of the Concept of Sustainable Development</u> http://planetaryproject.com/planet_project/critical/ <u>Critiquing Sustainable Development:</u> <u>A Meaningful Way of Mediating the Development Impasse?</u></p>
Theme: Ethics and Sustainable Development		
Day 8: Tues, 2/22 8-10PM ET 2hrs	Book Review & Discussion Capstone Workshop	<u>Ishmael (1992) by Danniell Quinn</u>

Day 9 Wed, 2/23 8-10PM ET 2hrs	Why does ethics matter in Development?	<u>A New Discipline: Development Ethics.</u> Goulet, D. (1996) <u>The Ethics of Development.</u> Gasper, D. (2004) <u>Ethics and Development: Theory and Practice.</u> Crocker, D. (2009) <u>Ethics and Poverty.</u> Singer, P. (2011)
Day 10: Thurs, 2/24 8-10PM ET 2hrs	The good, the bad and the ugly: case studies of modern technology from around the world Capstone Workshop	<u>Ethical and Moral Aspects of Energy Use</u> https://www.encyclopedia.com/environment/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/ethical-and-moral-aspects-energy-use <u>Carbon Trading: Unethical, Unjust and Ineffective?</u> Caney, S and Hepburn, C (2011).
Day 11: Fri, 2/25 8-10PM ET 2hrs	Dilemmas of a Developing Country: Nepal as a Case Study - Impacts of COVID-19	<u>Ethical dilemmas due to Covid-19. (2020)</u> <u>Nepal's SDGs: Baseline Report 2017.</u> National Planning Commission, Nepal.
<i>Theme: Making the Difference: Capstone Presentations</i>		
Day 12: Sat, 2/26 9AM- 1PM ET 4 hrs	Capstone workshop & Capstone Presentations Part 1	Making the difference & Launching a sustainable initiative
Day 13: Sun, 2/27 9AM- 11AM ET 2 hrs	Capstone Presentations Pt 2	Making the difference & Launching a sustainable initiative
Day 14: Mon, 2/28 8-10PM ET 2hrs	Wrap up & Course Reflections	

Skills/Course Outcomes:

Skills gained/practiced: Critical and analytical thinking, creativity and innovation (capstone), remote work management, interpersonal and interdisciplinary communication, diversity and cultural intelligence, public speaking, thought leadership, problem-solving

Learn foundational theories and practice of global sustainable development, with Nepal as a case study for developing countries

Analyze and critique sustainable development and ethics through literature reviews and active learning discussions - Ask: Why do ethics matter in development?
Gain an understanding of conceptual foundations of human and economic development in the context of sustainable development
Understanding the concepts of poverty and investigating the inequalities in poverty and why they continue to exist
Develop knowledge of global sustainable development, analyze global case studies
Discover Nepal's SDGs frameworks, initiatives and challenges in development
Practice creativity and innovation with an Agile Capstone Workshop - Explore innovative opportunities to apply your learnings and how to transform your knowledge into action

Evaluation:

The course will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis. 80% of the evaluation will be based on participation in the course and Agile Capstone Workshop. For those who cannot attend live classes, you will be eligible to complete a participation piece separately. 20% will be based on other reflections and written work. Students who pass the course will receive TGP's Smart Certificate upon completion as a reflection of the skills gained during the course.

Indicative Reading List: *The course includes digital versions of most of the reading materials. The course instructor will review any materials that may need to be provided by the student.*

Fukuda-Parr, S and Kumar, S. (eds). (2004) **Readings in Human Development**. Oxford University Press.
Crocker, D. (2008). **Ethics of Global Development: Agency, Capability and Deliberative Democracy**. Cambridge University Press.
Gasper, Des (2004) **The Ethics of Development**. Edinburgh University Press.
International Hellenic University (2015). **Introduction to Sustainable Development**. IHU.
Quinn, D. (1992). **Ishmael**. Bantam/Turner Books.
Sen, Amartya (1999) **Development as Freedom**. Oxford University Press
Sachs, JD (2015). **The Age of Sustainable Development**. Columbia University Press.
Sharma, SR, et al. (2015) **Contested Development in Nepal: Experiences and Reflections**. School of Arts Kathmandu University.
Smythe, KR. (2014). **An Historian's Critique of Sustainability**. *Culture Unbound*, Volume 6, 2014: 913–929
Soubbotina, TP (2004). **Beyond Economic Growth: And Introduction to Sustainable Development**. World Bank.
United Nations. (2007). **Indicators of sustainable Development: Guidelines and Methodologies**. 3rd Edition. UNDESA.
Other relevant articles, reports, web links, blogs, etc...