

**GEOG 37000 - Geography of Sustainable Development in the  
Developing Countries  
Fall 2025**

**Monday and Thursday, 4:00 pm to 5: 15 pm  
Room 1022 Hunter North**

Dr. Mohamed Babiker Ibrahim  
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Office hours:  
Monday & Thursday 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm  
or at the office in the end of the class

**No textbook. The following are suggested references which are available at the Hunter College Library:**

1. Elliott, Jennifer (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.). 2013. *An Introduction to Sustainable Development*. London: Taylor & Francis.
2. Potter, R. B., Binns, T., Elliot, J., Smith, D .2008. *Geographies of Development: An Introduction to Development Studies*. New York: Prentice Hall
3. World Commission on Environment and Development (1991) *Our Common Future*. New York: Oxford University Press (pp. 27-42). **WCED**
4. Jolly, R., Emmerij, L., Ghai, D., Lapeyre, F. 2004. *UN Contributions to Development Thinking and Practice*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

There are a large number of electronic peer-reviewed journals dealing with different topics of sustainable development that can be found at the Hunter College Library.

**Goals/objective and expected learning outcomes:**

The main goal and objective of this class is to study and understand the new approaches of development in the developing countries. It aims at learning the new bottom-up approaches of sustainable development as oppose to the old top-down approaches. By the end of this course, you should have a better understanding of the complex and dynamic interrelations between sustainable development in the developing countries with much emphasis on policies, strategies, available resources, and progress and sustainability of development in regions that suffer from physical and socio-economic challenges.

***Expected Learning Outcomes:***

At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Know a general and broad knowledge of the major issues of sustainable development in the developing countries.
- You will have knowledge of sustainable development as a holistic approach that links the process of environmental, economic and social change together now and in the future.
- To learn and discuss the importance of sustainable development, its needs, reduction of poverty, enhancing food security and improving life style.
- Know some of the key geographic, environmental and social justice issues facing our world today.
- Ability to think and write critically about these issues.
- Demonstrate the structure of scientific writing.

### Lecture Schedule:

Week	Date(s)	Topic(s)	Reading(s)
1	Sept. 2	Introduction. Failure of Top-down approach and the need for sustainable development <b>No Class – College is closed</b>	Chap. 1, Elliot, J.
2		History of development and Modernization Theory. Development before the 1960s.	Chap. 1, Potter, et al
3		History of Development and Modernization Theory. Development from the 1960s to the 1990s	
4		Definition of sustainable development	WCED, pp 27-42 Chap.1 Elliot,
5	Sept 22	Elements of sustainable development <b>No Class – College is closed</b>	
6	Oct. 2	Challenges for sustainability in developing countries. Government policies, dual economy, population growth <b>No Class – College is closed</b>	
7		Challenges for sustainability in developing countries: poverty, lack of resources (land water, credit, technical assistance), climate change and environmental degradation.	
8	Oct. 13 Tuesday 14	Population growth and sustainable development: factors affecting birth rates and death rates <b>No Class – College is closed</b> <b>Classes follow Monday schedule</b>	

9	<b>October 20</b> <b>October 24</b>	Population growth and sustainable development: population control and sustainability <b>No Class – College is closed</b> <b>Classes follow Monday schedule</b>	
10		The role of women in sustainable development: reasons for empowerment of rural women.	
11		The role of women in sustainable development: contributions of women to development.	
12		Sustainability of food production	
13	<b>Nov. 28</b>	Agroforestry and sustainable development: the importance of forests in maintaining global ecosystems <b>No Class- College is closed</b>	
14	<b>Nov. 27</b>	Relationship between sustainable development and the environment <b>No Class- College is closed</b>	
15		Review	

**Grading system:**

Mid-term examination	40%
Final examination	40%
Research paper	20%

**Mid-term Exam:**

The midterm exam is a take-home examination consisting of four short essay questions. You need to support your writing with examples from peer-reviewed articles, books or reports.

**Final Exam:**

The final examination is a take-home exam consisting of four short essay questions. These essays should be supported with examples from peer-reviewed articles, books or reports.

**Please note the following guidelines for your term paper:**

1. The professor must approve your topic. Choose one from the topics listed in the lecture schedule.
2. The paper must be double-spaced, one inch margins on all sides, 12 point font, and at least 12 pages long plus bibliography.
3. It should include a minimum of 10 cited references from peer-reviewed articles.
4. The paper should include tables, maps or graphs (notate the source).
5. In case of citation of references in the text, use **APA** format (**parentheses**) and **NOT** the **MLA** format (You will be given examples in the class).

6. There should be a cover page showing the title, your name, course number, instructor's name and the semester (i.e. Fall 2025).
7. Sub-headings should be used in the paper along an introduction and a conclusion.
8. The bibliography should be written properly at the end of the paper.
9. I must receive the first draft before **November 14, 2025**. I will have a look at it, make comments and give it back to you to improve it (By email).
10. The deadline for submission of the final draft paper is **December 1, 2025** (By email)
11. If you have any question(s) come and see me.
12. Not following of any of these points will reduce your grade.

### **Attendance and Grading Policies:**

1. There is a direct correlation between good grades and good attendance. Come to the class prepared, read the appropriate articles of the reading list, take notes, study for your exams and you will be successful. Attendance is taken at every class meeting.
2. I do not give incompletes (**IN**) except under the most extraordinary, and documented, circumstances.
3. The only students who will be eligible for CR/NC at the end of the semester are those who have completed all of the course requirements including all mid-term exam, term paper, and the final exam.
4. If miss an exam, you must (1) contact me within 48 hours of the missed exam, (2) present acceptable documentary evidence for your absence, and (3) arrange a make-up exam at a mutually convenient date and time. A make-up exam covers the same materials as the regular exam but will not be the same exam given as scheduled.

### **HUNTER COLLEGE'S STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

And I might add that creative originality and integrity are essential if you want to develop the kind of knowledge that is going to do you any good in life. When you cheat at school, the one you are really cheating is ultimately your future self.

### **ADA Policy**

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of ACCESSABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230.

### **Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct**

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

- a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, on contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444)
- b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose ([jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry ([colleen.barr7@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:colleen.barr7@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link:

<http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>

### **Preferred Gender Pronoun**

All people have the right to be addressed and referred to in accordance with their personal identity. In this class, we will have the chance to indicate the name that we prefer to be called and, if we choose, to identify pronouns with which we would like to be addressed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly and support classmates in doing so as well.

**Please... do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any question(s).**