

**GEOG 71200 - Geography of Sustainable Development in the
Developing Countries
Fall 2025**

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

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Office hours:
Monday & Thursday 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
or come and see me after class

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

1. Elliott, Jennifer (4th 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 No Class – College is closed	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 No Class – College is closed	
6	Oct. 2	Challenges for sustainability in developing countries. Government policies, dual economy, population growth No Class – College is closed	
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 No Class – College is closed Classes follow Monday schedule	
9		Population growth and sustainable development: population control and sustainability	

	October 20 October 24	No Class – College is closed Classes follow Monday schedule	
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	Nov. 28	Agroforestry and sustainable development: the importance of forests in maintaining global ecosystems No Class- College is closed	
14	Nov. 27	Relationship between sustainable development and the environment No Class- College is closed	
15		Review	

Grading system:

Class Participation	_____	20%
Presentation of a seminar	_____	10%
A Paper on the Seminar Topic	_____	20%
A Research Paper	_____	50%

Please note the following guidelines for your papers:

1. Choose any **two** topics from the topics listed in the lecture schedule.
2. The professor must approve your topics.
3. Present the first topic as a seminar to the class and write a short paper about it. The seminar should take between 15 to 30 minutes. The paper must be at least 15 pages long, double-spaced, one-inch margins on all sides and 12 point font.
4. It should include a minimum of 15 cited references from books and peer-reviewed articles.
5. Write a research paper about the second topic which must be between 22 to 25 pages long with a minimum of 20 cited references from books and peer reviewed journals. It should be submitted by **December 2, 2025**. The paper should be double-spaced, one inch margin on all sides and 12 point font.
6. The papers should include tables, maps or graphs (notate the source).
7. 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).
8. There should be a cover page showing the title, your name, course number, instructor's name and the semester.
9. Sub-headings should be used in the paper along an introduction and a conclusion.
10. The bibliography should be written properly at the end of the paper.

11. The deadline for submission of the first paper is **November 11, 2025** and the other **December 2, 2025**.
12. If you have any question(s) come and see me.

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.
4. If you miss an exam (term papers), 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 or 212-650-3262) of Colleen Barry (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/1a/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>

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