

SOU33081 —Globalisation and Development 1

Module Information	
Module Code	SOU33081
Module Title	Globalisation and Development 1
Department	Sociology
Year Group	Junior Sophister
Module Personnel	Professor Anne Holohan
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	5 credits
Semester	Semester 1
Contact Hours	22 hours, 1 lecture and 1 tutorial per week

Module Content	
Module Description	The global economic and social ‘operating system’ of the late 20th and early 21st century is no longer fit for purpose; the problems are obvious – most notably environmental externalities, entrenched inequalities and fragile social cohesion. There is a lack of imagination as to how we can understand this and what we can do about it. We do have a plurality of knowledge and perspectives which can help in the necessary economic, social and political transformations. However, these are currently (and historically have been) exploited, devalued, or ignored, and a dominant narrative limits our imaginations. The ‘locked in’ Ideas about modernity from a small elite has led to incomplete, often inaccurate, and biased understandings of society, of history, of the natural world, and humanity’s place in that. The dualism of the individual or the state is an anaemic theorization and actualisation of the organizational realities and possibilities. The limited understandings need to be interrogated and replaced with a fuller, complete picture of possibilities of how to reorganize socially.
Module Learning Aims	On successful completion of the module students should be able to: • Critically engage with what is ‘development’ and ‘progress’ and ‘growth’ • Have a knowledge and

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	critical understanding of different units of and measures of 'development' • Understand feminist critique of concepts and measures of social progress and economic growth • Be able to engage with different 'ways of knowing' that contribute to debates around development • Understand the continuity between colonial practices and contemporary global practices • Understand the role of the commons and enclosures historically and in contemporary global system • Critically assess the role of neoliberal economics in the global system and governance • Understand the different ways of understanding the collective action problem and how institutional arrangements can address this problem • Engage in current policy debates around how to understand and address climate change, with a particular focus on the critique of current economic theory and practice • Be able to synthesize multiple perspectives to develop new approaches to knowledge, development to tackle inequalities and climate change
Learning Outcomes	We have grown up in a world where hierarchies dominate as a form of social organization, economically and geopolitically the West has dominated and still dominates, women are devalued, there is a racial ordering which puts white people as the default norm and everyone else as 'other', nature is seen as an inert thing that can be dominated. This is couched in language and ideology that renders them as an objective 'reality' that we can't escape, and which advocates a particular path defined as 'development' that is conceived of and measured in ways that are narrow and biased. One of the challenges in thinking imaginatively about (re) social organization is to see that myths which we accept as 'common sense' (Gramsci) actually protect powerful interests. In assessing our current social organization and where to go from here, it is useful to consider Graeber and Wengrow's question: "are we really 'free'?" Free to move, free to reason about and reject doing something we don't agree with, free to reorganize society as needed? Peoples have had those freedoms in the past and they are needed once again to address the current crises.

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Indicative Reading / Resources

- Saito, K. (2023). Marx in the Anthropocene: Towards the idea of degrowth communism. Cambridge University Press.
- Raworth, K (2017) Doughnut Economics. Random House: UK. 2017.
- Federici, S. (2004). Caliban and the Witch. Autonomedia.
- Shiva, V. (2016). Who really feeds the world? The failures of agribusiness and the promise of agroecology. North Atlantic Books.
- Hickel, J. (2020) Less is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World. Penguin
- Robinson, K. S. (2020). The ministry for the future. Hachette UK.
- Ostrom, E. (1990). Governing the commons: The evolution of institutions for collective action. Cambridge university press.
- Graeber, D., & Wengrow, D. (2021). The dawn of everything: A new history of humanity. Penguin UK.

Assessment

Assessment Components

Exam 80%, Presentation 20%

Assessment Details

In person exam – two hours.

Additional Information

Prerequisites

None

Co-requisites

None

Any other information