

Online Certificate Course

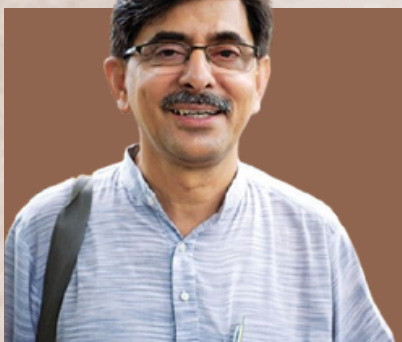
“THE POLITICS OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE”

WHAT SHAPES DEVELOPMENT GLOBALLY?

This course introduces participants to the key concepts, debates, and approaches to understanding development as a multidimensional process that extends beyond economic growth. Through comparative perspectives from India and other countries, participants will examine how health, education, gender equality, social protection, and public institutions shape development outcomes. The course also critically explores development indicators and social-sector policies, highlighting their role in promoting inclusion, equity, and improvements in people's everyday lives.

 1 Sep – 30th Sep 2024  6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (IST)

INSTRUCTORS



Dr Sunil Kaul
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, IDEAS



Mr. Najam Us Saqib
ASSISTANT LECTURER, IDEAS

Total Sessions: 8 (Tuesday and Thursday)

No specific academic qualifications or prior disciplinary background are required

Participants who complete all evaluation components and maintain the required attendance will receive an official Certificate of Completion issued by the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS), O.P. Jindal Global University.

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COURSE STRUCTURE

MODULE 1 (WEEK 1): RETHINKING DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

Class 1: Understanding Development: competing definitions of development; the relationship between economic growth, infrastructure, security, and social progress; and the limits of growth-centred approaches

Class 2: Development as freedom, capability, dignity, and human well-being; examining how inequality and exclusion shape access to development

MODULE 2 (WEEK 2): MEASURING DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

Class 3: Key indicators relating to income, health, education, nutrition, gender, inequality, social protection, and human development; introduction to composite indices.

Class 4: Comparing development outcomes across selected countries and Indian states; interpreting data critically and identifying what conventional indicators capture, overlook, or underrepresent.

MODULE 3 (WEEK 3): THE POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

Class 5: The role of public institutions, state capacity, welfare regimes, and political priorities in shaping development outcomes.

Class 6: Why economic progress does not always produce equitable social outcomes; comparative cases on inequality, resource distribution, social exclusion, and uneven access to public services.

MODULE 4 (WEEK 4): COMPARATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY EVALUATION

Class 7: Evaluating social-sector policies and programmes through the criteria of inclusion, accessibility, effectiveness, coverage, implementation, and institutional context.

Class 8: Comparative group presentations, synthesis of the course, and guidance for the post-course analytical assignment.

TENTATIVE READING LIST

- Sen, Amartya. Development as Freedom. Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Nussbaum, Martha C. Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach. Harvard University Press, 2011.
- Drèze, Jean, and Amartya Sen. An Uncertain Glory: India and Its Contradictions. Princeton University Press, 2013.
- Stiglitz, Joseph E., Amartya Sen, and Jean-Paul Fitoussi. Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, 2009.
- Selected Human Development Reports, World Development Report, State of the children report, World health report, and technical notes published by the United Nations Development Programme.
- Selected international, national and state-level policy documents, development indicators, and programme-evaluation reports relevant to the comparative cases discussed in class.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Explain major concepts and debates concerning development, social development, human well-being, and the limits of growth-centred approaches.
- Interpret and critically assess indicators relating to health, education, nutrition, inequality, gender, social protection, and human development.
- Compare development trajectories and outcomes across selected countries and Indian states.
- Analyse how institutions, welfare regimes, political priorities, and social inequalities shape the distribution of development.
- Evaluate the design and implementation of a social policy or programme through the criteria of inclusion, accessibility, effectiveness, and coverage.

ELIGIBILITY AND PREREQUISITES

The course is open to participants from the social sciences, humanities, public policy, law, economics, management, development studies, media studies, public health and related fields. No specialised quantitative training is required. Participants should have a basic interest in development issues and a willingness to engage with comparative data, policy documents, and classroom discussions.

INSTRUCTORS



Dr Sunil Kaul

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, IDEAS

Dr Sunil Kaul has a three decade long experience with the rural development sector, living and working in rural areas for most of this time. He is a medical doctor from the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune and a Master's degree in public health from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Besides a 10 year stint with the Army Medical Corps in various sectors, he has worked mainly with the voluntary sector in Rajasthan and Assam. He is the co-founder of the ant, a well-known not-for-profit organisation based in Bodoland, Assam – now a group of organisations too – that has worked on various issues like education, livelihoods, organisational development, women's empowerment and health, esp. Mental health. Besides, he has served as Advisor (Assam) to the Commissioners appointed by the Supreme Court in the Right to Food mandamus, was the State Representative for the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights on the right to education and in 2023 served as the Development Advisor to the Sixth Schedule government of Bodoland in Assam. He has occasionally consulted for the govt and NGOs and has also been on the boards of some well-known NGOs.



Najam Us Saqib

ASSISTANT LECTURER, IDEAS

Najam Us Saqib is an Assistant Lecturer at the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS), O.P. Jindal Global University. His research interests focus on ethnographic studies of marginalisation, caste, and livelihoods, with a particular focus on the social and economic dimensions of life in Kashmir. He also serves as an Assistant Director at the Centre for New Economics Studies, JGU, and is a Ph.D. candidate at the Central University of Kashmir.

I.D.E.A.S. *at a* GLANCE

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ABOUT US

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS) at O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) serves as a university-wide platform for fostering interdisciplinary teaching, research, and community engagement across the social sciences. It brings together scholars, students, and practitioners to co-create knowledge and develop innovative responses to complex real-world challenges.

At its core, IDEAS operates as an intellectual incubator, supporting collaborative scholarship, experimental pedagogy, and research that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. Through its initiatives and field-based programmes, it promotes critical inquiry, applied learning, and engagement with pressing development concerns.

With a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary dialogue, global academic exchange, and community-linked research, IDEAS aims to cultivate a dynamic academic environment that connects theory with practice and advances socially relevant scholarship.