Development Studies

(offered by the Department of Development Studies)
Telephone number 012 429 6813

1 Introduction

This major subject concentrates on the study of development as a phenomenon in developing areas. The initial emphasis falls on poverty in all its manifestations. Then a study is made of development efforts through administrative reform, capacity building and empowerment. The most important issues influencing development efforts, such as migration, the state of education, and health and the economy receive attention. Development management consisting of planning, implementation, evaluation and control forms an important focus point and the roles of government institutions, non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations are studied in detail.

The study of this subject will be of great value to all those who are involved in one way or another in development. This holds true for the person responsible for the day to day management of development, but also for the policy maker and the strategic manager. A knowledge of this subject can also be put to good use by personnel officers in the private sector and the public sector at local, provincial and national level. This subject endeavours to create ‘a new professionalism’ among those involved in development that will enable people at the grassroots level to take responsibility for their own development. Finally, this subject can give context and understanding for the person not directly involved in development, but nonetheless fulfilling a function in a Third World country such as South Africa.

2 General Information

Students not majoring in Development Studies may substitute a second-level module with a third-level module.

FOR THE COLLEGE OF HUMAN SCIENCES

BA students who wish to take Development Studies as a major can do so as part of the specialisation degrees such as Development studies, Community development, Government, administration and development, and Welfare sciences.

Students who select Development Studies as major in a general BA degree, can consider combining it with subjects such as Economics, Anthropology, Sociology or Public Administration. It may also be selected as a major subject for the BInf, BSW and BTh degrees.

FOR THE COLLEGE OF ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

Students may select Development Studies as a major subject for the BAdmin or the BBA degree. If selected for the BBA degree one of the following is recommended as a useful SECOND major:

Municipal Accounting: for personnel with accounting duties related to development
Business Management: for persons concerned with management and administration in private or co-operative undertakings in developing areas
Economics: because economic factors play an important part in the administration and planning of development
Industrial and Organisational Psychology: for personnel officers in public and private organisations
Transport Economics: for persons who are engaged in the planning and development of physical infrastructure (roads, railways and harbours)

3 Development Studies as a Major Subject

Compulsory modules for a major subject combination:

First level:  DVA101, 102
Second level: DVA201, 202
Third level:  DVA301, 302, 303, 304, 305

4 Syllabus

FIRST-LEVEL MODULES

DVA101Q Introduction to development studies (S1 and S2)*
Purpose: to gain insight into basic concepts in the study of development by reading texts and case studies on integrated development problems such as demography and ecology in urban and rural areas.

DVA102R Development problems and institutions (S1 and S2)*
Co-requisite: DVA101
Purpose: to introduce students to integrated development problems such as education and health, the role of the state in development, policy approaches, political and economic dynamics within states, the role of development institutions, and the importance of participatory development and empowerment.

SECOND-LEVEL MODULES

Prerequisite: Development Studies I or any FOUR first-level modules

DVA201T Development theories (S1 and S2)*

Purpose: to introduce students to key development theories such as modernisation, underdevelopment, sustainable and participatory development, to enable them to demonstrate understanding by comparing theories and by linking them to practical situations.

DVA202U Rural and urban development (S1 and S2)*

Purpose: to gain insight, through reading and text analysis, into development policies and strategies for rural and urban areas, interaction between rural and urban processes, urbanisation and rural and urban poverty as key development issues.

THIRD-LEVEL MODULES

Prerequisite: Development Studies I or any FOUR first-level modules

DVA301W Development policy and strategies (S1 and S2)*

Purpose: to gain insight into the process of formulating development policies and strategies at local, national and international levels, and to analyse the dynamics and issues of policy implementation.

DVA302X Development planning (S1 and S2)*

Purpose: to gain insight into development planning theories and practices by reading texts and case studies on various approaches, actors and methods.

DVA303Y Projects and programmes as instruments of development (S1 and S2)*

Purpose: to gain insight into projects and programmes as instruments of development, and to demonstrate understanding of functions and management techniques appropriate in development context.

DVA3043 Empowerment and popular initiatives (S1 and S2)*

Purpose: to gain insight into the debate on empowerment and popular initiatives, and to analyse concepts such as mobilisation, participation, human action, classes, social formations, struggles and resistance in this context.

DVA3054 Community development and the basic needs approach (S1 and S2)*

Purpose: to enable students to demonstrate an understanding of the process and dynamics of community development and the basic needs approach by linking related concepts and theories to practice.

HONOURS LEVEL

NB

Students are referred to Part 5 of the Calendar for the curriculum of the degree.

DVADEBT Contemporary development debates and issues*

Purpose: to equip students with advanced knowledge and understanding of the contemporary field of Development Studies. Qualified students will be able to analyse global dynamics, recent debates, theories and selected topical and symptomatic issues.

DVAGOVJ Governance and development*

Purpose: to equip students with systematic knowledge and understanding of debates and issues of governance of development at global, national and local levels.

Qualified students will have in-depth knowledge and skills and will be able to assess the role in governance of selected institutions. The focus is on their contribution to development assistance and intervention at global, national and local levels.

DVASECF Human security and development*

Purpose: to equip students with comprehensive and systematic knowledge of themes of insecurity, risk and vulnerability in the development context.

The second purpose is to provide students with in-depth knowledge and skills that will enable qualified learners to assess and apply strategies and frameworks of human security such as sustainable livelihoods, humanitarian intervention and frameworks to minimise risk and vulnerability in a development context.

DVASUS4 Sustainable development: policy, practice and environment*

Purpose: to equip students with well-rounded systematic knowledge and an understanding of key themes of sustainable development within the development context. These are themes such as the nature of the environmental crisis within the global system, national and local sustainable development policy, theories of sustainable development, the cash between development and conservation as well as issues in sustainable development practice.

The second purpose is to provide students with in-depth knowledge and critical skills that will enable qualified students to assess and apply strategies and frameworks of sustainable development.

GENDEVY Gender and development*

Purpose: to provide students with the opportunity to study selected themes relating to gender and gender power relations within the context of development by reading and reflecting on texts and case studies dealing with issues such as the feminisation of poverty, urban survival strategies, women as providers of food security, appropriate technology, gender-sensitive planning and gender policy.