



Department of
Community Sustainability

Fall 2026

International Development: Theory & Practice
CSUS 826

3 credits - Wednesdays 11:20am - 2:40pm
W9 Holmes Hall

This course helps students across the disciplines broaden their intellectual perspective on what constitutes international development and prepares them to work with and understand people with views different from their own. 826 is a multidisciplinary survey of the history of theories and practices in international development.

The course offers:

- a multidisciplinary, historical perspective on contemporary issues in international development such as economic development, governance, agricultural development, environment, foreign aid, and human capital development;
- course will feature guest lectures by international development practitioners from MSU, Washington D.C. and beyond to bring real world context to course topics;
- a sense of how current theories and practices in international development evolved from previous theories and practices, including lessons learned from past experience;
- the opportunity to interact with and learn from other students with different interests in and perspectives on international development (each year the class tends to have students from 5-10 departments and up to ten countries); and
- flexible course assignments that offer students the opportunity to relate each week's topics to their own interests and to explore those interests in more depth in a research paper. Students can use the paper to develop ideas or review literature for their thesis or dissertation research or for other purposes important to them.

For more information, contact the instructor:

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Community Sustainability Dept. and Global Center for Food Systems Innovation