

MINOR GLOBALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT 2026-2027

For registration please fill out the separate Minor Registration Form

Period		Title	Code	ECTS	Assessment
Period 1: 31-08-2026 / 23-10-2026	Course	Globalisation and Inequality	MGD3000	12	Grade
Period 2: 26-10-2026 / 18-12-2026	Course	Urban Development & Poverty in the 21 st Century	MGD3001	12	Grade
Period 3: 04-01-2027 / 29-01-2027	Course	Globalisation Seminar & Symposium *	MGD3002	6	Grade

** Registration for this course is only allowed together with registration for course MGD3000 in period 1 and MGD3001 in period 2*

Period 1: Globalisation and Inequality

This course critically focuses on structural issues of development in a global context. Globalization refers to the increasing interdependence of markets, states and civil societies and the resulting effects on people and their environment. By also addressing inequalities, the structural differentiations among actors in terms of access to means, opportunities and resources, issues of (re-)distribution are taken into account as well. The course acknowledges colonial legacies in the field of development by examining development agendas in the post-colonial period and discovering how (neo-)colonial thinking, the 'white gaze' in development, Global North policies, actors and institutions still play a dominant role in 21st century development challenges. Moreover, it investigates interdependencies on a global, transnational, national and local level, while considering the role of public, private and civil society actors. Thus, it aims to understand underlying development processes and unlock the ongoing debates.

The course focuses on the following themes:

Globalization and development; the Sustainable Development Goals; a history of colonialism and inequality, including the 'white gaze' in development; the agencies of development; democratization, human rights and development; health and development; global migration, remittances and development; and climate crisis, consumption patterns and the North-South divide.

Course objectives

At the end of the course, students:

- can understand and analyze issues of globalization and inequality from several disciplinary perspectives;
- can connect issues of globalization, inequality, poverty and development;
- are able to understand theories, concepts and historical roots of global social, political and

- economic inequality;
- are able to describe and institutionally place the main global and international actors and networks in the field of development, including their aim, impact and effectiveness;
- are able to critically discuss contemporary issues in development and the developing world, in particular:
 - (Post-)colonial legacies;
 - Democratization, human rights and development;
 - Health and development;
 - Global Migration and remittances;
 - Climate crisis, consumption patterns and the North-South divide;
- are able to analyze changes in 21st century geopolitical perspectives with regards to development, including the growing impact of the emerging (e.g. China, BRICS) countries and South-South development initiatives;
- are able to discuss the relations between the various global crises and recent development policies (e.g. the Sustainable Development Goals).

Period 2: Urban Development & Poverty in the 21st Century

Each year and all over the world, millions of people move to cities. But what does urbanization look like in the Global South? This course frames 'the city' as "a heuristic space – a space capable of producing knowledge about some of the major transformations of an epoch" (Sassen, 2010, p. 1) and as a lens through which to acquire knowledge about development and poverty in our globally interconnected and troublesome world. Through readings in this course we delve into the human aspects of these contrasting and contradictory spaces, and we analyze social, economic and political processes in cities of particularly less/differently developed countries in the Global South.

We discuss connections and tensions between urban communities and economic development; the creation of vulnerable populations through urbanization and the precariousness of labour; the structural failures of slum ecologies and how they affect people; and also how citizens nevertheless find myriad modes of making the city their home. Fundamentally, this course takes as a starting point the question what it takes to live and survive in a city when one is very poor, marginalized, silenced, made invisible, or otherwise rendered peripheral. We take such qualifications to be effects of not only how cities are organized and governed 'from above', but also of specific ways of conceptualizing how cities and their inhabitants operate.

Key to our point of departure is the notion, coined by Simone (2010) of 'cityness', "the city as a thing in the making (...) [where] at the heart of city life is the capacity for its different people, spaces, activities, and things to interact in ways that exceed any attempt to regulate them" (Simone, 2010, p. 3). Thus, we examine the ways in which people navigate, resist, and shape the cities where they live. Cities are approached as historically constituted – often rooted in colonial histories – as well as shaped by present practices and future imaginaries. At the same time, they are not self-contained spaces, but sites that connect transnational movements and mobilities of people, capital, and goods. The course focuses on the following themes: Cities as windows onto worlds; Human and nonhuman infrastructures; Making a living; Digital infrastructures from below; Counter-geographies of globalization; Identity and cultural production; Cityness.

Course objectives

At the end of this course, students:

- can understand and analyze approaches to urban poverty from below, particularly as they emerge in cities in the Global South;
- can conceptualize and discuss the work it takes for the urban poor to survive in cities;
- can conceptualize and discuss the contribution of the urban poor to cities;
- can produce a narrative of agency;
- are able to analyze, understand, and critically apply relevant theoretical and analytical approaches to examine how the urban poor live, survive in and shape cities.

Period 3: Globalization Seminar & Symposium

** Registration for this course is only allowed together with registration for course MGD3000 in period 1 and MGD3001 in period 2*

This course provides students the opportunity to research diverse topics on various themes in Globalization and Development within the broader topic of migration. The chosen themes are connected to the preceding courses in period I and II. They have a global and structural dimension as well as cultural, local and personal features. The topics students work on should have a present-day importance and can be approached from a more abstract and theoretical, as well as an empirical and/or historical perspectives. Students will work on a paper and discuss work in progress with fellow students and tutors in the various seminars/tutorials in the course. They will present their final paper at the concluding Minor Symposium (for which all-day participation is mandatory) to their fellow students and invited guests. This final symposium starts with a keynote speaker with expertise in one of the themes of the Minor Globalization and Development.

Course objectives

At the end of the course, students:

- can describe and critically engage with several main debates in the field of migration studies;
- are able to find, assess, and critically make use of secondary and primary data; are able to formulate a research question; are able to build an academic argument;
- are able to conduct a literature review;
- are able to deal with and incorporate feedback;
- are able to write a full, well-referenced, research paper and position themselves in an academic debate;
- are able to present their own work at a symposium.