Development Economics Module

Institution:	Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals
Year:	Year 2
Course type:	Track specific course ISS-IBEI (modular format)
ECTS:	4

Brief description (including learning outcomes): For students on the ISS-IBEI track, a course developing and/or consolidating knowledge of development economy is compulsory. Students may choose between the course Growth, Inequality and Poverty which builds on year-one learning, or another course that develops specific skills related to problem-situating public policy analysis. Students will take one of the four courses listed below to comply with this programme requirement. Additional courses can be taken as elective options.

Growth, Inequality and Poverty

This course is largely about income in three guises: changes in average income per head in countries (growth), the dispersion of income between and within countries (inequality), and insufficient income (poverty). The course uses some of the tools of development economics, but it is intended to be also accessible for non-economists, as it will be taught in a non-technical manner. It will introduce the participants to key debates and issues in the field of international development in the context of a rapidly globalizing world economy. While discussing the empirical evidence, particular attention will be given to the Global South.

Economic and Social development in Latin America

The course combines a historical perspective with recent developments and policy issues. The first part introduces secular trends in living standards, productivity and real wages; documents the key structural transformations (urbanisation, industrialisation and demographic transition), and assess the economic development strategies of state-led industrialisation and export-led growth. The second part deals with income and horizontal inequalities and examines recent trends in inequality and policy efforts intended to close social and economic gaps.

Historical Legacies and development

This course provides a deep historical exploration of global issues shaping our contemporary world. Rather than focusing solely on present-day circumstances, it delves into the roots of these complexities, recognizing the enduring connections between past and present. Through examining five key themes — colonialism & capitalism, humans & environment, war & terror, and conflicts — students gain insight into the historical evolution of human interactions across borders and time. The course also focuses on crafting effective

research proposals utilizing historical evidence, with a strong emphasis on comprehending the methods and theories commonly employed in this field. The course also challenges Western-centric perspectives on global affairs, particularly in analyzing the origins of political terrorism and its ramifications, aiming to foster a more nuanced understanding of conflicts like the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. By examining historical contexts, students develop critical thinking skills to navigate the complexities of today's interconnected world. Through research and analysis, students engage with diverse perspectives, honing their written communication abilities to address pressing global issues with depth and clarity.