ISS 4181 Development Economics and Public Policy

Institution:	International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Year, Block:	Year 1, Block 1
Course type:	Core course
Assessment:	15% Presentation, 85% Essay
ECTS:	5

Brief description (including learning outcomes): This is a course in development economics with a focus on public policy for master-level students. This ten-lecture course will deal with five topics and will start with a broad discussion of the nature, history and drivers of economic development – Lectures 1-2. Lectures 3 and 4 will present the main elements of classic and heterodox theories of economic development. Lectures 5 and 6 will introduce students to the most prominent contemporary models of development and underdevelopment, in particular, endogenous growth theories, debates about the 'big push' and the nature and causes of low-level equilibrium (poverty) traps. The topics of economic complexity and inequality and their implications for economic development will also be discussed.

Inspired by the development constraints identified in sessions 1 to 6, each of the remaining sessions will deal with a particular development challenge. Session 7 will deal with the complex relationship between environment and development. Session 8 will discuss the problem of institutional quality (and corruption in particular) and its relationship with economic development. Throughout the course we will discuss the policy implications issuing from the different theories in the context of real country problems. Empirical evidence in favour and against the various theories presented will feed the discussion. Two additional sessions will cover more contemporary issues (China, industrial policy, manufacturing, climate, inequality) and serve as stage for the student presentations.

After completion of the course, students should:

- Have knowledge about the most important mainstream and heterodox economic approaches to analyse the economic transformation of those countries known as the 'developing world'.
- Be able to identify the main hypotheses and processes explaining economic growth and development and how they relate to policy making.

Critically assess the limitations and strengths of the theories presented and to understand the key points of discussion between alternative theories.