Religion and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Facts about the Course

Course Code: EMD 298
Number of ECTS: 5

Available as Single Course: Yes

Type of Course: Optional Course

Cycle: Second Cycle (Master)

Year of Study
Full Time: Second year
Part Time: Second year
Prerequisites: None

Tuition

Language of Instruction: English

Campus: Oslo

Semester: Autumn

Compulsory Attendance: Yes

Professional Training

Professional Training: No
Length of Professional Training: x hours/weeks

Student Workload

Scope of Tuition:
20 hours
Scope of Self-Study Activities:
115 hours
Total Workload:
135 hours

Course Content

The course enables a deeper understanding of burning issues in the contemporary development debate, focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of civil society actors, particularly religious actors.
The course consists of two full day seminars: the Norwegian Association for Development Research (NFU) Seminar the 8th of November (at VID) and the Justice Conference Norway the 9th of November (at Sentralen, as well as two short evening sessions on the 7th and 8th of November.

Main Subjects:

- Globalization as a concept and phenomenon
- Global power relations
- Community development and international diakonia
- Religious actors' roles in promoting inclusive development
- SDGs, with a particular emphasis on the linkage to human rights
- International development assistance work
- International advocacy work
- Actors and partnerships at the international and national arena

Learning Outcome

Completing the course will give the candidates the following learning outcome, sectioned into knowledge, skills and general competence:

Knowledge:
The Candidate

- Has advanced knowledge of globalization, and the international processes for promoting just and inclusive development
- Has understanding of prevailing development approaches over the last decades, with particular relevance for international diakonia and community development
- Understands in depth the relationships between the SDGs and human rights

Skills:
The Candidate

- Can identify and analyse the gaps between the vision of "transforming our world" and the actual policies initiated to meet the SDG goals and targets
- Has knowledge of the research front within relevant fields of development research, and apply this insight into specific development contexts

General Competence:
The Candidate

- Is able to critically reflect on one's own role for promoting inclusive development, based on the insight achieved through the course
- Can communicate and discuss the the strenghts and weaknesses of religious actors in international development work
- Can identify and analyse strenghts and limitations of a human rights-based approach to development and can apply this approach

Work and Teaching Methods

- The course consists of two seminars which will have plenary lectures and workshop sessions
- Two smaller sessions in the group with focus on reflections and discussions

Compulsory Activities

- Attendance at group sessions and seminars
- Be prepared to present and discuss a specific SDG and its relevance for one's professional or voluntary praxis; to be done at the first gathering 7 November.

Assessment

Form of Assessment	Length	Grade	Weight
Home exam (2500 words +/- 10%)	3 days	A-F	x/100

Additional Information about Assessement:

Other: BA degree or equivalent is required to be approved for the course. Registration for the whole course, including attendance at the two seminars, is done by applying to VID www.vid.no/emner

Reading List

ACT Alliance EU (2016). *Development and Religion. A Discussion Paper* (35 p)
http://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/ APRODEV_DevelopReligion_Final_WEB.pdf

Andreassen, Bård Anders and Gordon Crawford (2013). Human Rights, Power and Civic Action: Theoretical Considerations. In Bård Anders Andreassen, and Gordon Crawford (eds), *Human Rights, Power and Non-Governmental Action: Comparative analyses of rights-based approaches and civic struggles in development contexts.* London: Routledge, pp. 1-19 (19 p)

Andreassen, Bård-Anders (2006). The Human Rights and Development Nexus: From Rights Talk to Rights Practice. In Dan Banik (red.). *Poverty, Politics and Development*. Bergen: Fagbokforlaget. (25 p)

Bull, Benedicte (2006). Development Theory Revisited. In Dan Banik (red.). *Poverty, Politics and Development*. Bergen: Fagbokforlaget. (25 p)

Ferguson, Iain (2008). *Reclaiming Social Work. Challenging Neo-Liberalism and Promoting Social Justice*. London: Sage. (Ch 7, Critical social work: issues and debates & 8: Challenging the Consensus) (33 p)

Haugen, Hans Morten (2018). Social struggle – for inclusive development and avoiding violent conflict?', *Forum for Development Studies* Vol 45, No 1, 143-165. (23 p)

Haugen, Hans Morten (2016). Human rights and diakonia in a gender perspective. In S. Dietrich, K. Karsrud Korslien, K. Nordstokke and K. Jørgensen (eds.) *Diaconia in a Gender Perspective*, pp. 227-240. Oxford: Regnum. (14 p)

Jones, Melinda (2011). Inclusion, Social inclusion and participation. In: Marcia H. Rioux, Lee Ann Basser and Melinda Jones (eds.) *Critical Perspectives on Human Rights and Disability Law*, pp. 57-71. Leiden and Boston: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers. (15 p)

McNeill, Desmond (2006). Multilateral Institutions: A critical overview. In Dan Banik (ed.) *Poverty, Politics and Development.* Bergen: Fagbokforlaget. (24 p)

Midgley, James (2007). Development, Social Development and Human Rights. In: Elisabeth Reichert (ed). *Challenges in human rights. A social work perspective*. New York: Columbia University Press. (23 p)

Moyo, Dambisa (2009/2010). *Dead Aid. Why Aid Makes Things Worse and How There is Another Way for Africa*. London, Penguin books, p. 3-68. (66 p)

Nicolai, Susan, Chris Hoy, Tom Berliner and Thomas Aedy (2015). *Projecting progress. Reaching the SDGs by 2030*. pp. 15-21 (6 p) https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9938.pdf

United Nations (2017) *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017* (60 p) https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2017/TheSustainableDevelopmentGoalsReport2017.pdf

United Nations (2015) *A/RES/70/1, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (35 p)

UN Development Group (2014) *Delivering the Post-2015 Development Agenda* (35 p). (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1909UNDP-MDG-Delivering-Post-2015-Report-2014.pdf)

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (undated). *Transforming Our World: Human Rights in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2p) http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/HRAndPost2015.pdf

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (undated). *Key messages on Human Rights and Financing for Development* (3 p) http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/HRAndFinancingForDevelopment.pdf
Winkler Inga T. & Carmel Williams (2017). The Sustainable Development Goals and human rights: a critical early review, *The International Journal of Human Rights* 21(8), pp. 1023-1028 (6 p)

Total (approximately): 430 pages