**York University** **COURSE OUTLINE**
**Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change**

# ENVS 6156 CRITICAL THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
## Winter 2023, Wednesdays 11:30am-2:30pm

**Course Director:** Ilan Kapoor

**Course description:**

Critical analysis of theories of "development" in historical perspective and from both "Western" and "Global South" positions. Examination of established theories (liberal, neomarxist), more recent perspectives (participatory development, postmodernism, postcolonialism, decoloniality) and themes (gender, ecology, racialization, Indigeneity, imperialism, cultural politics).

**Course objectives:**

- to examine and evaluate the key ideas/arguments that frame international development;
- to provide an overview of the major debates and schools of thought in historical perspective, from both "western" and "non-western" positions;
- to gain an appreciation for the complexity of integrating theory and practice; and
- to emphasize learning through careful reading of texts, active student participation and debate, and written assignments.

**Outline:**

The following is a list of topics to be covered in the course:

- Lenin and Mao: Imperialism and Revolution
- Gandhi's Alternative
- Iqbal, Islam and Politics
- Fanon and the Dangerous Transition from Colonialism
- Dependency Theory (Frank, Cardoso & Faletto, Wallerstein)
- Freire: Education and Participation
- Postmodern/Postdevelopment Critiques (Escobar, Ferguson, Mbembe)
- Postcolonialism I: Said and Orientalism
- Postcolonialism II: The Gendered Subaltern and Questions of Agency (Spivak & Bhabha)
- Decoloniality (Quijano, Anzaldúa)
- Psychoanalysis and International Development

**Prerequisites and Limitations:**

None.

**Requirements:**

Course requirements include: (i) active and qualitative student participation and debate; (ii) weekly reading logs; (iii) seminar presentations/animating group exercises; and (iv) group research essay.

**Preliminary Reading List:**

A course kit of readings drawn from the works of the theorists mentioned above, as well as from journal articles, will be made available on Moodle. Some general texts for the course are:

Padraig Parmody. 2019. *Development Theory and Practice in a Changing World*. London: Routledge.

Richard Peet, Elaine Hartwick. 2015. *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives.* New York: Guilford Press.

Ilan Kapoor. 2020. *Confronting Desire: Psychoanalysis and International Development*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.