

Political Science 4511G
Global Economic Governance Beyond 2015

Course Description

Global economic governance will reach a critical juncture in 2015. In July, the International Conference on Financing for Development will be held in Addis Ababa; in September, a summit of Heads of State will adopt the Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations in New York; in December, seven years of climate change negotiations will culminate in the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Paris, as negotiators try to eke out a trade deal at the World Trade Organization's 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi. Meanwhile, growing inequalities, deepening environmental damage and stark imbalances in economic and commercial opportunities signal the failure of multilateralism to produce welfare gains for all.

Against this backdrop, this seminar brings together readings in international political economy (IPE) and development studies to interrogate two questions: What global economic governance do we have in 2015? What global economic governance do we want beyond 2015? Students will critically assess contemporary theoretical and public policy debates relating to the governance of the global economy through a series of case studies ranging from development and poverty, trade, modern slavery, gender equality, health and intellectual property rights, illicit financial flows, and food production. In so doing, students will engage both the practical and ethical challenges associated with transforming global economic governance post-2015.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Students will learn to identify and situate the main actors and institutions involved in the governance of the global economy.
2. Students will learn to engage and critically evaluate major (theoretical and policy) debates about the governance of the global economy.
3. Students will improve their fluency with the key theoretical assumptions that underpin a range of mainstream and heterodox approaches to IPE and development studies.
4. Students will use theoretical debates to frame and structure arguments about the governance and reform of the global economy. They will demonstrate their ability to conduct empirical research and analysis of a range of issue areas.