



101 2023 0 b - notes

Development Studies (University of South Africa)



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Tutorial Letter 101/0/2023

Development debates and Issues DVA4801

Year Module

Department of Development Studies

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please register on myUnisa, activate your myLife e-mail account and make sure that you have regular access to the myUnisa module website, DVA4801-23-Y.

Note: This is a fully online module. It is, therefore, only available on myUnisa.

BARCODE

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1 INTRODUCTION

Dear Student

The Department of Development Studies welcomes you to Contemporary Development Debates and Issues module, DVA4801. This tutorial letter will guide you through the process of completing all assessment tasks to pass this module.

This is an online module. You will have to use myUnisa to study and complete the learning activities for this module. Visit the myUnisa website frequently to access the module site. The site for your module is DVA4801-23-Y.

1.1 Getting started

Owing to the nature of this module, you can read about the module and find your study material online. Go to the website at <https://my.unisa.ac.za> and log in using your student number and password. Click on "myModules" at the top of the web page and then on "Sites" in the top right corner. In the new window, click on the grey Star icon next to the modules you want displayed on your navigation bar. Close the window in the top right corner. Then select the option "Reload to see your updated favourite sites". Now go to your navigation bar and click on the module you want to open.

We wish you every success with your studies!

2 OVERVIEW OF DVA4801

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this module is to equip students with advanced knowledge and understanding of the contemporary field of development studies. Students who have completed this module successfully will be able to analyse global dynamics, recent debates, theories and selected topical and systematic issues.

DVA4801 is delivered using the myUnisa platform on the internet and makes provision for peer interaction. Your lecturers will also interact with you on myUnisa and via e-mail.

2.2 Outcomes

For this module, you will have to master several outcomes:

Students should be able to:

- analyse the current field of development
- compare selected current global dynamics and their impact on development
- critically assess selected development theories relevant to contemporary development
- critically debate selected topical and symptomatic issues in contemporary development.

3 CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION

Unisa has implemented a transformation charter based on five pillars and eight dimensions. In response to this charter, we have placed curriculum transformation high on the teaching and learning agenda. Curriculum transformation includes the following pillars: student-centred scholarship, the pedagogical renewal of teaching and assessment practices, the scholarship of teaching and learning, and the infusion of African epistemologies and philosophies. These pillars and their principles will be integrated at both programme and module levels as a phased- in approach. You will notice a marked change in the teaching and learning strategy implemented by Unisa, together with how the content is conceptualised in your modules. We encourage you to embrace these changes during your studies at Unisa in a responsive way within the framework of transformation.

4 LECTURER(S) AND CONTACT DETAILS

4.1 Lecturer(s)

If you wish to contact the lecturers who are involved in teaching this module, you may do so by contacting the departmental administrators who will connect you to the relevant lecturers. The details of the lecturers will also appear on the Welcome page of the **myUnisa** site for DVA4801.

4.2 Department

You can contact the Department of Development Studies as follows:

Ms BB Mabota / Ms T Macala

Department of Development Studies Room 4 – 26, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Building
Muckleneuk, Pretoria

Tel: +27 12 429 6813/4035

E-mail: devstu@unisa.ac.za

4.3 University

To contact the University, follow the instructions on the Contact us page on the Unisa website. Remember to have your student number available whenever you contact the University.

Whenever you contact a lecturer via e-mail, please include your student number in the subject line to enable the lecturer to help you more effectively.

You can also send your enquiries directly to the following addresses:

- ❖ Unisa website: <http://www.unisa.ac.za>
- ❖ Assignments: assign@unisa.ac.za
- ❖ Examination (general enquiries): exams@unisa.ac.za
- ❖ Rewrite: aegrotats@unisa.ac.za

- ❖ Remarking: remark@unisa.ac.za
- ❖ Viewing exam script: scripts@unisa.ac.za
- ❖ Student account: finan@unisa.ac.za
- ❖ Application and registrations: study-info@unisa.ac.za
- ❖ myLife account: myLifeHelp@unisa.ac.za
- ❖ myUnisa: myUnisaHelp@unisa.ac.za

5 RESOURCES

5.1 Joining myUnisa

The myUnisa learning management system is the University's online campus which will help you communicate with your lecturers, other students, and the administrative departments within Unisa. To claim your myUnisa account, please follow the steps below:

1. Visit the myUnisa website at <https://my.unisa.ac.za/portal>
2. Click on the **"Claim Unisa login"** link on the top of the screen under the orange user ID box.
3. A new screen will load, prompting you to **enter your student number**. Please enter your student number and click **"continue"**.
4. Enter your surname, your full name, your date of birth and, finally, your South African ID number (for South African citizens) OR your passport number (for foreign students). Then click "continue". **Remember to enter either an ID number or a passport number, NOT both.**
5. Please read through the guidelines and **click all the check boxes** to acknowledge that you have read all the information provided. Once you are done, click the **"Acknowledge"** button to redirect you to the final page in the process.
6. The final page will display your myLife e-mail address, and your **myLife AND myUnisa password**. This password will also be sent to the cellphone number displayed on the page for safekeeping.
7. Please note that it can take up to 24 hours for your myLife e-mail account to be created.

Remember, the password provided is your myUnisa **AND** myLife password.

5.2 Prescribed book(s)

There are no prescribed books for this module.

5.3 Recommended book(s)

There are no recommended books for this module.

Please note: Since you are a postgraduate student, we expect of you to find additional relevant academic sources on your own.

5.4 Electronic reserves (e-reserves)

- Adebajo, A. 2020. The Pan-African pantheon: Prophets, poets, and philosophers. IPATC, Auckland Park, Republic of South Africa.
- Alden, C. & Schoeman, M. 2013. South Africa in the company of giants: the search for leadership in a transforming global order. *International Affairs*, 89(1):111–129.
- Almås, R & Lawrence, G. (eds.). 2003. Globalization, localization and sustainable livelihoods. Aldershot: Ashgate.
- Ayers, AJ. 2013. Beyond myths, lies and stereotypes: the political economy of a 'new scramble for Africa'. *New Political Economy*, 18(2):227–257.
- Bakker, I & Gill, S. (eds.). 2003. Power, production and social reproduction: human in/security in the global political economy. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Bond, P. 2013. Sub-imperialism as lubricant of neoliberalism: South Africa as 'deputy sheriff' within BRICS. *Third World Quarterly*, 34(2):251–270.
- Brands, H. & Beckley, M. 2021. China Is a Declining Power—and That's the Problem: The United States needs to prepare for a major war, not because its rival is rising but because of the opposite, FP, September 24, Retrieved from: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/09/24/china-great-power-united-states/>. Accessed [23 July 2022].
- Breslin, S. 2007. China and the global political economy. Palgrave and MacMillan: New York, N. Y. 10010.
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- De Pina Tavares, J, Ferreira, A, Reis, E, Baptista, I, Amoros, R, Costa, L, Furtado, A, & Coehlo, C. 2014. Appraising and selecting strategies to combat and mitigate desertification based on stakeholder knowledge and global best practices in Cape Verde archipelago. *Land Degradation and Development*, 25:45–57.
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- Doshi, R. 2020. The United States, China, and the Contest for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Brookings Institution China Strategy Initiative, Yale Law School China Center.
- Escobar, A. 1995. Encountering development: the making and unmaking of the Third World. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

- Esteva, G. 2014. Commoning in the new society. *Community Development Journal*, 49(S1):i144–i159.
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- Esteva, G & Prakash, MS. 1998b. Grassroots post-modernism: remaking the soil of cultures. London: Zed.
- Eyferth, J, Ho, P & Vermeer, EB. 2003. Introduction: the opening up of China's countryside, in *Rural development in transitional China*, edited by P Ho, J Eyferth & E Vermeer. London: Frank Cass.
- Fischer, AM. 2015. The end of peripheries? On the enduring relevance of structuralism for understanding contemporary global development. *Development and Change*, 46(4):700–732.
- Gallagher, ME. 2014. China's workers' movement and the end of the rapid-growth era. *Daedalus: the Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, 143(2):1–15.
- Gaspar, D. 1996. Essentialism in and about development discourse. *The European Journal of Development Research*, 8(1):149–176.
- Gereffi, G. 2014. Global value chains in a post-Washington Consensus world. *Review of International Political Economy*, 21(1):9–37.
- Gereffi, G, Humphrey, J, Kaplinsky, R & Sturgeon, T. 2001. Introduction: globalisation, value chains and development. *IDS Bulletin*, 32(3):1–8.
- Gittings, J. 2005. *The changing face of China: from Mao to market*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Grosfoguel, R. 2007. The epistemic decolonial turn - Beyond political-economy paradigms. *Cultural Studies* 21:2-3: 211-223.
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- McMichael, P. 2004. Global development and the corporate food regime. Paper presented at a symposium on new directions in the sociology of global development, XI World Congress of Rural Sociology, Trondheim.
- McNally, C. 2013. Refurbishing state capitalism: a policy analysis of efforts to rebalance China's political economy. *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, 42(4):45–71.
- Mills, G., Obasanjo, O., Desalegn, H. & Van der Merwe, E. 2020. The Asian aspiration: Why and how Africa should emulate Asia, Picador Africa, Johannesburg. Republic of South Africa.
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- Warwick McKibbin, W. and Fernando, R. 2020. The Global Macroeconomic Impacts of COVID-19: Seven Scenarios.

E-reserves can be downloaded from the Library catalogue. More information is available at: <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/request>

5.5 Library services and resources

The Unisa Library offers a range of information services and resources:

- For a general Library overview, go to <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/About-the-Library> [Library @ a glance](#)
- For detailed Library information, go to <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library>
- For research support and services (eg personal librarians and literature search services), go to <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Library-services/Research-support>

The Library has created numerous **Library guides** to assist you: <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za>

Recommended guides:

- Request recommended books and access e-reserve material: <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request>
- Requesting and finding library material: Postgraduate services: <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/postgrad>
- Finding and using library resources and tools (Research Support): <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/research-support>
- Frequently asked questions about the Library: <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/ask>
- Services to students living with disabilities: <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/disability>
- A-Z databases: <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/az.php>
- Subject-specific guides: <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/?b=s>
- Information on fines & payments: <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/fines>

Assistance with **technical problems** accessing the Unisa Library or resources: <https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/techsupport>

Lib-help@unisa.ac.za (insert your student number in the subject line please)

General library enquiries can be directed to Library-enquiries@unisa.ac.za

6 STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The *Study @ Unisa* website is available on myUnisa:

www.unisa.ac.za/brochures/studies

This website has all the tips and information you need to succeed at Unisa.

6.1 First-Year Experience Programme @ Unisa

For many students, the transition from school education to tertiary education is beset with anxiety. This is also true for first-time students to Unisa. Unisa is a dedicated open distance and e-learning institution. Unlike face-to-face/contact institutions, Unisa is somewhat different. It is a mega university and all our programmes are offered through a blended learning mode or fully online learning mode. It is for this reason that we thought it necessary to offer first-time students additional/extended support so that you can seamlessly navigate the Unisa teaching and learning journey with little difficulty and few barriers. In this regard we offer a specialised student support programme to students entering Unisa for the first time. We refer to this programme as Unisa's First-Year Experience (FYE) Programme. The FYE is designed to provide you with prompt and helpful information about services that the institution offers and how you can access information.

The following FYE programmes are currently offered:

- FYE website: All the guides and resources you need to navigate through your first year at Unisa can be accessed using the following link: www.unisa.ac.za/FYE
- FYE e-mails: You will receive regular e-mails to help you stay focused and motivated.
- FYE broadcasts: You will receive e-mails with links to broadcasts on various topics related to your first-year studies (e.g. videos on how to submit assignments online).
- FYE mailbox: For assistance with queries related to your first year of study, send an e-mail to fye@unisa.ac.za

7. HOW TO STUDY ONLINE

7.1 What does it mean to study fully online?

Studying fully online modules differs completely from studying some of your other modules at Unisa.

- **All your study material and learning activities for online modules are designed to be delivered online on myUnisa.**
- **All your assignments must be submitted online.** This means that you will do all your activities and submit all your assignments on myUnisa. In other words, you may **NOT** post your assignments to Unisa using the South African Post Office.

- **All communication between you and the University happens online.** Lecturers will communicate with you via e-mail and SMS, and use the **Announcements**, the **Discussion Forums** and the **Questions and Answers** tools. You can also use all of these platforms to ask questions and contact your lecturers.

7.2 myUnisa tools

The main tool that we will use is the **Lessons tool**. This tool will provide the content of and the assessments for your module. At times you will be directed to join discussions with fellow students and complete activities and assessments before you can continue with the module.

It is very important that you log in to myUnisa regularly. We recommend that you log in at least once a week to do the following:

- **Check for new announcements.** You can also set your myLife e-mail account so that you receive the announcement e-mails on your cellphone.
- **Do the Discussion Forum activities.** When you do the activities for each learning unit, we want you to share your answers with the other students in your group. You can read the instructions and even prepare your answers offline, but you will need to go online to post your messages.
- **Do other online activities.** For some of the learning unit activities you might need to post something on the **Blog tool**, take a quiz or complete a survey under the **Self-Assessment** tool. Do not skip these activities because they will help you complete the assignments and the activities for the module.

We hope that by giving you extra ways to study the material and practise all the activities, this will help you succeed in the online module. To get the most out of the online module, you **MUST** go online regularly to complete the activities and assignments on time.

8. ASSESSMENT

8.1 Assessment plan

DVA4801 uses the following assessments:

- Essay-type assignments as formative assessment.
- A written examination as summative assessment.
- Submit at least TWO assignments to qualify for the examination AND earn a year mark.

See section 8.6 below to see how a year mark is calculated.

8.2 Assignments

8.2.1 General assignment numbers

Assignments are numbered as demonstrated in this tutorial letter.

8.2.2 Unique assignment numbers

The unique numbers of the assignments for this module are NOT included in this tutorial letter, they will be provided when you are registered.

8.3 Assignment due dates

- There are no assignment due dates included in this tutorial letter.
- Assignment due dates will be made available to you on the landing page of myUnisa for this module. We envisage that the due dates will be available to you upon registration.
- Please start working on your assignments as soon as you register for the module.
- Log on to the myUnisa site for this module to obtain more information on the due dates for the submission of the assignments

8.4 Submission of assignments

Assignments may NOT be submitted by fax or e-mail. Please note that if you do not submit a minimum of TWO assignments, you will not qualify for the examination and earn a year mark. However, we encourage you to submit more than two assignments so that you are better prepared for the examination. If you submit more than two assignments, your final mark will be credited with 40% of your highest two assignment marks.

An illustration of how your marks will be calculated is given below:

Example 1: You submitted the two assignments only. Both marks will be taken into consideration and 40% of the average of both marks is earned for your final mark.

Example 2: You submitted five assignments. Let us say that you receive the following marks:

Assignment 01 68%

Assignment 02 69%

Assignment 03 59%

Assignment 04 58%

Assignment 05 67%

— — —

The average of the two best marks = 68,5%; thus, 20,55% is earned for your final mark.

Example 3: You submitted six assignments. Let us say that you receive the following marks:

Assignment 01 68%

Assignment 02 69%

Assignment 03 59%

Assignment 04 58%

Assignment 05 67%

Assignment 06 72%

— — —

The average of the two best marks= 70,5%; thus 21,15% is earned for your final mark.

The pass mark is 50% but note that a subminimum of 40% must be obtained in the examination.

For detailed information and requirements as far as assignments are concerned, see the Study @ Unisa brochure.

- You may submit all seven assignments.
- If you submit more than two assignments, those with the highest marks will be used to calculate your year mark.
- 40% of your final mark comes from your year mark.

8.5 Assignments Questions

Please read Tutorial Letter DVAALLD/301 for guidelines on how to write an essay. To help you master the study material, we recommend that you prepare schemes for yourself on all seven assignments– even for those you do not submit for marking. This is because the topics of the assignments cover the most important information in this module. Questions (or parts of questions) from the assignments could be asked in the examination. Therefore, doing the assignments gives you the opportunity to prepare for the examination. A marked assignment with the lecturer's comments will give you an idea of how well you understand that section of the work and how much revision you still need to do.

Not only are assignments useful indicators of what to expect in the examination, they also give you the chance to practice expressing your thoughts clearly and concisely, which will be very important in your work as a development practitioner.

Please note the following:

- Please allow for 1.5 – 2 line spacing and preferably use Arial or Times New Roman size 12 as your font.
- Your essay should be between 8 to 10 pages (excluding the cover page, table of contents and list of references).
- Carefully read Tutorial Letter DVAALLD/301, which contains important guidelines on answering assignment questions; how to refer to sources and how to compile a list of references.

The assignments and the feedback from your lecturers constitute an important part of your learning and preparation for the next assignment and the examination.

NB: Plagiarism is a serious offence and that is why it is extremely important to provide references in your assignment. Marks will be deducted from your assignment if you do not use references or if you copy information from any source without providing a full reference. Therefore, remember to make use of the proper referencing techniques throughout your assignment, as described in Tutorial Letter DVAALLD/301. This includes in-text referencing for ideas taken from the reading matter you have made use of in your assignment and a list of sources at the end of the assignment.

Although students may work together when preparing assignments, each student must write and submit his or her own individual assignment. In other words, you must submit your own ideas in your own words. The use of interspersed relevant short quotations is allowed, provided that such quotations are properly referenced. It is unacceptable for students to submit identical assignments on the basis that they worked together since it will be treated as copying (a form of plagiarism) and such assignments will not be marked. Furthermore, you may be penalised or subjected to disciplinary proceedings by the University.

Please note:

- Your responses to all the questions must be based on the prescribed articles and must be accompanied by appropriate source references which include precise page references.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Assignments that contain plagiarism will be returned with a mark of 0%.
- Quotations and paraphrases from the prescribed articles and other sources must be limited to short excerpts that strengthen your own argument and those must be acknowledged strictly according to the prescriptions in the relevant tutorial letter.
- Doing the activities in all learning units will build a sound scaffolding for these essays.

8.5.1 Assessment 01

Critically discuss China's impact in the global political economy and how this affects Africa's development.

Required reading

- ❖ Study Guide: Learning Unit 1
- ❖ E-resources: Articles on e-reserves list for DVA4801.
 - o Linden 2003
 - o Tabb 2005
 - o Fischer 2015
 - o Ayers 2012
 - o Grosfoguel 2007

Additional reading:

Reading via internet hyperlink: Mishra 2016

<https://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/fora95&id=1210&collection=journals>

8.5.2 Assessment 02

Discuss post-development theory and how it contributes to debates about development discourse.

Required reading

- ❖ Study Guide: Learning Unit 2
- ❖ E-resources: Articles on e-reserves list for DVA4801.
 - o Pieterse 2000
 - o Ziai 2004
 - o Ziai 2015
 - o Esteva 2014

8.5.3 Assessment 03

Discuss the BRICS initiative and South Africa's role in it, and how the initiative can help advance the development of the global South.

Required reading

- ❖ Study Guide: Learning Unit 3
- ❖ E-resources: Articles on e-reserves list for DVA4801.
 - o Stephen 2014
 - o Alden & Schoeman 2013
 - o Bond 2013
 - o Van Agtmael 2012

8.5.4 Assessment 04

Discuss factors that propelled China's rapid economic growth and the political, social and environmental challenges it has created.

Required reading

- ❖ Study Guide: Learning Unit 4
- ❖ E-resources: Articles on e-reserves list for DVA4801.
 - o Gallagher 2014
 - o McNally 2013
 - o Vadell, Ramos & Neves 2014
 - o Xiaoyun, Lixia, Xiuli, Gubo & Haiman 2013
 - o Brands & Beckley 2021

8.5.5 Assessment 05

Critically discuss South Africa's land reform policy and its impact in the efforts meant to redress the injustices of the past.

Required reading

- ❖ Study Guide: Learning Unit 5
- ❖ E-resources: Articles on e-reserves list for DVA4801.
 - o Thwala 2010
 - o Ntsebeza 2007
 - o Weideman 2004
 - o Hall & Kepe 2017
 - o Cousins 2017

Additional reading:

South African White Paper on Land Reform 1997.

<http://land.pwv.gov.za/White%20Paper/whitetab.htm>

8.5.6 Assessment 06

Discuss the value chain analysis and the impact of the global food industry on the development of the global South.

Required reading

- ❖ Study Guide: Learning Unit 6
- ❖ E-resources: Articles on e-reserves list for DVA4801.
 - o McMichael 2004
 - o Gereffi 2013
 - o Von Broembsen 2016
 - o Maertens et al 2012

8.5.7 Assessment 07

Discuss climate change and its positive and negative impact on the development of the global South.

Required reading

- ❖ Study guide: learning unit 7
- ❖ E-resources: Articles on e-reserves list for DVA4801.
 - o New et al 2011
 - o Yamin, Rahman & Huq 2005
 - o Suckall et al 2013
 - o De Pina Tavares et al 2014

8.6 Year mark and final examination/other options

Use the Study @ Unisa brochure for general examination guidelines and examination preparation guidelines.

- You must submit at least TWO assignments to qualify for the examination AND earn a year mark.
- Note that you must obtain a final mark of 50% to pass the module. In the examination, you must obtain a subminimum of 40%.
- Your examination mark counts 60% towards your final mark.
- Therefore: year mark (40%) + examination mark (60%) = final mark (100%).
- The examinations are in January/February depending on the Unisa examination timetable.

9 CONCLUSION

Do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail if you are experiencing problems with the content of this tutorial letter or with any academic aspect of the module.

We wish you a fascinating and satisfying journey through the learning material, and trust that you will complete the module successfully.

Enjoy the journey!

Mr. Molefi Mohautse

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES