

Political Economies of Globalisation

ENVS264

This module introduces students to the study of globalisation, and its associated political and economic systems. In the first part of the course you will be introduced to some key theories about how we can manage the world economy, from free-market capitalism through to state-led socialism. You will learn how free market capitalism emerged and began to transform some national economies (e.g. Chile, the UK) in the 1970s and 80s, before being rolled out more widely through the so-called 'Washington Consensus' and the political changes associated with the 1989 revolutions against Communism. The second half of the course then examines the effects of these economic and political ideas in the 'real world'. Case studies from different areas (e.g. India, the UK, Argentina) are used to show how various groups, from farmers in India, housewives in Argentina and counter-globalisation activists like the Occupy Movement have all attempted to alter the process of economic globalisation to suit their needs. Having acquired a basic knowledge of inequalities in the global economy, students will learn how the adverse consequences of globalisation can be challenged, and what the possibilities are for democratic governance in the age of globalisation. By taking this module students will prepare themselves for a more advanced study of international politics, economics and development issues. The module is delivered through a combination of lectures and participatory small group sessions in which students explore the different opinions and approaches to globalisation.

Assessment involves a coursework essay (33%) and an exam (66%).

