North East University Bangladesh  
Department of Applied Sociology and Social Work  
Master in Development Studies Program

Introduction

A leading inter-disciplinary post graduate program in development studies is currently on offer. The program is social sciences orientated and multi disciplinary in nature. The program is appropriate for students keen to pursue a career in policy research and in the local and international development organizations. Graduates from this program will be able to conceptualize development problems, design need-oriented development projects, negotiate development funds with donors, and manage development projects with confidence. Students will be able to draw upon a vast range of local and international academic expertise in a range of disciplines within the School of Social Sciences as they critically engage in current local, national and international debates in Development Studies while promoting professional skills in these fields.

Course Requirements

MDS is a 44 credit program. 8 core courses worth of 24 credits and 4 foundation courses worth of 12 credits are compulsory for student. In addition with those 36 credits, students are required to take any 2 elective courses worth of 6 credits from the curriculum. Course MDS-530 is compulsory for all students.

Credit Waiver Policy

A students can get a maximum of 3 course waiver worth of 9 credits by the department if similar courses were completed from any recognized university. In this case contents and standards of those courses shall be examined by the department.
Semester-wise Course Distribution

First Semester

Foundation Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Type of Course</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDS-501</td>
<td>Advanced Social Research</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS-502</td>
<td>Statistics for Development Professionals</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS-503</td>
<td>Micro and Macro Economics</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS-504</td>
<td>Life and Society of Bangladesh</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>03</td>
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Second Semester

<table>
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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Type of Course</th>
<th>Credit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDS-521</td>
<td>Theories of Development</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS-522</td>
<td>Rural Development</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS-523</td>
<td>Economics and Development</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDS-524</td>
<td>Microfinance and Development</td>
<td>Core</td>
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Third Semester

(In addition with two core courses, students will have to take any two elective courses from the following list.)

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDS-531</td>
<td>NGOs and Social Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS-532</td>
<td>The Global Political Economy of</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>03</td>
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### Development

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDS-533</td>
<td>Technology and Development</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS-534</td>
<td>Climate Change and Global Development</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS-535</td>
<td>Poverty and Development</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS-536</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Programs</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS-537</td>
<td>Migration and Development</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>03</td>
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<td>MDS-538</td>
<td>Governance and Development</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>03</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDS-530</td>
<td>Viva Voce on Taught Courses</td>
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### Forth Semester

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<th>Credit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDS-541</td>
<td>Field Placement in Development Studies</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS-542</td>
<td>Post Placement Seminar in Development Studies</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>02</td>
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</tbody>
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Course details

First Semester

Foundation Courses

MDS-501. Advanced Social Research
3 Hours/weeks, 3 credits

1. Social Sciences and Social Research, Purpose and Scope of social research, State of social research in Bangladesh.


5. Qualitative Approach to Social Research: The nature of qualitative inquiry, Designing qualitative studies- Triangulation, Research question, Collection of data for qualitative studies- observational methods, qualitative interviewing, focus group discussion-FGD, PRA, RRA etc., Analysis of qualitative data-coding and recoding, Interpretation of qualitative data –discovering patterns and themes, linking data to the theory. Analysis of qualitative research reports and articles in class. Using computer to analyze qualitative data (CAQDAS, NUD, IST etc.)

6. Ethical Issues and Social Research: Ethical aspects in research design, Use of deception, Confidentiality and privacy, Informed consent process, Conflicts of Interest, Reporting Results, Disclosing results to Research Participants, Acknowledging credit.

Reference:


**MDS-502. Statistics for Development Professionals**

*3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits*

**Introductory Concepts:** Variables and Attribute, Population and Sample, Parameter and Statistics, Different scales of measurement Data, Meaning of Statistics, Functions of Statistics, Limitations of Statistics. **Collection and Presentation of Data:** Sources of data, Methods of collecting primary data, Designing questionnaire pre-testing the questionnaire, Editing Primary data, Classification of data, Construction of frequency distribution, Tabulation of data, Diagrammatical and graphical representation of data. **Measures of Central Tendency:** Objectives of averaging, Characteristics of good average, Arithmetic mean, Mode, Median, Geometric Mean, Harmonic Mean. **Measures of Dispersion or Variation:** Significance of measuring dispersion, Methods of measuring dispersion range, mean deviation, standard deviation, co-efficient of variation. **Shape Characteristics of Distribution:** Moments, Skewness and Kurtosis, Various measures of skewness and Kurtosis. **Correlation and Regression Analysis:** Concept of simple, partial and multiple correlation and regression, Simple correlation and reregression coefficients; Rank correlation; **Index Numbers:** Different types of index numbers, formulac, construction and tests of index numbers, cost of living index number, uses and importance. **Time Series:** Components of time series, Methods of measuring trend, and seasonal, cyclical & irregular variations. **Probability and Probability Distributions:** Definition and related concepts. Random variable, Discrete and continuous random variable, probability functions, Selected probability distributions-Binomial, Poison and normal. **Sampling:** Concepts and methods of sampling, Simple random sampling. Stratified random sampling. Systematic sampling, cluster sampling, sampling and non-sampling errors. **Sampling Distributions:** Concept of t, F & x distributions. Test of hypothesis: Procedure of hypothesis testing, Type 1 error and Type 11 errors, One-tailed and two-tailed tests, Detail practical applications of normal, t, F & x tests. Analysis of variance: One-way and two –way classifications.
Book Recommended:
Blalock H M, Social Statistics
Gupta and Kapoor, Fundamentals of Mathematical Statistics
Gupta, S.P & M.P Gupta Business Statistics (14th edition)
Hagood, Statistics for Sociologists
Islam M N, An introduction to Statistics and Probability
Kendal & Yule, Introduction to the theory of Statistics
Mostafa M G., Methods of Statistics
Walpole R W., Introduction to Statistics
Wonnacott P & M.P. Gupta, Business Statistics (14th edition)
Mian & Miyan, An Introduction to Statistics
Meyer A, Probability and Statistics, Addison-Wesley, USA

MDS-503. Micro and Macro Economics
3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits

Micro:
1. **Introduction:** definition and scope of economics; basic concepts and tools used in economics, economic problems-scarcity and resources.
2. **Demand, Supply, and Market:** Concept of demand, supply and equilibrium; determinants of demand and supply; shifting of demand and supply curves; application of demand and supply; elasticity of demand and supply.
3. **Theory of Consumer Behavior:** Concepts of utility; paradox of value; law of diminishing marginal utility; indifference curve; budget constraint; consumer’s equilibrium
4. **Theory of Firm:** Production function; law of diminishing return; stages of production; law of variable proportion; short run and long run production and costs.
5. **Market:** Structure of markets; characteristics of different types of markets.

Macro:
1. **Introduction to Macroeconomics:** Definition: macroeconomic performance: measuring national products and national income –GNP, NNP, NI, personal disposable income, national and real GNP, circular flow of income, value added approach.
2. **Determination of national income:** Components of aggregate demand and planned spending: aggregate demand, equilibrium output/income Multiplier model of income and spending.
3. **Money and banking:** Definition and functions of money: components of money supply and money demand, multiple deposit creation, commercial banks and & the money stock, function of central bank, open market operations, High powered money,
4. **Inflation and Unemployment**: Types and causes of inflation, expected and unexpected inflation: cost and inflation: money supply and the price level, velocity and quantity equation, Types and causes of unemployment, remedial measures, Philips Curve.

**Recommended Books:**


**MDS-504. Life and Society of Bangladesh.**

*3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits*

1. Basic Concepts about society, community, association, institution, role and status, culture and civilization, rituals and beliefs, geographic and economic influence on rituals and beliefs, socialization process, power-structure.
2. Evolution of community and society: From early hunting and gathering to industrial development and globalization, relationship between individual and society.
3. Social institutions: Family, Marriage and kinship and religion in Bangladesh, functionalist and conflict perspectives of institutions.
4. Class, caste and social stratification in Bangladesh: meaning and characteristics, functionalist and conflict perspectives of stratification, systems of stratification, causes of social mobility and its affects in Bangladesh.
5. Deviance and social control: Bangladesh Perspective
6. Social change, theories of social change: evolutionary theory, functionalist theory, conflict theory
7. Economy of Bangladesh, Natural resources of Bangladesh and its future prospects.

**Books recommended:**

Second Semester

MDS-521. Theories of Development
3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits

Provides students with an overview of theories that underpin the development enterprise, and critiques of development, through the use of primary texts and critical appraisals.

1. Definition and Indices of Development; Economic Development; Development and Underdevelopment.
2. Theories and Schools of Development and Underdevelopment:
   (a) Modernization Theory
   (b) Dependency Theory
   (c) Neo-Marxism
   (d) World System
3. Politics and Development: Political changes in developing countries; problems of bureaucracy, authoritarianism, military intervention and democracy.
4. NGOs Approach of Development: Concepts of NGOs in capitalist development, roles in development, and problems in civil society formation.

Books Recommended:
1. Frank, Capitalism and the underdevelopment of Latin America
2. Alavi, Capitalism and Colonial production
3. Kumar, From Post Industrial to post modern Society

MDS-522. Rural Development
3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits

This course is a survey of selected issues in rural development, natural resource management, and highlights the role of communities, NGOs, the State and indigenous peoples. Starting from the premise that what we consider to be development and how it is to be achieved determines the nature of the interventions in rural development, we will consider the role of assumptions in defining the nature of trusteeship; the problems to be solved by ‘development;’ the construction of the projects or policies; the boundaries within which those projects are effected; the conceptualization of the beneficiaries of development/policy (discussing the ‘community’ and the ‘individual’) and the conceptualization of the state and authority in the models under discussion. In doing so we will also reflect on the impact of these assumptions on the outcome of interventions (intended and unintended, successes and failures) and examine the limits of decision and choice, drawing from commonalities and differences over time and place.

2. Rural Social Structure & Organization: Stratification patterns, Samaj and Shalis.
3. Rural Power Structure: Traditional and new emerging leadership pattern: Myth and Reality
4. Rural economy and Development: Role of Agriculture, industry, communication and technology.
5. The Strategy of Rural development: Rural Works Program (RWP)/ Food for works Programme, Food for Education Programme (FEP).
6. Rural Development Institution: BARD, IRDP, NGOs and Rural Development, People’s participation, Local Level Planning, Local Level Finance.

**Books Recommended:**
1. Weltz, R. -Rural Development in Changing World
2. Zaide S. M. Hafeez – The Village Culture in Transition
3. Dumont Rone – Problems and Prospects for Rural Development in Bangladesh

**MDS. 523. Economics and Development**
3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits

This course aims to build a solid understanding of basic economic principles and the methodology of how economists analyze problems. The course sets out to explain how a modern economy functions and to introduce the students the major economic problems.

1. Structure and Characteristics of Developing Countries.
2. Growth, Poverty and Income Distribution: Size and Functional Distribution of Income, Growth Vs Poverty, Growth Vs Income Inequality
3. Theories of Development:
   (a) Theories of Dual Economy: Lewis, Fei-Renis, Social Dualism, Technological Dualism and Financial Dualism
   (b) Adam Smith, Malthus, Marx, Schumpeter, Rostow
   (c) Modernization School: Theory of Big Push, Rosenstein-Rodan, Hirschman
4. Foreign Aid and Investment: Foreign Aid, Historical Role, Impact of Aid on Development, Foreign Investment and the Transnational Corporations
5. Labour and Growth: Characteristics of labour markets, Labour Migration, and Employment policy

**Books Recommended:**
MDS-524: Microfinance and Development

3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits

Students taking this elective course will have a good understanding of the evolution of thinking and practice and the debates underpinning microfinance, with special focus on the role of microfinance in alleviating poverty.

1. Micro Finance Policy
2. Micro Economic Concepts
3. Micro Finance and women empowerment
4. Theory of Firm and Factor markets
5. Micro finance strategy of poverty alleviation

Third Semester

MDS-531. NGOs and Social Entrepreneurship

3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits

Identifying and solving large-scale social problems requires social entrepreneurship. This course introduces the ideas of social entrepreneurship, and how individuals and institutions have used such perspectives to develop innovative solutions to address different types of social problems.

MDS-532. The Global Political Economy of Development

3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits

Applying global political economy perspectives to key aspects of development finance. Topics include the introduction of basic economic terms, the role of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Trade Organization, and the growing roles of Transnational Corporations and financial markets in development.

MDS-533. Technology and Development

3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits

An introduction to the socio-economic, cultural and political factors surrounding technology and its relationship to the development process in both advanced industrial societies and developing nations. Student project groups will focus on particular realms of technology in development and the interaction of politics and policy with technological choice and design, including appropriate, intermediate and sustainable technologies.
MDS- 534. Climate Change and Global Development  
*3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits*

Over the past decade, the specter of anthropogenic climate change has increasingly cast a shadow over debates in development studies. It is widely accepted that climate change mitigation – the reduction of CO2 emissions – will not be rapid enough in timeframe or sufficient enough in scale to avoid significant global warming. In its impact on hydro-climatic phenomena, climate change will have manifest social implications particularly in regions of the global South characterized by significant dependence on agriculture for livelihoods, insufficient physical infrastructure and overburdened public institutions. In response, measures to promote climate change adaptation are seen as requiring immediate mainstreaming within national policymaking and international development initiatives to safeguard material wellbeing and social identity. However, there is significant disagreement on what successful adaptation involves how it should be fostered and who should promote and finance it. This course overviews these debates in both the academic and policy literature.

1. Introduction: Definition and basic concepts; Ecology and Environment, Ecosphere and Ecosystems, Species and Habitat, Food web and Tropic Structure, Social and Physical Environment
2. Environmental Theories- Classical and Modern theoretical Perspective
4. Environmental Policy and Planning
5. Social Structure, Development and Environment

**Books Recommended:**
1. World Commission- Our Common future
2. G.Tylor Miller Jr- Living in the Environment
3. Atiq Rahman and Others- Environment and Development in Bangladesh
4. United Nations- Population, Environment and Development

MDS- 535. Poverty and Development  
*3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits*

Concept, Measurement and Policy: The objective of this course is two-fold:

(a) to apprise the students of the conceptual framework underlying the current discussions on poverty,

(b) and to introduce some of the issues related to its measurement.
MDS-536. Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Programs

3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits

This 3 credit course aims to provide the key concepts and skills needed to develop, manage and carry out monitoring and evaluation of development projects. The idea is to provide generic concepts and tools though project specific examples will be used as case studies. The focus will be on developing a mindset of critical enquiry and openness to the diversity of methodologies ranging from survey based to participatory.

1. Concepts and Models- definition, features and types of project, elements and functions of development programs.
3. Project Direction: Coordination and control- project direction, communication in a project, Project Coordination, Project scope etc.
5. Project Evaluation: Objectives, Types, Methods

Books Recommended:
2. Burke, Rory (2000), Project Management: Planning and Control Techniques, John Willey and Sons Ltd., West Sussex

MDS-537. Migration and Development

3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits

Definition of migration and trafficking: Immigrant and migratory population (i.e.: refugees, asylees, migrants and immigrants)

Theories on Migration: Neo Classical Equilibrium theory, Structural historical theory, social network theory, migration system theory, integrated theory.

Typology and Stream of Migration: Causes of migration (Everett Lee’s push-pool dichotomy, Peterson- Greenwood hypothesis, Stauffer’s intervening opportunity hypothesis, Lewis-Renis-Fay Model)

Process of Migration: Mode of remittance, Consequences of migration, migration and health.

Immigration acts of Bangladesh, USA, UK, and middle-east.

Books Recommended:

MDS-538. Governance and Development

3 Hours/weeks, 3 Credits

To provide students with a theoretically informed understanding of governance issues and the ways in which it impinges on various development questions. In addition, the students will acquire analytical skills to develop, analyze and implement governance policies in specific institutional settings.

1. Understanding Governance: Contemporary Debate Significance and conceptual link, Towards a Theory of Governance putting Governance into Perspective.
2. State Of Governance: Vision, Commitment and Governance capacity with special reference to Bangladesh. Autonomy of State and Dominant Interests patterns of Governance in Bangladesh Rent-seeking Behavior and Governance. Institutional Capacity Approach to Governance capacity in Bangladesh, Agenda for Good Governance Concerns.
4. The Rule of Politics in Governance: Military Rule and Governance and Democracy Problems of Anti-Development Politics, Political Culture, Political Parties, Parliament, Election, Interest groups and the Political Systems Crisis of Good Governance in Bangladesh.
5. Case Study on Governance in Bangladesh: The Land Revenue Sector, the primary Education Sector, Public Health Sector, Rural Infrastructure sector, and Private Investment Sector.

Books Recommended:


MDS-530. Viva Voce on Taught Courses

2 credits

The students will have to face a viva-voce examination before the concerned examination committee on a specific date. Questions of viva-voce examination will be based on different taught courses under MDS program. The members of the examination committee will evaluate the performance of the students.
Forth Semester

MDS-541. Field Placement in Development Studies
4 Credits

Provides students with first-hand experience working with an agency involved in national development in Bangladesh. The placement will normally be 12 weeks, to be negotiated with the sponsoring agency. Students are required to attend preparatory meetings, prepare a work-study proposal, a research paper on the placement and maintain a journal on a continuing basis while on their placement.

MDS-542. Post Placement Seminar in Development Studies
2 credits

Required for students who have successfully completed the course requirements for MDS-541. The course will provide a forum for students to debrief and to critically examine their placement experience. Evaluation based on presentation, participation, journal synthesis and a final report.