COURSE DETAIL

COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF AID

Country
France

Host Institution
Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)

Program(s)
Sciences Po Paris

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Political Science International Studies

UCEAP Course Number
138

UCEAP Course Suffix
C

UCEAP Official Title
COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF AID

UCEAP Transcript Title
COMP POLIT ECON/AID

UCEAP Quarter Units
4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course examines the modern origins and development of foreign aid. Specifically, it analyzes foreign aid administered by Western countries and transferred to developing countries, primarily in the Global South. Starting with the Marshall Plan, and the American transfer of funds to Europe, Western countries, post WW2, developed mechanisms for public financial transfers (i.e. state or IGO to state or substate) initially to allied countries and soon thereafter to industrializing countries and poor countries. Under the guise of “aid”, this relationship has mostly been considered interest-based rather than philanthropic. The course is centered around five central questions on the topic of foreign aid: 1. Who gives foreign aid? 2. Why give foreign aid? 3. Who benefits from foreign aid? 4. Does foreign aid cause more harm than good? 5. If economic restorative justice is the objective of foreign aid, are there alternative policies that can better accomplish these goals? In this context we examine the evolution of foreign aid in a post-WW2 global context: first, during the Cold War, and then during its aftermath. Central to the discussion, the course considers the economic impact of globalization on developing countries; the root causes of poverty and ways to reduce it; and the nature of North-South relations and neocolonialism. It studies issues animating foreign aid policy parameters and how these issues have changed. A focus on themes such as trade, immigration, human/gender rights, and climate change, illuminates the shifting nature of “aid.” The focus is on the methods and motivation of Western countries – examining “soft power” and the role of foreign aid in overall foreign policy of countries that administer it. Finally, the course examines the potential spread of aid as a tool for influence as it is adopted by new state actors (e.g. BRICS, China).

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
DAFF 25A49

Host Institution Course Title COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF AID
Host Institution Course Details https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/fr/?202420/269302
Host Institution Campus
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree Seminar
Host Institution Department International Relations
Course Last Reviewed 2024-2025

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