

Geography 130 is an introductory study of poverty and the social, political and economic dynamics of historical and contemporary global inequality. Students will undertake an inquiry of the geographic concepts that help to identify and explain patterns of inequality. Rather than assuming that inequality is either a natural and necessary outcome of capitalist development, or a negative and nefarious characteristic of neoliberalism, we will explore the historical emergence of inequality, its relationship with processes and institutions of international development, and the ways that current inequalities structure global and local societies. Students can expect to apply geographic concepts to case studies from around the world and their own back yard to deepen their understanding of poverty, development and inequality.

"Development" is rife with paradoxes that we will puzzle out. For example, in this photo taken in Hyderabad, India, construction workers live in shanty towns as they build a modern industrial park.



Photo credit: Dave Wilson