



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

MASTER'S IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

SPRING 2021 APPLIED DEVELOPMENT & SPECIAL TOPIC COURSES OPEN TO NON-MDP STUDENTS

Revised: 11/16/21

The Master's in Development Practice Program actively welcomes students from other disciplines to enroll in our courses, space permitting. Five slots have been specifically set aside for non-MDP students in the Spring 2021 courses listed below.

To submit your enrollment request please email rebeca.quintana@emory.edu. Be sure to include the class #, your student ID, and grading option where applicable (i.e., MDP 585 courses).

MDP 505: Monitoring and Evaluation

Instructor: [Dr. Amanda Woomer](#)

Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning or MEAL is an essential component of international development work. It is foundational to program design and management, accountability to donors, and communication with beneficiaries because it helps ensure that we are doing the right thing the right way. The potential for negative and unintended consequences as well as recent allegations about nonprofit worker misconduct further underline the need for transparent, multidimensional, and effective MEAL systems. MEAL now goes far beyond end-of-project impact evaluations to encompass everything from project design to ensuring a culture of reflection, learning, and adaptation. Technology has also changed the shape of MEAL, providing robust opportunities for data collection, reporting, and feedback.

This course provides students with an overview of the various ways in which MEAL takes place, from the theories that guide MEAL work to the process of designing and implementing monitoring systems and evaluations. Students will meet a number of diverse MEAL professionals and undertake applied exercises, both in class and through individual homework and assignments. At the end of the course, students will have a greater understanding of what MEAL in the field of international development can look like as well as a foundation from which they themselves can undertake MEAL as part of their careers.

- Class number: 2911
- Number of credits: Three
- Enrollment slots: Five non-MDP
- Enrollment limit: Twenty-five overall
- Grading basis: Graded
- Meeting dates: January 29th – April 30th
- Meeting day: Friday
- Meeting time: 9:00am – 12:00pm
- Meeting format: Online synchronous

MDP 510: Gender and Development

Instructor: [Dr. Hilary King](#)

MDP 510 is designed to familiarize students with approaches to gender in development practice. This requires an understanding of how gender serves as a vector of difference that shapes people's access to and use of power in different settings and to examine how and why this matters in "doing development." The course will consider gender analyses from both within and outside of development literature.

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with: 1) the history of gender and development; 2) prominent tensions that continue to impact and shape the field; 3) theoretical and practical approaches to understanding gender and development; 4) an array of institutions, approaches and people addressing these issues in specific ways. The course is divided into three sections.

During the first section, we examine the history of gender and development, including major conceptual shifts in approach, institutional interventions and meetings that have sought to address gender concerns. The second section uses sector-based case studies and guest experts to examine specific ways that gender analyses have been adopted and the kinds of insights that such analysis has provided in varied development sectors. In the final section of the course, we draw on additional feminist critiques to examine how different development actors are pushing beyond institutionalized tools of gender analysis to address critiques from within and outside of development organizations.

- Class number: 2913
- Number of credits: Three
- Enrollment slots: Five non-MDP
- Enrollment limit: Twenty-five overall
- Grading basis: Graded
- Meeting dates: January 26th – April 27th
- Meeting day: Tuesday
- Meeting time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm
- Meeting format: Online synchronous

MDP 585R: Special Topics – Humanitarian Response Design/Management

Instructor: [Ms. Desiree Bartosiak](#)

This practical course will look at the key elements needed for an effective humanitarian response from the practical elements of program design a risk assessment and needs assessments to key cross cutting themes such as gender or safeguarding. It will also dive into key elements of managing a response and give student an overview of key tools (e.g. The Sphere Handbook) and practices (e.g. the Cluster System) present within the humanitarian system. This course will a blend of lectures, workshops and case studies.

- Class number: 5585 (MDP 585R)
- Number of credits: One
- Enrollment slots: Five non-MDP
- Enrollment limit: Twenty-five overall
- Grading basis: *Indicate letter grade or S/U option*
- Meeting dates: January 26th – March 9th
- Meeting day: Tuesday
- Meeting time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
- Meeting format: Online synchronous

MDP 585R: Special Topics – Closing the Praxis Gap

Instructor: [Dr. Abbas Barzegar](#)

The anthropological and historical study of humanitarian and development practice has been marked by theoretical and methodological frameworks informed by critical theory, discourse analysis, and deconstruction. This trend of scholarly literature has contributed significantly to identifying paradoxical and often problematic relationships between humanitarian actors and their beneficiaries but by most accounts has failed to translate into meaningful relevance for practitioners. Similarly, practice centered research, whether conducted in professional schools, via sponsored research, or in think tanks, often remains aloof the critical interventions posed by those in the academic landscape. Ironically, stakeholders across the research and practice spectrum lament a lack of engagement between the two worlds. This course attempts to “close the praxis gap” by allowing students to explore the potentials and pitfalls involved in cross-sector collaboration. Students will have the opportunity to engage with practitioners, experts, and peers in assessing solutions and developing viable recommendations for policy makers and decisions makers in humanitarian and development practice.

- Class number: 5602 (MDP 585R)
- Number of credits: One
- Enrollment slots: Five non-MDP
- Enrollment limit: Twenty-five overall
- Grading basis: *Indicate letter grade or S/U option*
- Meeting dates: March 16th – April 27th
- Meeting day: Tuesday
- Meeting time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
- Meeting option: Online synchronous

MDP 514R: Applied Development – Program Evaluation Overview

Instructor: [Dr. Krista Collins](#)

Program evaluation requires expertise in three primary domains: (1) evaluation methods (e.g., design, data collection, analysis, dissemination, etc.); (2) evaluator competence (e.g., content expertise, practical experience, theoretical alignment, etc.); and (3) program context (e.g., mission, stakeholders, program maturity, political landscape, funding, etc.). These domains are interrelated and constantly evolving yet need to be in balance to conduct an effective program evaluation. This course is designed to cover these three domains as well as the stages of and methods for conducting evaluations that are theoretically grounded, practical, and useful.

- Class number: 4636
- Number of credits: One
- Enrollment slots: Five non-MDP
- Enrollment limit: Twenty-five overall
- Grading basis: Letter grade only
- Meeting dates: March 17th – April 28th
- Meeting day: Wednesday
- Meeting time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm
- Meeting option: Online synchronous

MDP 514R: Applied Development – Data Management and Analysis

Instructor: [Dr. Caitlin Shannon](#)

This two-credit course tackles nuts and bolts of data management, a crucial skill for development practitioners. Through practical lessons, students will increase their ability to understand and work with quantitative and quantifiable data, including developing capacities to aggregate and disaggregate data, merge and clean datasets, and do basic statistical analyses to see what we can say with and about different datasets and sources. The course will also introduce students to numerous platforms used within development agencies to manage and work with data, including SPSS, STATA, SAS, and R, among others. Through this course, you will expand your practical skills and increase your ability to produce, manage, analyze, and interpret data.

- Class number: 5299
- Number of credits: Two
- Enrollment slots: Five non-MDP
- Enrollment limit: Twenty-five overall
- Grading basis: Letter grade only
- Meeting dates: TBD
- Meeting day: *This course will be scheduled on Monday OR Tuesday evening*
- Meeting time: 4:30pm – 6:30pm
- Meeting format: Online synchronous