

<b>Georg-August-Universität Göttingen</b> <b>Module M.WIWI-VWL.0105: Controversies in Development Economics</b>	6 C 2 WLH
<b>Learning outcome, core skills:</b> After successful completion of the course students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand some of the key analytical and topical controversies in development economics,</li> <li>• understand the analytical – both theoretical and empirical – tools and models that are applied in regard to these controversies,</li> <li>• critically assess the relevance and validity of these tools and models,</li> <li>• critically evaluate the potential development impacts of policies relevant in specific policy fields,</li> <li>• use these analytical foundations to develop a convincing written and spoken argument.</li> </ul>	<b>Workload:</b> Attendance time: 28 h Self-study time: 152 h
<b>Course: Controversies in Development Economics</b> <i>Contents:</i> The seminar addresses controversial issues in development economics. Such issues may be more topical (for example: Investments in agriculture and land: Land grab or development opportunity?) or more analytical (for example: The role of the state in economic development: Market-led development or interventionist models?). Based on the seminar papers, which will take a balanced stance toward a specific controversy, students will prepare a presentation that assumes a one-sided position during the seminar. Moderated discussions between two positions will be preceded and followed by a vote of the entire group to assess how convincing the respective presenter has made his or her argument. The seminar topics are subject to change every term. Additional (potential) selected issues include, but are not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU-ACP economic partnership agreements: (A) new modes of exploitation for (B) a genuine opportunity for export-led development? (KT)</li> <li>• the Marshall Plan with Africa: (A) finally a partnership at eye level or (B) another plan for Africa (and the desk drawer)?</li> <li>• fair trade: (A) fair deal or (B) just calming our bad conscience: is fair trade promoting development?</li> <li>• climate change mitigation and economic development: (A) trade-off or (B) win-win situation?</li> <li>• the sustainable development goals: (A) a great step towards a sustainability transformation or (B) just cheap talk and no action?</li> <li>• does aid do more harm than good? (A) yes or (B) no?</li> <li>• randomistas versus poor development economists: (A) RCTs as the gold standard of development economics or (B) misguided certainty?</li> <li>• the role of industrial policy in economic development: (A) comparative-advantage-conforming or (B) comparative-advantage-defying strategy?</li> <li>• how to achieve development: (A) small beautiful projects or (B) big development plans?</li> </ul>	2 WLH

<b>Examination: Presentation (approx. 30 minutes) with written elaboration (max. 10 pages)</b>	6 C
<p><b>Examination requirements:</b>          In the paper, students demonstrate their ability to critically review academic studies on a particular topic, show their ability to synthesize the results and develop a clear argument backed by the evidence in the literature. They also demonstrate their ability to judge the quality and relevance of research on the topic, structure the theoretical and empirical insights from the literature, and, accordingly, write an own scientific paper that comprises policy implications. In the presentation, they demonstrate their ability to develop a coherent argument using key insights from their seminar papers. They are also able to discuss the topics with their fellow students.</p>	
<p><b>Admission requirements:</b>          none</p>	<p><b>Recommended previous knowledge:</b>          B.WIWI-OPH.0008 Macroeconomics I          B.WIWI-OPH.0007 Microeconomics          B.WIWI-VWL.0006 Growth and Development</p>
<p><b>Language:</b>          English</p>	<p><b>Person responsible for module:</b>          apl. Prof. Dr. Jann Lay</p>
<p><b>Course frequency:</b>          each winter semester</p>	<p><b>Duration:</b>          1 semester[s]</p>
<p><b>Number of repeat examinations permitted:</b>          twice</p>	<p><b>Recommended semester:</b>          1 - 4</p>
<p><b>Maximum number of students:</b>          20</p>	