

DEPARTMENT:	<i>International Development & Global Studies</i>
TERM	<input type="checkbox"/> FALL 2020
PROFESSOR:	<i>Benjamin Zyla</i>
RESEARCH TITLE:	<i>Understanding the Corona crisis</i>
NUMBER OF STUDENT:	<i>2-4</i>
LANGUAGE:	<i>English, French</i>
ASSIGNMENTS CAN BE SUBMITTED IN FRENCH	YES

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION:

Goals: We aim to better understand how the COVID-19 virus has (and continues) to affect developing as well as developed countries in Africa. While the global COVID-19 pandemic is still unfolding in the so-called Western countries (e.g. Canada, USA, Italy, Spain etc.), several virologists and development scholars have already warned about the devastating consequences for the healthcare system in most developing states (e.g. in Africa, Middle East, South America) since the virus has arrived there over the summer. One of the most significant challenges indeed are the underfunded health care system, and as part of that states' growing inability to purchase protective gear for healthcare workers and often inadequate hygiene standards (compared to Western states) in those states.

Another challenge is the difficulty of citizens to practice social-distancing against current housing and public infrastructure. Moreover, the implications of the virus for the economy of developing countries, which in recent times has experienced significant growth, appear to be devastating. Such economic downturn undoubtedly affect the poorest members of society, thus fuelling social cleavages and inequalities.

All these challenges (and more) will call upon the international community and NGO's to help developing states to manage and overcome the Covid-19 pandemic, often at significant risk for NGO worker's own safety.

In this course, we aim to better understand the particular challenges that developing states face in light of the COVID-19 pandemic both from a conceptual but also practical level.

Please feel free to contact me at Benjamin.Zyla@uottawa.ca if you have any questions. Please send your CV along with the application.

KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

This course will allow students to:

- *Participate and be a full member of an existing research team*
- *Expand your research knowledge (methodologies, techniques, analysis, etc.) on COVID-19 and*

international development

- *Gain an understanding of how COVID-19 affects states in Africa*
- *Increase or validate their interests in graduate studies and gain a first practical experience of social science research;*
- *Learn how to do a literature review for grad school*