

University of Florida  
Food and Resource Economics Department

## AEB 4283 International Development Policy Fall 2025

Class number: 19070 (3 Credit Hours)

Tuesday, periods 5-6 (11:45 pm–1:40 pm) in [CSE E119](#)

Thursday, period 6 (12:50pm–1:40 pm) in [CSE E119](#)

### Instructor and Contact Information

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### E-Learning

There is a Canvas webpage for this course. To access Canvas you need your Gatorlink username and password. The site can be accessed [here](#). If you have difficulty accessing the page, contact UF computing Help Desk at (352) 392-HELP. Grades will be posted under the ‘Grades’ tab and assignments will be posted under ‘Assignments’ on the home screen. **ALL COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE COMMUNICATED THROUGH CANVAS. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS. IF YOU LOSE ACCESS TO CANVAS, YOU MUST TELL THE INSTRUCTOR OR THE TA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**Texts and materials**

This course has two recommended texts, and both are on reserve. You may use any edition of either book. Other readings will be provided on Canvas.

Taylor, J. Edward and T. Lybbert. *Essentials of Development Economics*, third edition. Oakland, California: University of California Press. ISBN: 978-0520343573

Banerjee, A. and E. Duflo. *Poor Economics*. New York: Public Affairs, 2011. ISBN: 978-1610390934

Note that the first book is only available from the library in electronic format.

**Course Description**

This course is intended to help you apply economic reasoning to the lives of poor people in developing countries. We will discuss what exactly we mean by “developing” versus “developed”, but roughly speaking developed and developing nations are differentiated by per capita income levels and indicators of human development (literacy, expected lifespan, child mortality, etc.). Poor people in developing countries face many obstacles that can prevent them from rising out of poverty. In this course we will study those obstacles and explore policies and interventions to help them. We will cover a wide variety of topics and discuss case studies from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Define key concepts related to poverty and international development policy.
- Describe how key concepts affect poverty and economic growth.
- Use key concepts to solve example problems in international development policy.
- Judge the appropriateness of different anti-poverty policies when given information about the context in which they are to be applied.

**Prerequisites**

To enroll in the course you must have taken one of these courses:

- AEB 3103 Principles of Food and Resource Economics
- AEB 2014 Economic Issues, Food and You
- ECO 2013 Principles of Macroeconomics
- ECO 2023 Principles of Microeconomics

**Course Structure**

I will communicate with the class through Canvas announcements. Please change your Canvas settings so that you receive announcements from this class as they are made.

This course begins with a brief introductory overview of what will be covered in class and what it means to be poor in a developing country. The remainder of the course is then split into three modules, each of which will focus on an issue or collection of issues. Each module will have an associated homework assignment, and each topic will have a “lecture quiz” on material covered in class and in readings. There is no final exam. Readings, slides, assignments, and quizzes associated with each module are listed on the “Modules” page of the course Canvas site.

There will be approximately two lectures per topic covered in the course. Each topic will have assigned readings and a set of slides. Slides will be posted to Canvas, as will any readings that are not included in

either of the course's two required texts. Starting with Module 1, you will find that slides include blanks that you can fill in as you follow along with lectures.

### Course calendar and topics

The calendar below will be adjusted as needed and updates will be posted to the course web site. **Assignment due dates are subject to change.** A change in an assignment due date is not an excuse for late assignments.

<u>Module/topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>Module 0: Introduction</u>	-	-	
Syllabus	Syllabus	8/21	
Economic Lives of the Poor	"Economic Lives of the Poor", BD chapter 1 (through page 9)	8/21	Reading available on Canvas
<u>Module 1: Measurement and policy evaluation</u>			
Income	TL chapter 3	8/26 – 8/28	
Poverty and inequality	TL chapters 4 and 5	9/2 – 9/4	
Program evaluation	TL chapter 2, <a href="#">This American Life "Money for Nothing"</a>	9/9 - 9/11	Follow link to podcast.
Human development	TL chapter 6	9/16 - 9/18	
<b>Homework 1 due</b>		<b>9/25, 11:59pm</b>	
<u>Module 2: Institutions, markets, and finance</u>			
Institutions	TL chapter 8 through page 179, BD chapter 10	9/30 – 10/2	
Information and markets	TL chapter 11	10/7 – 10/9	
Credit, insurance, and savings	TL chapter 12, BD chapters 6 – 8	10/14 – 10/16	
<b>Homework 2 due</b>		<b>10/23, 11:59pm</b>	
<u>Module 3: Agriculture, structural transformation, and the environment</u>			
Agriculture	TL chapter 8 pgs. 180-1, chapter 9	10/28 – 10/30	
Structural transformation	TL chapter 10, BD chapter 9	11/4 – 11/6	
Development and the environment	Dasgupta et al., "Confronting the Environmental Kuznets Curve", Wunder et al., "Payments for Environmental Services: Past Performance and Pending Potentials"	11/13 – 11/18	
International trade	TL chapter 13 up to "Trade in Capital, People, and Brains"	12/2	
<b>Homework 3 due</b>		<b>12/3, 11:59pm</b>	

Note: TL = Taylor and Lybbert, *Essentials of Development Economics*; BD = Banerjee and Duflo, *Poor Economics*. All other readings will be posted to Canvas and found under "Modules".

### Assignments

There are three assignments posted on Canvas. Each is worth 15 points. **Assignments will usually make heavy use of Excel and require you to perform basic data analysis.** I have posted recorded lectures walking you through the Excel skills needed to complete your assignments. **Assignments must be submitted via Canvas.** See "Late work" below for the class policy on late assignments.

### Lecture quizzes

Each topic in the class will have a corresponding “lecture quiz”. Each lecture quiz will consist of ten questions, and you will have 30 minutes to take each one. Questions will almost exclusively be multiple choice and multiple answer, although there are a few True/False and numerical questions. Quiz questions will often be drawn from areas in the slides where you are required to fill in blanks, but not exclusively. That is, all the material covered in class is fair game for the quizzes. Lecture quizzes will be taken outside of class and will be due on Fridays at 11:59pm unless otherwise specified. You may use any course materials as well as your own notes when taking the quizzes.

At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest two quiz scores. You are not required to participate in every quiz; for example, if you miss two quizzes, these would be initially scored as zeroes and then dropped at the end of the semester. See “Late work” below for the class policy on late assignments.

**IMPORTANT:** After any grade is posted, should you believe that your score is incorrect, please contact me as soon as possible. After seven days have passed, your posted grade will be assumed to be correct and accurate.

### Late work

For homework assignments and lecture quizzes, Canvas will automatically deduct 1% from your score for every hour an assignment or quiz is late. This means that you will lose a maximum of 0.15 points for every hour that a homework assignment is late and a maximum of 0.10 points for every hour that a lecture quiz is late. The lowest score you can receive on any assignment is zero.

Assignments or quizzes may be handed in late for any reason, and the above penalty will be applied.

### Extra credit

Currently there are four in-class extra credit assignments planned that will be worth a total of 11 points. Extra credit assignments will be completed in groups and may only be done in class on the day they are assigned. I reserve the right to create more extra credit assignments. These extra credit assignments will be the only opportunity for extra credit in the class.

### Attendance

Attending class is expected and very important for fully absorbing the material. That said, I do not grade based on attendance.

### Grading

Your grade will be based on your performance on 11 quizzes (two of which will be dropped) and three homework assignments. The total number of points available from each component is as follows:

<i>Lecture quizzes</i>	90	There are 11 quizzes, each worth ten points, but I will drop your lowest two quiz scores at the end of the semester.	67% of total grade
Assignment 1	15	Your three assignment scores will be used to compute your assignment points.	33% of total grade
Assignment 2	15		
Assignment 3	15		
<i>Total assignment points</i>	45		
<i>Maximum total points</i>	135		100% of total grade

The grading scale is as follows:

Letter grade	Points	Notes
A	125-135	For general information about grading and grading policy at the University of Florida, please refer to: <a href="https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#grades">https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#grades</a>
A-	121-124	
B+	116-120	
B	112-115	
B-	108-111	
C+	102-107	
C	98-101	
C-	94-97	
D+	89-93	
D	85-88	
D-	81-84	
E	0-80	

At the end of the semester, I will round up your score to the nearest whole point and add a point. I reserve the right to revise the grading scale during the semester. Grading scale revisions can only increase your grade.

### Professional Etiquette

- Please do not talk while someone else in class is talking, whether that person is me or another student asking a question.
- Please be on time.
- Please silence your phones and other devices.
- Do not hesitate to ask questions or come to me for help. I will do my best to respond to emails the same day that you send them, and if my door is open, please come talk to me. If my door is closed, I am unavailable.

**I reserve the right to penalize any student continuously violating these rules by deducting points from your final course grade at my discretion.**

**This course adheres to all UF Academic Policies: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>**

**By enrolling in this course, you are agreeing to the terms outlined in this syllabus. Good luck!**