

University of Florida
Food and Resource Economics Department

AEB 4283 International Development Policy Fall 2024

Class number: 21921 (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

Instructor:	Dr. Conner Mullally
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Teaching assistant:	Ms. Lijun Liu
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Undergraduate Program Coordinator:	Dr. Misti Sharp
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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	8/22	
Economic Lives of the Poor	"Economic Lives of the Poor", BD chapter 1 (through page 9)	8/27	Reading available on Canvas
<u>Module 1: Measurement and policy evaluation</u>			
Income	TL chapter 3	8/27 – 8/29	
Poverty and inequality	TL chapters 4 and 5	9/3 – 9/5	
Program evaluation	TL chapter 2, This American Life "Money for Nothing"	9/10 - 9/12	Follow link to podcast.
Human development	TL chapter 6	9/17 - 9/19	
Homework 1 due		9/26, 11:59pm	
<u>Module 2: Institutions, markets, and finance</u>			
Institutions	TL chapter 8 through page 179, BD chapter 10	10/1 – 10/3	
Information and markets	TL chapter 11	10/8 – 10/10	
Credit, insurance, and savings	TL chapter 12, BD chapters 6 – 8	10/15 – 10/17	
Homework 2 due		10/24, 11:59pm	
<u>Module 3: Agriculture, structural transformation, and the environment</u>			
Agriculture	TL chapter 8 pgs. 180-1, chapter 9	10/29 – 10/31	
Structural transformation	TL chapter 10, BD chapter 9	11/5 – 11/7	
Development and the environment	Dasgupta et al., "Confronting the Environmental Kuznets Curve", Wunder et al., "Payments for Environmental Services: Past Performance and Pending Potentials"	11/12 – 11/14	
International trade	TL chapter 13 up to "Trade in Capital, People, and Brains"	11/19 – 11/21	
Homework 3 due		12/4, 11:59pm	Note the Wednesday due date!

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 three in-class extra credit assignments planned that will be worth a total of 7 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: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#grades
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.

Other Important Information

Students are responsible for all deadlines/critical dates and policies set forth by the University of Florida. Deadlines/critical dates are published on the University of Florida Office of the University Registrar's website, <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/>. Current academic policies are presented in the University of Florida Undergraduate Catalog, <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/Pages/home.aspx>.

Students Requesting Accommodation: The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Please contact this office at 0020 Reid Hall, (352) 392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/. Any student requesting accommodation will have to provide documentation from the Disability Resource Center.

UF Counseling Services: The life of a college student can sometimes be overwhelming. Resources are available on-campus to help students manage personal issues or gain insight into career and academic goals. Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's various counseling resources. The following resources are available for all UF students:

- For general student affairs, Dean of Students Office, 392-1261 (after hours, call 392-1111)
- For mental health consultations, Counseling & Wellness Center, 392-1575 (24/7 phone access)
- For physical health consultations, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161
- For victims of sexual assault, Office of Victim Services, 392-5648 (after hours, call 392-1111)
- For career guidance, Career Resource Center, 392-1602, www.crc.ufl.edu

Software Use: All faculty, staff, and students of the University of Florida are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Statement Regarding Academic Honesty

Academic Honesty: In 1995 the UF student body enacted an honor code and voluntarily committed itself to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students. In their words, **the Honor Code Preamble:** In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the university will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff and administrators who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior.

Student Responsibility: Students should report any condition that facilitates dishonesty to the instructor, department chair, college dean or Student Honor Court.

Faculty Responsibility: Faculty members have a duty to promote honest behavior and to avoid practices and environments that foster cheating in their classes. Teachers should encourage students to bring negative conditions or incidents of dishonesty to their attention. In their own work, teachers should practice the same high standards they expect from their students.

Administration Responsibility: As highly visible members of our academic community, administrators should be ever vigilant to promote academic honesty and conduct their lives in an ethically exemplary manner (*Source: 2010-2011 UF Undergraduate Catalog*). This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course.

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Any instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.

Policy on In-Class Recording: Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Lauren’s Promise: I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you.

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year old honors student athlete, was murdered on October 22, 2018, by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah Campus. We must all take actions to ensure this never happens again. Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be excused or tolerated at the University of Florida.

If you are experiencing sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking, you can take the following actions:

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911.
- Report it to me, and I will connect you to resources.
- Seek confidential sources of support and help:
 - [UFPD Office of Victim Services](#): 51 Museum Road, 352-392-5648

- [Sexual Assault Recovery Services \(SARS\)](#): Infirmery Building, 352-392-1161
- Alachua County Rape Crisis Center (confidential): 352-264-6760

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