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 University of Florida
 Food and Resource Economics Department

AEB 4283 International Development Policy Fall 2020

Class number: 10154 (3 Credit Hours)

Class schedule: All class lectures will be posted in advance to Canvas. There will no in-person class meetings.

Instructor and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Conner Mullally Email: connerm@ufl.edu Phone: 352-294-7680 Zoom meeting room: https://ufl.zoom.us/my/connermullally Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 3:00 – 3:50pm via Zoom
Teaching assistant:	Ms. Glory Okpiaifo Email: g.okpiaifo@ufl.edu Zoom meeting room: https://ufl.zoom.us/j/4068909630 Office hours: Thursday 5:00-7:00pm via Zoom

Undergraduate Academic Advisor:	Ms. Danielle Shu Email: dshu@ufl.edu Phone: 352-294-7640 Office: 1170B McCarty Hall A
Undergraduate Program Coordinator:	Dr. Jaclyn Kropp Email: jkropp@ufl.edu Phone: 352-294-7631 Office: 1157 McCarty Hall A

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.**

Required texts and materials

Taylor, J. Edward and T. Lybbert. *Essentials of Development Economics*, second edition. Oakland, California: University of California Press. ISBN: 978-0520283176.

The paperback version can be rented for under \$20. The paperback and Kindle versions can be purchased for under \$50, whether you use the second or third edition. The UF library has an electronic version that can be borrowed by one user at a time.

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

The paperback and Kindle editions are available for \$11.99 through Amazon. The UF library has print and audio versions of the book available to borrow.

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 should have mastered the following tools and concepts:

- Measurement of income, poverty, and inequality.
- Strengths and weaknesses of different policy evaluation techniques.
- The role of institutions and markets in driving economic growth and inequality.
- Potential policy responses to issues affecting human capital (nutrition, health, and education), agriculture, finance, and natural resources and the environment in developing countries.

Prerequisites

At a minimum, 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 four modules, each of which will focus on an issue or collection of issues. Each module will have an associated homework assignment and exam. There is no final exam. Readings, slides, recorded lectures, assignments, and exams associated with each module will be posted to the “Modules” page of the course Canvas site as soon as they become available.

Lectures will be recorded in advance of our scheduled class times and listed under the relevant course module. There will be approximately one lecture per topic covered in the course. During every recorded lecture, I will mention one or two quiz questions that you will have to answer through the course Canvas site. You will have to watch the lecture to know what is being asked, as the text of the questions will not be posted to Canvas. Lecture quizzes will be found under the Assignments tab of the Canvas site. I will let everyone

know through a Canvas announcement when a new quiz is posted. You will have 24 hours to complete each lecture quiz once it is posted.

We will use our Monday and Wednesday scheduled class times for in-depth discussions of course material and question-and-answer sessions. These Monday and Wednesday sessions will also be recorded and posted for later viewing but are strictly optional. I am also happy to meet with students individually as needed, by appointment.

Course calendar and topics

The calendar below will be adjusted as needed and updates will be posted to the course web site. **Exam dates and assignment due dates are subject to change.** A change in an exam date is not an excuse to miss an exam and 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	- 8/31	
Economic Lives of the Poor	“Economic Lives of the Poor”, BD chapter 1 (through page 9)	9/2	Reading available on Canvas
<u>Module 1: Measurement and policy evaluation</u>			
Income	TL chapter 3	9/4 – 9/9	9/7 is a holiday
Poverty and inequality	TL chapters 4 and 5	9/11 – 9/16	
Program evaluation	TL chapter 2, This American Life "Money for Nothing"	9/18 – 9/23	Follow link to podcast.
Homework 1 due		9/28	Exam 1 will be posted at 8am on October 1. You will have 50 minutes to take it once you’ve started. The exam must be completed by noon on October 2.
Exam 1		10/1 – 10/2	
<u>Module 2: Institutions, markets, and finance</u>			
Institutions	TL chapter 8 through page 179, BD chapter 10	10/5 – 10/9	
Information and markets	TL chapter 11	10/12 – 10/16	
Credit, insurance, and savings	TL chapter 12, BD chapters 6 - 8	10/19 – 10/23	
Homework 2 due		10/26	Exam 2 will be posted at 8am on 10/29. You will have 50 minutes to take it once you’ve started. The exam must be completed by 12pm on 10/30.
Exam 2		10/29 – 10/30	
<u>Module 3: Agriculture, structural transformation, and the environment</u>			
Agriculture	TL chapter 8 pgs. 180-1, chapter 9	11/2 – 11/6	
Structural transformation	TL chapter 10, BD chapter 9	11/9 – 11/13	11/11 is a holiday.
Development and the environment	Dasgupta et al., “Confronting the Environmental Kuznets Curve”;	11/16 – 11/20	

Environmental policy	<p>“Why Natural Resources Are a Curse” from <i>The Atlantic</i>; “Food Doesn’t Grow Here Anymore”, <i>The New York Times</i>; “If You Can’t Stand the Heat”, <i>The Economist</i>; “When It Rains”, <i>The Economist</i>. TBD</p>	11/30 – 12/4	11/24 – 11/25 are holidays. <i>The Atlantic</i> article is on Canvas.
Homework 3 due		12/7	Exam 3 will be posted at 8am on 12/10. You will have 50 minutes to take it once you’ve started.
Exam 3		12/10-12/11	The exam must be completed by 12pm on 12/11.

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”.

Exams and exam policy

There will be three exams offered in AEB4283. Each exam will cover a different module of the course. All exams are mandatory. **However, I will drop your lowest exam grade. If you were to miss an exam for any reason other than an acceptable absence, the resulting zero score would be dropped from your final score.**

All exams will take place through Canvas. You are welcome to use whatever materials you want during the exams: class notes, slides, the internet, etc. But you must take the exam on your own, that is, you may not assist each other with the exam. Each exam will be posted at 8am on the date shown in the calendar above and due at 12pm on the following day. But once you start an exam, you will have 50 minutes to complete it. Each exam will count for 50 points, and consist of approximately 50 multiple choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank, matching, and short answer questions. Questions will appear one at a time, and once you answer a question, you will not be able to go back and change your answer.

You may schedule a make-up exam if you are unable to take an exam during the scheduled 24-hour window because of an **acceptable absence**. I use the University’s definition of “acceptable absence,” which includes the following:

Acceptable absences include:

- Illness
- Serious family emergencies (weddings do not count)
- Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), accompanied by a note from an instructor
- Military obligations
- Severe weather conditions
- Religious holidays
- Participation in official university activities such as music performances
- Athletic competition or debate

- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena).

If you are unable to take an exam in the required 24-hour window for any reason other than what is listed above, you will earn a zero. But remember, I will drop your lowest exam score.

Assignments

There will be three assignments posted on Canvas during the semester. Each is worth 15 points, but your lowest score will be dropped from your grade. **Assignments will usually make heavy use of Excel and require you do perform basic data analysis.** I will post recorded lectures walking you through the Excel skills needed to complete your assignments. Assignments must be submitted via Canvas. Late assignments will not be accepted unless approved by the instructor in advance.

IMPORTANT: After any grade is posted, should you believe that your exam/assignment is incorrectly graded or that your grade was posted incorrectly, please contact me as soon as possible. After seven days have passed, your posted grade will be assumed to be correct and accurate.

Attendance

There are no attendance requirements. You are expected to keep up with readings and recorded lectures. Follow the course calendar to determine by which date you should have completed a specific reading and watched the relevant recorded lectures.

Grading

Your grade will be based on your performance on four class exams (one of which will be dropped) and four homework assignments. The total number of points available from each component is as follows:

Exam 1	50	Your top two exam scores will be used to compute your exam points.
Exam 2	50	
Exam 3	-	
<i>Total exam points</i>	100	
Assignment 1	15	Your three assignment scores will be used to compute your assignment points.
Assignment 2	15	
Assignment 3	-	
<i>Total assignment points</i>	30	
<i>Lecture quizzes</i>	15	Lecture quiz questions will be shared through pre-recorded lectures. You will then submit responses through Canvas.
<i>Maximum total points</i>	145	

The grading scale is as follows:

Letter grade	Point range	Percent	Notes
A	134 to 145	93-100%	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-	130 to 133	90-92%	
B+	124 to 129	86-89%	
B	120 to 123	83-85%	
B-	116 to 119	80-82%	
C+	110 to 115	76-79%	

C	105	to	109	73-75%	
C-	101	to	104	70-72%	
D+	95	to	100	66-69%	
D	91	to	94	63-65%	
D-	87	to	90	60-62%	
E	0	to	86	0-59%	

Your score will be rounded up the nearest whole point. The instructors reserve the right to revise the grading scale during the semester. Grading scale revisions will never negatively affect 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>.

Privacy in online classes: Our class sessions will be audio-visually recorded. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Absences: Acceptable absences include: Illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate, and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). You must provide some sort of documentation in support of an acceptable absence.

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.

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