

Food & Resource Economics - 490
Topics in Food & Resource Economics -
Impact Evaluation Strategies for Sustainable Development

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Administration:

Classroom: MacMillan 258- Tuesday, Thursday 1400 - 1530

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 1130 - 1230 (or by appt.)

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Course Outline / Objectives:

- to gain a practical understanding of one of the major reasons for failures of assistance interventions (aid projects and programs) - namely inadequate impact evaluation, and
- how to overcome these failures.
- capacity is built for the design and implementation of ex post project and program evaluation thereby,
 - increasing the likelihood of lasting beneficial changes in development project outcomes,
 - informing processes for better design of future projects, and,
 - offering informed recommendations for policy change to provide better enabling conditions for lasting growth and development.

Learning Outcomes:

- upon completion of this course, with a special focus on assistance interventions through (aid) development projects and programs for natural resource management / health & nutrition projects, students will have the tools to conduct external project evaluations.
- independently and credibly evaluate development projects' and programs' relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impacts within and beyond the project's location, also,
- identifying indications of development continuity beyond the lifetime of assistance interventions
- identifying and reporting beneficial changes in behavior of the project implementers to improve the design of future projects, and to promote policy reform that creates more enabling conditions for growth and development

Topics:

- Understanding the nature of successes and failures of conventional project monitoring and evaluation (M&E).
- The importance of obtaining relevant data in a timely manner.
- Evaluation of the role of a broad portfolio of development capital/assets affected by the project and the institutions that influence them.
- Measuring the application of key good governance principles by project implementers, notably: transparency, participation / inclusivity, accountability and timely responsiveness.
- Assessment of mutual stakeholder understanding among project donors and implementers as well as partners/beneficiaries to harness social capital through the trajectory-of-trust before starting to deliver project benefits.
- Appraisal of project logical frameworks (logframes) for project design.
- Assuring dynamic internal lessons-learned processes about fundamental assumptions.
- Promoting shared learning of project outcomes (successes & failures) among relevant institutions.

Class Participation

I strongly encourage you to ask questions in class and to participate in class discussions. All of you have a unique perspective on topics and many of you have valuable experience in developing countries which would be helpful to share with us. There is more than one point of view on many topics, and there are many myths or misunderstandings that pervade the problem of economic development. The group projects will benefit from the insights and points-of-view of other students' work. Consequently I want to include class participation in the grading structure. I also want to encourage you, if you feel we have neglected important elements, to raise these points in class.

M&E Evaluation

The first assignment will be an assessment of a development project's own monitoring and evaluation report. The critical review will be a group project and done as a presentation to the class using the tools for analysis studied in FRE490.

Grading:

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|---------------------|-----|
| M&E Evaluation | 40% |
| Logframe Analysis | 10% |
| Individual Paper | 10% |
| Final Exam | 32% |
| Class Participation | 8% |

Readings:

Selective chapters from these excellent works will be presented for study during this course. You will not be expected to read the entire text. I will provide copies of the chapters of the two books that are not available online, as well, these books will be on reserve in the library.

Acemoglu, Daron, James A. Robinson, and Ebooks Corporation. 2013;2012;. *Why nations fail: The origins of power, prosperity, and poverty*. London: Profile. - [Full text online through the UBC Library](#).

Collier, Paul. 2007;2008;. *The bottom billion: Why the poorest countries are failing and what can be done about it*. New York: Oxford University Press. - [Full text online through the UBC Library](#).

Easterly, William. 2001;2002;. *The elusive quest for growth: Economists' adventures and misadventures in the tropics*. 1st ed. Vol. 1. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press. - [Full text online through the UBC Library](#).

Panaïotov, Todor. 1993. *Green markets: The economics of sustainable development*. Vol. no. 7;no. 7.;. San Francisco, Calif: ICS Press.

Schultz, Theodore W. 1964. *Transforming traditional agriculture*. Vol. 3;3.;. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Websites:

<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/index.htm>

www.worldbank.org

www.fao.org