

# **Food & Resource Economics - 340**

## **International Agricultural Development**

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### **Administration:**

Classroom: MacMillan 160 - Tuesday, Thursday 1000 - 1130

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

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### **Course Outline:**

To learn about the processes that play a role in international economic development, with an emphasis on rural areas and the agricultural sector. This will include:

- the factors responsible for growth and transformation in urban and rural areas
- the role of agriculture in poorer countries' economic development
- government policies that enhance the prospects for sustainable growth
- the environmental impact of economic development
- the social impact of economic development
- the linkages among the industrial, natural resource and agricultural sectors, and
- methods for analyzing development to determine better policies.

Examples will be drawn from a variety of countries with an emphasis on Southeast Asia, particularly, practical experience from Indonesia and Cambodia. Although the agricultural sector will be covered in some detail, the situation in other industries will also be given attention, if only to show how to apply more broadly the lessons learned in agriculture to other sectors of the economy. Our emphasis on this region will reveal to you different aspects of economic development, and the knowledge that growth paths are difficult to achieve and our knowledge of the intricacies of economic development is not complete.

### **Policy Analysis:**

The bulk of the grade for this course will come from a team policy paper. The idea is to use the tools studied in the readings, lectures and discussions to examine a policy failure of your choice - in groups of up to 5 - and present a policy matrix, which examines the economic, social and environmental costs of this policy failure and its researched alternatives. The reports will be in research format as if they were being presented to the government agency that may evoke change. The teams will give 5-7 minute presentations periodically, in class, as we develop analysis tools and techniques. The project is intended to elicit the complexities of working in a

group situation and your individual contribution will be graded by your peers. Details and examples to follow.

### **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 project will benefit from the insights and points-of-view of other projects. 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.

### **Grading:**

Policy Matrix Research	40%
Individual Paper	10%
Final Exam	30%
Class Participation	8%
Periodic Group Presentations	12%

### **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](http://www.worldbank.org)

[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)