

Food & Resource Economics - 340

International Agricultural Development

Sean Holowaychuk
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Administration:

Classroom: Tuesday & Thursday 0930 – 1100 | Forest Sciences Centre Rm. 1221

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Please note that the online portion of this course resides on Canvas (canvas.ubc.ca).

Course Outline:

To learn about the critical role that agriculture plays in international economic development. Including but not limited to:

- an examination of theories of growth and development and their relationship to the agricultural sector, along with;
 - the factors responsible for growth and transformation in rural and urban 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;
- methods of analysis of development in order to help shape government policy;
- analysis of agricultural development problems using economic concepts; and
- an analysis and critique of policies related to international agricultural development.

Examples will be drawn from a variety of developing countries and political units. Although the agricultural sector will be covered in some detail the complementary role of other industries will also be given attention to show how to apply, more broadly, the lessons learned in agriculture to other sectors of the economy. Our studies will reveal the complex aspects of economic development, the actuality that growth paths are difficult to achieve, and that our understanding 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 Analysis Research Paper - Team	45%
2 Presentations – Team (3% each – Peer Reviewed)	6%
1 Guiding Research Questions Assign. (Peer Reviewed)	3%
Midterm Examination	17%
Final Examination	23%
Class Participation	6%

Peer Multiplier

For all team/group projects there will be a confidential peer multiplier ranging from 0.08 – 1.05 to assess individual contribution to the group effort. Collaborative skills and a keen understanding of group dynamics are essential to working in the field of international development.

Readings:

Selected 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](#).

Cervantes-Godoy, D. and J. Dewbre (2010), "Economic Importance of Agriculture for Poverty Reduction", OECD Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Working Papers, No. 23, OECD Publishing. doi: 10.1787/5kmmv9s20944-en

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 (Theodore Panayotou). 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

Academic Dishonesty

Please review the UBC Calendar “Academic regulations” for the university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty.

Other Important Resources

UBC Counseling Services provide stress management, group therapy, and individual counseling for students. See their website: <http://www.students.ubc.ca/livewelllearnwell>.

The UBC ombudsman office provides an independent, impartial and confidential resource to assist students in addressing and resolving concerns about unfair treatment at UBC Vancouver. See their website: <http://ombudsoffice.ubc.ca/>.