

# **Food & Resource Economics - 490**

## **Topics in Food & Resource Economics - Impact Evaluation Analytics**

Sean Holowaychuk  
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### **Administration:**

Classroom: Tuesday & Thursday 1400 - 1530 | MacMillan Building Rm. 258

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1115 - 1300 (or by appt.)

Office: MacMillan 321

Email: [sean.holowaychuk@ubc.ca](mailto:sean.holowaychuk@ubc.ca)

### **TA:**

Jun Paul Obayashi - [junpaul@me.com](mailto:junpaul@me.com)

### **Course Outline / Objectives:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the principles and applications of project monitoring & evaluation (M&E). The world of international development faces many challenges, one of which is the failure of assistance interventions (aid projects and programs). Students will develop a practical understanding of the logical processes by which projects are designed and implemented, including the need for external evaluation, ex post project delivery in order to assess the efficacy, outcomes, and sustainability of these interventions. Lack of project success, more often than not, is a result of inadequate impact evaluation strategies. Students will learn skills to develop strong monitoring & evaluation plans in order to overcome these deficiencies. 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 project; and,
- offering informed recommendations for policy change to provide better enabling conditions for lasting growth and development.

Students will be provided with analytical tools that will increase their value as employment candidates for national and international donor agencies, consultancy companies, as well as non-government organizations (NGOs) operating in the development field.

Although the focus of this course is on international development, the broad application of the instruments learned here are critical elements of successful project management - whether it is in the agriculture or resource sector, food services industry, environmental sciences, nutrition & healthcare, education, or banking and commerce related fields.

### 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.

### Grading:

M&E Evaluation - Team Project	30%
Problem Tree Construction – Team (Peer Evaluated)	5%
Logframe Construction – Team Project (Peer Evaluated)	9%
2 In-class quizzes (10% each)	20%
M&E Proposal Design – Team or Individual Project	30%
Class Participation	6%

### 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.

### **Proposal (Design) for an M&E Performance Assessment that Complies with IEA**

The second assignment will involve developing a proposal for a monitoring & evaluation performance assessment that is compliant with the Impact Evaluation Analytics framework. The proposal can be an individual or group project

### **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.

### **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.

Easterly, William, and Ebooks Corporation. 2013;2014;. *The tyranny of experts: Economists, dictators, and the forgotten rights of the poor*. New York: Basic Books. - 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.

### **Websites:**

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

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

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