

# **AREC 360: The Poverty and Development of Nations**

**Spring Semester 2011**

**Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
University of Arizona**

<b>Facilitator/Instructor</b>	Professor Paul Wilson Chávez 403A 520-621-6258 (Office) <a href="mailto:pwilson@ag.arizona.edu">pwilson@ag.arizona.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours</b>	I have an OPEN DOOR POLICY so you may stop by my office at any time, and if I am in the office, I will speak with you. Otherwise, email me with alternative days and times and we will find a mutually agreeable time to meet.
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	Tom Bower Chávez 438 520-621-9748 (Office) <a href="mailto:bowetr@email.arizona.edu">bowetr@email.arizona.edu</a>
<b>Preceptor</b>	Chrys Towne <a href="mailto:ctowne@email.arizona.edu">ctowne@email.arizona.edu</a>
<b>Course Description</b>	Half the world's population lives on \$2 per day or less. One billion people live on \$1 per day or less. This course is designed to introduce students to the causes, constraints, contexts, and potential solutions associated with poverty and economic development. Although this class is an economics course, helpful insights from anthropology, political science, ethics/theology, psychology, sociology, history, etc. are incorporated into the presentations and discussions to capture the multi-dimensionality (i.e. holistic nature) and complexity of development.
<b>Course Objectives</b>	Upon successful completion of this course the student will:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Understand the complex nature of poverty and development.</li><li>2. Be familiar with the key theories of economic development and the empirical evidence that supports or challenges these theories.</li></ol>

3. Be capable of critically analyzing economic development strategies, programs and projects in both higher and lower income countries.
4. Be equipped to work for an international non-governmental organization (NGO) or government agency in relief and development.

**Prerequisites**

Students must have (1) junior or senior standing and (2) completed ECON 200 or the equivalent. Economic thinking, models, and tools will be utilized throughout the course. However, extensive training in economics should not be a major barrier to participation in or successful completion of this course.

**Required Text**

Todaro, Michael P. and Stephen C. Smith (2009). *Economic Development*. 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Addison-Wesley: New York. Textbook website is [http://aw-bc.com/todaro\\_smith](http://aw-bc.com/todaro_smith)

Other course materials will be provided to the students during the semester.

**Learning Assessment**

Student grades will be determined by the following activities:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Points</u>
In-term Exams (4 @ 75 Points)	300
Book Review	100
Citation	15 points
Review	85 points
Pop Quizzes (10 @ 5 Points)	<u>50</u>
Total Points	450

*Exams:* All exams will be 50 minutes long and contain short answer and short analytical problems (e.g. graphs, calculations). If you cannot take one or more of the exams on the scheduled dates, then Prof. Wilson requests that you not enroll in this course. No make-up exams are planned. But please communicate with Dr. Wilson if extenuating circumstances (i.e. family emergency, athletic competitions, etc.) arise during the semester.

*Book Review:* The book review requirement is designed to provide the student a more in-depth understanding of a particular country in the lower half of the Human Development Index (HDI). You are asked to find a book on a country in the lower half of the HDI. The book must be longer than 150 pages and **not** be a tourist overview of the country. Your non-fiction selection can cover topics like history, a specific political event, economic development, or the culture of your selected country. More details about the book review will be handed out in class on Friday, January 14. A hard copy of the citation for your book selection must be submitted to Prof. Wilson in class on Friday, February 4. Your citation should include: your name, the name of the country and its HDI ranking, and the bibliographic citation for the book. Your citation represents a commitment to review this specific book; changing the selected book later in the semester will be penalized so choose carefully. Please consult with Dr. Wilson long before February 4 if you have difficulties finding a book.

*Pop Quizzes:* Short (1-2 questions) quizzes will be given randomly throughout the semester (approx. 15 quizzes). The highest 10 scores on these quizzes will be counted in the final grade.

***Final grades are determined by a standards-based grading system where 90 percent and above = A, 80-89 percent =B, etc. Grades will not be determined on a curve.***

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course material. However, graded exercises and classroom work must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the University of Arizona's Code of Academic Integrity can be found at: <http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/cai1.html>

### **Classroom Behavior**

Students may not use their laptops in class unless they have received permission from the Dr. Wilson. All cell phones/pagers must be turned off during the class period. Text messaging during class is prohibited. No food, drink or tobacco products may be consumed during the class period. The Arizona Board of Regents' Student Code of Conduct, ABOR Policy 5-308, prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community including to one's self. See <http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml>.

**Special Needs**

Students who need special accommodation or services should contact the Disability Resources Center: <http://drc.arizona.edu>. You must register and request that the DRC send me official notification of your accommodations needs as soon as possible. Please plan to meet with me during office hours or by appointment to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate. The need for accommodations must be documented by the appropriate office.

**Confidentiality**

See <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm>

**Course Changes**

With appropriate advance notice to the students, the content and design of this course is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

**Planned Course Schedule**

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Material to be covered</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>
Jan. 10	Economics, Institutions, and Development: A Global Perspective	T&S Chapter 1
Jan. 17	Comparative Economic Development	T&S Chapter 2
Jan. 24	Classic Theories of Economic Growth and Development	T&S Chapter 3
Jan. 31	Contemporary Models of Development and Underdevelopment	T&S Chapter 4 <b>Book Review Citation Due, Friday, Feb. 4</b>
Feb. 7	Poverty, Inequality, and Development	T&S Chapter 5 <b>Exam #1 Wednesday, February 9</b>
Feb. 14	Population Growth and Economic Development: Causes, Consequences, and Controversies	T&S Chapter 6
Feb. 21	Human Capital: Education and Health in Economic Development	T&S Chapter 8
Feb. 28	Development Policymaking and the Roles of Market, State, and Civil Society	T&S Chapter 11
Mar. 7	Agricultural Transformation and Rural Development	T&S Chapter 9 <b>Exam #2 Wednesday, March 9</b>
Mar. 14	<b>Spring Break</b>	

Mar. 21	Chapter 7: Urbanization and Rural-Urban Migration: Theory and Policy	T&S Chapter 7
Mar. 28	The Environment and Development	T&S Chapter 10
Apr. 4	Chapter 12: International Trade Theory and Development Strategy	T&S Chapter 12 <b>Exam #3</b> <b>Monday, April 4</b>
Apr. 11	Chapter 13: Balance of Payments, Developing-Country Debt, and the Macroeconomic Stabilization Controversy	T&S Chapter 13
Apr. 18	Chapter 14: Foreign Finance, Investment, and Aid: Controversies and Opportunities	T&S Chapter 14 <b>Book Review Due</b> <b>Monday, April 18</b>
Apr. 25	Three Special Topic Lectures or Catch Up	
May 2	Review Course Evaluation	<b>Exam #4</b> <b>Wednesday, May 4</b>

### Special Topic Lectures

During the semester a selected number of single lectures will be given on a development topic that is not covered in your textbook. The possible topics are:

1. Worldview and Development
2. Does Culture Play a Role?
3. The God Complex: A Rich Man's Disease
4. Participatory Development: Getting Out of the Capital
5. Leadership: A Necessary Condition
6. Social Capital: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
7. The Critical Role of Trust
8. Corruption Near and Far