

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology / Department of Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts
Spring 2020: ECONS399: Development Economics
Section 1: MTRF (2:00 – 2:50)/Olin-101; We will meet Tuesday and Thursday (Online)

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Office Hours: MTRF, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, and by appointment

Course Description:

This course aims at providing a general overview of the critical economic issues in low and middle-income countries. We will use the microeconomic framework to examine why developing countries face extreme poverty, high child mortality, low levels of education, poor health, income inequality, credit constraints, and other socio-economic and environmental vulnerabilities. We will then review the theoretical, empirical, and experimental policies along with the exemplary case studies that might be effective in alleviating these problems.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

ECONS151 (Introduction to Microeconomics) or ECONS152 (Introduction to Macroeconomics) is the prerequisite for this class.

Required Text:

Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith, *Economic Development*, 12th ed. (2015), Pearson.

Other Suggested Text:

Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics: A Radical Thinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*, (2011), Public Affairs.

Assessment:

• The course assessment will consist of (i) Test-Based Assessment (50%), and (ii) Project-Based Assessment (50%).

(i) Test-Based Assessment (50%): Under this assessment, there will be two homework, two in-class quizzes, and three exams.

- The three exams will be comprised of multiple choice questions (MCQ), graphing, numeric, and short answer problems. Each exam will be worth 10% of your term grade, for a total of 30% of your term grade.
- The two homework will be worth a total of 10% of your term grade.
- The two in-class quiz will be worth a total of 10% of your term grade.

(ii) Project-Based Assessment (50%): Under this assessment, there will be four assignments on summarizing selected articles (20%), and one final project with presentations (30%)

Instructions on Summarizing Selected Articles:

You will be asked to write three brief summaries (400-500 words each) on the listed papers in Moodle. Each summary will consist of 5% of your grades. The summary should include one or more of the following: 1) how the paper addresses a broader theme in development and why it is important; 2) how a particular aspect of the paper could be improved/ an interesting extension of the paper. The aim of this exercise is to improve the student's ability of discussing and engaging the literature.

Instructions on Final Project and Presentations:

You will be expected to produce and present a brief research paper by the end of the course. The course project consists of three graded components. First, you will write a literature survey on a topic of your choice. A good initial source of potential topics is available in the website of [Global Development Network’s \(GDN\) Global Research Project](#). You will be judged on how well you choose the papers, your summary of each paper and how you relate the papers. Second, you will write a research prospectus. This document will serve as the beginnings of a research paper. It should consist of no more than 5 pages, clearly pose a research question, provide motivation, discuss the identification strategy and the data to be (potentially) used, and place the paper in the existing literature. Third, you will submit the first full draft of your paper. You will have several opportunities to get feedback before the final prospectus is turned in. Finally, you will give a 10-minute presentation to the entire class followed by a 3-5minute discussion.

Timeline of course project:

- Project Task 1: 4/13: Brief Literature review with potential research topic (3-4 pages)
- Project Task 2: 5/1: Brief project description for instructor and feedback. (3-4 pages)
- Project Task 3: 5/11: Draft prospectus due. (10-15 pages)
- Final Project: 5/22: Presentations, Final prospectus and presentation slides due.

Grading Component, and Grading Scale:

Grade Component	Weight
Three Exams (3*10)	30%
Two Homework (2*5)	10%
Two in-Class Quiz (2*5)	10%
Four Summarizing Articles (4*5)	20%
Final Project and Presentation	30%

Score in Percentage	Grade
90 or better	A
86 to 89	B+
80 to 85	B
76 to 79	C+
70 to 75	C
66 to 69	D+
60 to 65	D
Below 60	F

Attendance Policy:

- Although there is no participation or attendance credit, there is a penalty for unexcused absences:

4 unexcused absences = 1-letter grade reduction

- A student whose total absences in a course, excused or unexcused, exceed two per credit is liable to fail the course. Click [here](#) to see the Rose-Hulman’s attendance policy.
- Excused absences will be granted for illness, family emergencies or institute sanctioned events (official notices should be sent by organizing authority). If you believe you have any other legitimate reason for missing a class, discuss it with me ahead of time.

Academic Misconduct:

Students must aware of Rose-Hulman’s rules and procedures toward academic misconduct. These policies may be found on the Rose-Hulman’s web-site at Academic Rules & Procedures at this [link](#).

Course Schedule:

The table below lists the order of the material to be covered in the class. This schedule is subject to change by the instructor, if necessary.

Week and Date	Topics and Textbook Reference	Important Due Dates
Week 1: 3/9 – 3/13	Introduction: syllabus review and basic principles Guidelines on final project and sample presentation Ch 1: Economic Development: A Global Perspective Supplement Topic: How to write a Literature Review	N/A
3/16/2020 (M) – 03/20/2020 (F): Spring Break: No Classes		
Week 2: 3/23 – 3/27	Review of Updated Syllabus Presentation of a research paper (Instructor’s choice) Ch 2: Comparative Economic Development Ch 5: Poverty, Inequality, and Development	Homework 1 (Posted: 3/26; Due:3/20)
Week 3: 3/30 – 4/3	Ch 5: Poverty, Inequality, and Development Topics from Abhijit and Duflo:* Challenges of World Poverty * Bengal Famine * Nutrition based Poverty Trap	Quiz 1 (posted and Due on 4/3; Time bound Test: TBT)
Week 4 4/6 – 4/10	Ch 6: Population Growth and Economic Development: Causes, Consequences, and Controversies Topics from Abhijit and Duflo: * (Somewhat) un-orthodox findings on the family	Article Summary 1 (Due:4/6) Exam 1 (Posted and Due: 4/10; TBT)
Week 5: 4/13 – 4/17	Ch 7: Urbanization and Rural Urban Migration Ch 8: Human Capital: Education in Economic Development Topics from Abhijit and Duflo: * Education: Setting the Stage * Education to the Poor	Project Task 1 (Due:4/13) Homework 2 (Posted: 4/16; Due: 4/20)
Week 6: 4/20 – 4/24	Ch 8: Human Capital: Health in Economic Development Topics from Abhijit and Duflo: * Health Status: Challenges of delivering healthcare facilities Others: Comments and Discussion on Project task 1	Article Summary 2 (Due:4/22) Quiz 2 (posted and Due on 4/24; TBT)
Week 7: 4/27 – 5/1	Ch 9: Agricultural Transformation and Rural Development Topics from Abhijit and Duflo: * Social Experiments: Why and How? Others: Selected paper on Agriculture and Rural Economics	Project Task 2 (Due:5/1) Exam 2 (posted and Due on 5/1; TBT)
Week 8: 5/4 – 5/8	Ch 10: The Environment and Development Topics from Goodstein and Polasky: * Poverty, Population and Environment Others: Comments and Discussion on Project Task 2	Article Summary 3 (Due:5/8)
Week 9: 5/11 – 5/15	Ch 11: Development Policymaking and the Roles of Market, State, and Civil Society Topics from Abhijit and Duflo: * Economics of lending to the poor * Promise and Perils of the microfinance Others: Comments and Discussion on Project Task 3	Project Task 3 (Due: 5/11) Article Summary 4 (Due:5/15)
Week 10: 5/18 – 5/22	Topics from Muhammad Yunus: * A World of Three Zeros: Zero poverty, Zero unemployment, and Zero carbon emission Presentation of your final Project	Exam 3 (Posted and Due: 5/18; TBT) Final Project and Presentation Slides (Due: 5/22)

** In addition, we will go over a few papers on development economics that employ the methods discussed in class.