

EC441 - Economic Development Course Syllabus, Spring 2016  
Dr. Mike Matheis

Time: TR 2:30-3:45pm

Location: 105 Poisson Hall

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Phone: 641-7390

OH: 207 Joseph Hall, M 1-3pm, TR 1:15-2:15pm and 4-5pm, and by appointment

Required Texts:

*Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*, by Banerjee and Duflo

*The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*, by Sachs

*The White Man's Burden*, by Easterly

Recommended Texts:

*Economic Development* (12<sup>th</sup> edition), by Todaro and Smith. This will be the text from which lecture notes are derived and it is not required, but it would be quite helpful to own.

Prerequisites: Economics 141 and 142 are required.

Course Description and Goals: This course will provide an analysis of the economic development process of newly developing nations through the lens of economics. More specifically, upon successful completion of this course the student will:

- Understand the complex nature of poverty and development
- Be familiar with the key theories of economic development and the empirical evidence that supports or challenges these theories
- Be capable of critically analyzing economic development strategies, programs, and projects in both higher and lower income countries.

Attendance: Regular class attendance is mandatory and is essential in order to learn the material of this course. You are responsible for all material presented in class, whether you are present or not. After your second absence, your participation grade will be reduced by one full letter grade per absence. To avoid distracting others it is requested to be in the class on time and not leave it before it is ended.

Grading: The entire grade for the course will be weighted as follows: Exam 1 (20%), Exam 2 (20%), Final (20%), Research Project (25%), Readings/Class Discussion/Questions (15%).

Final Grades will be based on the following guidelines:

A: 93 A-: 90 B+: 87 B: 83 B-: 80 C+: 77 C: 73 C-: 70 D+: 67 D: 63 D-: 60 F: below 60

Schedule: The following dates are tentative and subject to change, but plan on the following:  
Exam 1(T Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>), Exam 2 (Th April 14<sup>th</sup>), Final (M May 9<sup>th</sup> - 1pm).

Exams: All exams are closed book/closed notes. **The final exam is cumulative.** Students who wish to appeal an exam grade must do so within 24 hours of the time the graded exam is returned and need to ask for an appointment with me to discuss the issue. Make-up exams will be provided in approved circumstances. Students must provide sufficient evidence/documentation that his or her absence is excusable and a make-up exam is warranted. If you know ahead of time that you will be missing an

exam, notice must be provided one week in advance of the scheduled exam date. Missing two scheduled exams will result in a F for the course.

Research Project: Each student will be required to write a paper on a topic of interest regarding economic development. More information regarding this project will be provided.

Readings & Discussion: Students will be assigned required readings. Students are expected to participate in class discussions that will cover required readings. Discussion questions will be provided for many of the readings, and will be collected for a grade. Students will also be scored for their participation during specific class projects and discussions. Additional information on scoring will be provided in class.

Homework Problems: Homework beyond the readings and discussion questions will be assigned, but will not be collected or graded. However, doing the homework problems should help you on the exams.

Course Outline: Topics may include, but are not limited to the following:

Part One: Principles and Concepts

- Comparative Economic Development
- Classic Theories of Economic Development
- Contemporary Models of Development and Underdevelopment

Part Two: Problems and Policies

- Poverty, Inequality, and Development
- Population Growth
- Education and Health

Part Three: Putting it all Together

- Planners vs. Searchers
- Pragmatic Approaches – Is smaller development better development?

Accessibility and Accommodations:

Saint Anselm College is committed to meeting the needs of students with documented physical, sensory, psychiatric, and learning disabilities. To disclose a disability and request academic accommodations, please see Kenneth Walker in the Academic Resource Center (ARC) in Lower Cushing, who will assist you in making contact with appropriate faculty members and arranging support services and accommodations available within the ARC and elsewhere. To ensure that accommodations are arranged in a timely manner, you are encouraged to make your request at the beginning of each semester.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism: Cheating will NOT be tolerated. Group studying and working on homework in groups is encouraged; however, directly copying other's work is plagiarism. Academic misconduct in any form will be reported and punished accordingly.

Potential Resources:

Countries and Regions ([www.worldbank.org/html/extdr/regions.htm](http://www.worldbank.org/html/extdr/regions.htm))

World Bank Development Data and Statistics ([www.worldbank.org/data/](http://www.worldbank.org/data/))

International Monetary Fund ([www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org))

IMF World Economic Outlook (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/02/index.htm>)

United Nations Economic and Social Development ([www.un.org/ecosocdev/](http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/))

United Nations Statistics Division ([unstats.un.org/unsd/](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/))

United Nations Development Program ([www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org))

Human Development Report (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/>)