

# Food and Resource Economics 340 International Agricultural Development

Rick Barichello  
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## Administrative Details:

- Prerequisites: Economics 100 or 101 or equivalent
- Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays 1030-1130
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## Course Grading:

There will be four elements to the grading in this course, a midterm exam, final exam, and a paper. The weights assigned will be the following:

Midterm Exam:	20 % (February 26)
Final Exam	45 %
Paper	30 %
Class Participation	5 %
Total	100 %

## Focus of this Course:

--to learn about the process of international economic development, with special attention to rural areas and the agricultural sector. This will include

- the factors responsible for growth and transformation in urban and rural areas
- the role of agriculture in poorer countries' economic development
- government policies that enhance the prospects for growth and environmental sustainability
- the linkages among the industrial, natural resource and agricultural sectors, and
- some methods for analyzing the agricultural sector to determine better policies.

Examples will be drawn from a variety of countries with an emphasis on South East Asia, particularly practical experience from Indonesia and Vietnam. Although the agricultural sector will be covered in some detail, the situation in other industries will also be given attention, if only to show how to apply more broadly the lessons learned in agriculture to other sectors of the economy. The course will also give attention to a variety of current issues in the ASEAN region, through class lectures and discussion. Our emphasis on this region will reveal to you different aspects of economic development, and the knowledge that growth paths are difficult to achieve and our knowledge of the intricacies of economic development is not complete.

**Textbook/Readings:** These books or photocopies of the required chapters will be found in Woodward Library or in Koerner Library, under 2-hour loan.

Malcolm Gillis, Dwight H. Perkins, Michael Roemer, and Donald Snodgrass, *Economics of Development*, New York: Norton, 4th Edition-1996 (3rd Edition-1992). Call number: HC59.7 E314, 1996.

William Easterly, *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics*. MIT Press, 2001. HD59.72.P6E17 2001

Y. Hayami and Ruttan, Vern, *Agricultural Development: An International Perspective*, Baltimore and London: The John Hopkins University Press, 1985. HD1415.H38 1985.

Panayotou, T. *Green Markets: the economics of sustainable development*. San Francisco: International Center for Economic Growth and HIID, ICEG Sector Studies Series No. 7, 1993.

C. Peter Timmer, W. Falcon, and Scott R. Pearson, *Food Policy Analysis*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press and World Bank, 1983.

World Bank, *World Development Report*, various years

Websites:

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

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

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

### **Class Participation:**

I wish to encourage you strongly to ask questions in class and to participate in class discussions. Many of you have valuable experience in poor countries which would be helpful to share with us. Also, there is more than one point of view on many topics, and there are many myths or misunderstandings that pervade this topic. We will all be the richer for some discussion of these aspects of rural development. 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 with me, either in or after class.

### **Term Paper**

The paper accounts for 30% of the grade in the course. Its purpose is to encourage you to research some specific aspect of rural development in detail, and apply some of the concepts and tools we cover in class. The paper should make clear these ties between your paper topic and the material covered in class lectures and readings. It should be 12-15 pages in length not counting a list of references, table of contents, etc., typed and double-spaced with a 12-point font on 8 x 11.5 inch paper. It is due by the last day of lectures with penalties applied to papers that are late. Another feature of the paper is that I would like you to write your paper in *teams of two people each*. Find someone who shares your interests and with whom you can work to write this paper. I expect that the work load is shared equally within each team.

The paper should concern a topic of some significance for the growth and development of rural areas. You could explore one of the main themes of the course (e.g., how efficient is peasant agriculture, does productivity growth in agriculture contribute to growth in general, what are the special problems of development for the ex-centrally planned economies) with an historical or contemporary case study. Or you could focus on a particular policy issue like rural education and health services, infrastructure, government policies toward agriculture, land reform, international commodity agreements, the subsidization of fertilizer and the environment, and agricultural research and extension services. Or, you could focus on the development of a particular country and examine the basis for its success or failure. I would suggest you try to meet three conditions when choosing your topic. Choose a topic that you find interesting, that you can analyze successfully, and where there is some empirical evidence on the subject.

Part of the task in doing a paper is to find adequate reference material. In addition to the many books that you may find in the library, there are some journals and periodicals that are focused on development. The following is a sample of journals that you can start with: *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *World Development*, *Journal of Developing Countries*, *Journal of Developing Areas*, *World Bank Economic Review*, and *World Bank Research Observer*. There are many websites that hold a wealth of useful and up-to-date information, some of which are listed above, but I do not include wikipedia in the list. Although there is some accurate information from that source, I do not view it as reliable.

It is very important to remember to note the reference that is relevant when you use data, findings or results in your paper that originate from a published item. And you should list all references at the end of the paper in a Bibliography or List of References. Please list your references with the usual cataloguing information, such as is found in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, or other mainstream journals. Please do not engage in plagiarism. It is illegal to quote from other peoples' work without giving them proper referencing. As written above, I look favourably on you noting when you are referencing other people's ideas. If you use a sentence or paragraph from someone else's work, I expect you to note the author, both to give credit where credit is due and to show me that you have been using your references. Finally, I would suggest that you talk with me before proceeding too far on your paper.