Econ 4853: World Economic Development

Course Meeting Information:
Lectures: Mon Wed 1:30-2:45pm, Physical Science Center 403
Final Exam: Mon Dec 10 8:00-10:00am, Physical Science Center 403

Instructor Information:
Name: Dr. Joan Hicks
Office Hours: Tu 9:45-10:45am and Fri 9:00-10:00am, 332 Cate Center #1
Email: jhamoryhicks@ou.edu

Course Description:
Development economics is a diverse field addressing a range of vital issues. How can we accurately identify, measure, and alleviate poverty? Why isn’t the whole world developed? What can history teach us about the process of development and about the prospects for the future? What is the role of geography, institutions, and trade? What are the current issues in development? This course will cover many of these topics through readings, lecture, and discussion.

Prerequisites:
The economics department requires that students have completed Economics 1113 (Principles of Macro) and Economics 1123 (Principles of Micro) with a grade of C or better. Although not required, higher (intermediate) level study in economics and other fields will be helpful. Furthermore, this course requires a large amount of reading, and a willingness to work and learn is essential to doing well.

Administrative Information:
Email: jhamoryhicks@ou.edu
I check my email regularly and will try to respond quickly to questions. I try to respond within 24 hours on weekdays, and 48 hours on weekends. Email is a great place to get administrative questions answered (for course enrollment questions please contact the department instead). In general, it is best to take most subject related questions to office hours or to lecture as economics via email can be both taxing and unclear. If your questions require very long answers, or you have many of them, I may simply ask you to stop by office hours.

Office hours: Tuesdays 9:45-10:45am, Fridays 9:00-10:00am / 332 Cate Center #1
This is a great time to get economics questions answered. Feel free to visit to discuss issues and questions related to problem sets, exams, or lectures.

Readings/Canvas:
We will not use a text for this course. Instead, readings (book chapters, articles, blogs, etc) will be posted on Canvas each week. You are expected to have completed the reading prior to class, and to come to class prepared for questions and discussion.

Requirements and Grading:
Grading:
Grades will be determined by performance on reading quizzes, problem sets, and exams. The weights in the final grade will be assigned as follows:

- 3 Reading Quizzes 10% (Top 2: 5% each)
- 2 Problem Sets 20% (10% each)
- Exam 1 (Midterm) 35%
- Exam 2 (Final) 35%

There is no fixed curve for this course dictating what share of students will receive what letter grade. It is theoretically possible for everyone to earn an A. It is equally possible for everyone to earn a C. This course can be taken Pass/Not Pass if you are otherwise free to do so. P/NP students are expected to do the same work as other students and will receive scores on all assignments. If the course grade is a C- or better, a P/NP student will receive a Pass. P/NP students must take the final in order to pass the course.

Requirements:
The following is a detailed description of the course requirements.

1. **Attendance**
   Although I will not keep track of attendance explicitly, you are expected to attend class regularly and actively participate. You are responsible for all announcements made and for all material covered in class, whether you are present or not.

2. **Assigned Readings**
   Each week you will be assigned a set of readings for the course, and these will be posted on Canvas. You are expected to complete these readings prior to class, and to be ready to discuss them.

3. **Reading Quizzes (10%)**
   There will be 3 unannounced reading quizzes during the semester. These quizzes will be closed book, closed notes, and will test your knowledge of the reading you were supposed to have completed for that class. You will receive a grade for all three quizzes, and the two highest grades will count in your overall grade (weighted 5% each).

4. **Problem Sets (20%)**
   There will be 2 problem sets during the semester.

5. **Exams (35%, 35%)**
   There will be two exams in this class – a midterm and a final, both weighted 35% of your overall grade. Exams are closed book and closed notes, and each will cover half of the course. Exam dates will be announced well in advance.

   It is your responsibility to take exams at the scheduled times and to make alternative arrangements in advance if you have a documented, verifiable and serious reason to miss an exam. If you miss an exam without making prior arrangements, you will only be allowed a make-up exam if you provide proof and documentation to me within 48 hours of the exam.

   The exam format will be a combination of short answer, problem solving, and essay questions. Answers are graded solely upon their content and not upon their intent. This means that I cannot and will not grade you based on what you “meant to say” but instead on what you actually write (even if you “knew the answer but just couldn’t say it correctly”). At the same time this means that answers that are illegible, rambling, or poorly organized will not receive high marks.

Additional Help:
There are additional sources of help outside of lectures and office hours if you need it. The economics department can provide helpful resources for students looking to hire a private tutor. For more information on this, check with the economics department office.

Expectations:
You can expect me to:
- Be respectful of you and your learning.
- Engage you in lecture and other activities that facilitate learning.
- Be available for office hours, and return emails and grading in a timely fashion.
In return, I expect you to:

- Attend class on time, pay attention, and be engaged.
- Be respectful to me and to your classmates.
- Take responsibility for your learning, including completing the readings and assignments on time.
- Seek help from me when necessary.

**University Policies:**

**Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to conform to college-level standards of ethics, academic integrity, and academic honesty. For further clarification please see: [http://integrity.ou.edu](http://integrity.ou.edu). In particular for this course, in order to be fair to students who put in hard work to succeed, cheating will not be tolerated. Any evidence of cheating will result in a grade of 0 on the assignment/exam. In addition, *I will report* incidences of cheating to the Student Judicial Affairs, which may in turn administer additional punishment.

**Religious Observance:** It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty.

**Reasonable Accommodation:** Students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Center for assistance at (405) 325-3852 or TDD: (405) 325-4173. For more information please see the Disability Resource Center website [http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html](http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html). Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

**Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues:** Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see [www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html](http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html) for commonly asked questions.

**Title IX Resources:** For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24.7, counseling services, mutual no contact orders, scheduling adjustments and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office 405-325-2215 (8-5, M-F) or OU Advocates 405-615-0013 (24.7) to learn more or to report an incident.

**Tentative List of Topics:**

- Introduction to Economic Development
- How to Measure Development and Basic Economic Concepts
- Modern Economic Growth Theory
- Inequality and Poverty
- Health
- Education
- Foreign Aid and NGO’s
- Household Distribution, Bargaining, and Violence
- Demographics and Population Policy
- Banking, Lending, and Saving
- Colonialism, Factor Endowments, and Geography
- Corruption
- Climate and Conflict