Population and Development
Econ 448
Spring 2013
MW 1:30-3:20 pm

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Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce students to the subject of international economic development, with a focus on population issues. Since I am an economist, we will be focusing on the topics and tools of economics, and the body of knowledge so far, as created by economists. This is not a course in demography, environmental studies, or urban planning. All of those fields have interesting things to say about population and economic growth, but they will most likely not be covered here.

The goals of the course are as follows: 1) Students should be able to identify and discuss salient issues in population and international economic development; 2) Students should be able to analyze economic models relevant to these issues; and 3) Students should be able to comment on magazine articles and review articles in economic journals dealing with population and development, explaining and expanding upon the economic analysis they contain.

Course Organization:
This course will combine lecturing on traditional microeconomic theory with discussion of real-world issues. Occasionally, we will break into groups to examine, and form a deeper understanding of, the material. Students are expected to be familiar with the course readings at every meeting and to provide comments and questions relevant to the topic. This is not an easy course in terms of the reading and writing required. Please be prepared to spend a lot of time reading, and writing about, difficult material.

Text:
There is no text for this topic. Lectures will be based on textbook excerpts, journal and magazine articles, and my own knowledge of the subject. All readings will be available either in e-Reserves or through direct links posted on the class website.
**Prerequisites:**
The explicit prerequisite for this course is a grade of 2.0 or higher in Econ 300. However, we will be reading papers from economic journals, and while we will be reviewing the concepts of regression analysis and interpretation, some familiarity with data analysis is strongly recommended. Please discuss your background with me if you are not sure about your preparation.

**Evaluation:**
You will be graded on class participation, two (3 page, double spaced) writing assignments, and two non-cumulative in-class exams. There is no final exam. Class grades will be calculated as follows:

- **Class Participation – 15%**
- **Writing Assignments – 20%**
- **Exams – 65%**

Exam, paper, and participation grades will be curved individually, but your final grade will not be curved. I expect the class median to be in the B+ range.

**Class Participation Grades:**
Class participation will be graded on your ability to contribute to class discussion through online discussion questions and your participation in group problem solving exercises and paper brainstorming sessions scattered through the quarter. Each opportunity for class participation is worth one point. It is possible to miss three participation points and still earn a perfect participation grade, so no make-up points will be offered due to absence.

**Online Discussion Questions:**
You will be asked to submit weekly discussion questions about one of the assigned readings. These will be due the day before we discuss the readings (either Monday or Wednesday at midnight). There will be no discussion questions due on exam weeks or the first week of class. A total of seven discussion questions will be counted toward your class participation grade. As stated above, you may skip three of them and still get a perfect score (although you will then be unable to miss any in-class participation points).
**Writing Assignments:**
Twice during the quarter, you will be divided into groups and each group will be asked to read and summarize a different paper before class. During class, I will not lecture, but you will be expected to meet with your group and discuss the reading. These discussions will be the basis of your writing assignments, which should summarize and analyze your assigned paper. Note: We will discuss explicit paper requirements in a couple of weeks and these can be group or individual writing assignments (up to 3 people per group).

**Problem Sets:**
It’s nearly impossible to learn the tools of economics without working problems. So, from time to time, I will assign problem sets. These assignments will not be collected, and solutions will be posted one week later. They are optional, but highly recommended, and the best way to prepare for the exams.

**Exams:**
Exams will be approximately half multiple choice and half long answer or essay questions. Questions are based on lecture notes, group exercises, problem sets, and class readings. As a study aid, remember that past exam questions are frequently recycled as problem set questions.

**Late/Absence Policy:**
There will be no make-up exams given, except in the case of extreme emergency or illness. Extreme emergencies and illnesses will need to be documented, preferably with a doctor’s note or police report. Please look at the exam dates below and plan your schedules accordingly. There is no make-up for class participation points, but written assignments can be submitted late with a 5% grade penalty for every day late after the original due date.
Course Outline:
We will follow the general outline below. Time frames are flexible and will change as needed, but exam dates are set in stone. Please consult the class website before every class to obtain reading assignments and check for any class announcements.

1. Introduction & Methodology (Week 1-2)
   a. What is economic development?
   b. Introduction to population
   c. Population growth and development
   d. Empirical tools
2. Fertility (Week 3)
   a. Development and fertility
   b. Contraception & sex selection
3. Family Formation (Weeks 4-5)
   a. The economics of marriage
   b. Intra-household decision-making
First Exam (Wednesday, May 1 – in class)
4. Mortality and Health (Week 6)
   a. The decline of mortality
   b. Hunger, health and productivity
5. Investing in Children (Week 6-8)
   a. Parents and child health
   b. Child health, schooling, and future outcomes
   c. Child labor
6. Migration & Urbanization (Week 9)
   a. Agricultural surplus and urban migration
   b. International migration
   c. Remittances and brain drain
Second Exam (Wednesday, June 5 – in class)
Examination rules

1. Material allowed during a closed book exam:
   i. All books, papers, notebooks etc. must be placed inside your bag (backpack etc.) and the bag must be securely and fully closed. If you do not have a bag, you must place all your material out of your reach (classroom window sill etc.)
   ii. Only keep writing tools and basic calculators (i.e. simple 4-functions calculators). Graphing calculators or calculators with memories will not be allowed. Sharing of calculators is not permitted.
   iii. Cellular phones must be turned off before entering the class and placed in your closed bag (not in your pocket). You are not allowed to use a cellular phone during an exam. Doing so will result in the termination of your exam time (your exam being taken from you at this point). Likewise i-pods or i-pods (or similar devices) are not allowed. The use of personal computers is not allowed during an exam.
   iv. Baseball caps with visors and any kinds of headgear hiding your eyes are not permitted.

2. Attendance and special accommodation:
   i. You are expected not to leave the room during the exam except in case of emergency. This includes restroom use; be sure to use the restroom before the beginning of the exam.
   ii. If you arrive late to an exam, you cannot expect to get extra time after the official end of the exam to make up for the missing time at the beginning.
   iii. If you have a documented disability, please show your instructor your documentation from the Office of Disability Resources for Students on the first day of class, so that your instructor can make all the necessary arrangements if you wish to take your exam in a separate place.

3. Academic honesty:
   i. Exams are individual work and cheating will not be tolerated. Students must not glance at their neighbors’ exams. University policy allows me to give you a zero on an exam if I believe you have cheated on it.
   ii. Check the student handbook for further information about cheating, plagiarism etc. Cheating of any kind may result in expulsion from the university. The Department of Economics will follow university policy in case of academic dishonesty. These rules complement/supplement the university rules, which are spelled out at: http://www.washington.edu/uaa/advising/help/academic honesty.php