

ECON4409/8901

# Development, Poverty and Famine / Advanced Topics in Poverty, Public Policy and Development

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Why are some countries richer than others? Why have some countries experienced growth miracles while others have experienced stagnation or even growth disasters? Within developing countries, what does it mean to be poor? How to combat poverty? What are the challenges that the poor in developing countries face and what can be done to improve their living standards? This course intends to teach students what we know and what we do not know about these important questions and will focus on teaching students tools in understanding them. The topics covered will include explanations on why countries develop differentially, the effect of geography, institutions, foreign aid, corruption and differential, saving rates on the large disparities across countries. Within countries, we will examine the role of education, health migration and credit markets in the alleviation of poverty. The course will cover both theory and empirical evidence but focusing mainly on how to conduct empirical analysis in understanding these important economic development issues.

<b>Mode of Delivery</b>	On campus
<b>Prerequisites</b>	ECON 8901: To enrol in this course you must have completed the equivalent of, or have concurrent enrolment in either EMET2007 or EMET6007, or both EMET8005 and ECON8025.
<b>Incompatible Courses</b>	None
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Research Interests	Development economics, applied econometrics, policy
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SEMESTER 2

2018

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

### **Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete the course requirements will be able to:

- Broadly understand economic issues and debates on economic development
- Read and understand research articles in economic development journals
- Have a rough idea as to how to conduct empirical research related to economic development

### **Assessment Summary**

<b>Assessment Task</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Date for Return of Assessment</b>
1. Mid-semester examination	30 %	Tentative 31/08/2018	21/09/2018
2. Research presentations	30%	See study schedule	
3. Final examination	40 %	See the examination timetable	

### **Research-Led Teaching**

This course will discuss some of the latest research in development economics. Students will participate in additional close analysis of current development research and produce a serious research paper.

### **Feedback**

#### **Staff Feedback**

Students will be given feedback in the following forms in this course:

- Verbal comments in class
- Written comments on submitted writing
- Individual comments in office hours

#### **Student Feedback**

ANU is committed to the demonstration of educational excellence and regularly seeks feedback from students. One of the key formal ways students have to provide feedback is through Student Experience of Learning Support (SELS) surveys. The feedback given in these surveys is anonymous and provides the Colleges, University Education Committee and Academic Board with opportunities to recognise excellent teaching, and opportunities for improvement.

For more information on student surveys at ANU and reports on the feedback provided on ANU courses, go to

<http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/self/students/> and  
<http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/self/results/learning/>

## **Policies**

ANU has educational policies, procedures and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University's academic standards, and implement them. You can find the University's education policies and an explanatory glossary at: <http://policies.anu.edu.au/>

Students are expected to have read the [Academic Misconduct Rule](#) before the commencement of their course.

Other key policies include:

- Student Assessment (Coursework)
- Student Surveys and Evaluations

## **Required Resources**

Commonwealth supported students and domestic full-fee paying students generally must be able to complete the requirements of their program of study without the imposition of fees that are additional to the student contribution amount or tuition fees.

Provided that its payment is in accordance with the *Act*, a fee is of a kind that is into any one or more of the following categories:

- (a) It is a charge for a good or service that is not essential to the course of study.
- (b) It is a charge for an alternative form, or alternative forms, of access to a good or service that is an essential component of the course of study but is otherwise made readily available at no additional fee by the higher education provider.
- (c) It is a charge for an essential good or service that the student has the choice of acquiring from a supplier other than the higher education provider and is for:
  - (i) equipment or items which become the physical property of the student and are not consumed during the course of study; or
  - (ii) food, transport and accommodation costs associated with the provision of field trips that form part of the course of study.
- (d) It is a fine or a penalty provided it is imposed principally as a disincentive and not in order to raise revenue or cover administrative costs.

## **Additional course costs**

None.

## **Examination material or equipment**

Students should familiarize themselves with the general requirements here:

<http://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/assessments-exams/examination-conduct>.

Any additional announcements will be posted on Wattle.

## **Recommended Resources**

There will be no major textbook for the course. However, the lectures may draw upon the following texts:

Acemoglu, D. and Robinson, J., 2012, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*, Random House.

Banerjee, A. and Duflo, E., 2011, *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the way to Fight Global Poverty*, Public Affairs.

Collier, P., 2007, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It*, Oxford University Press.

Easterly, W., 2006, *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest have done so Much Ill and so Little Good*, Penguin Press.

Ray, D., 1997, *Development Economics*, Princeton University Press. (Introduction)

Sachs, J., 2005, *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*, Penguin Press.

In addition, the lecturer will provide other reading material (journal articles or book chapters) for each week before hand on Wattle.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>Week/ Session</b>	<b>Summary of Activities</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
1	General Introduction	
2	Poverty and Inequality	
3	Methodological Issues	
4	Policy Evaluation	
5	Economic Development: Big Picture vs. Small Steps	
6	Mid-term	
7	Long-Run Economic Development: Geography, Colonial Rules, and Institutions	
8	Foreign Aid debate	
9	Migration	
10	Education	
11	Health	
12	Corruption	
	Examination period	

## **ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

The ANU is using Turnitin to enhance student citation and referencing techniques, and to assess assignment submissions as a component of the University's approach to managing Academic Integrity. For additional information regarding Turnitin please visit the [ANU Online](#) website.

Students may choose not to submit assessment items through Turnitin. In this instance you will be required to submit, alongside the assessment item itself, copies of all references included in the assessment item.

### **Assessment Tasks**

#### **Participation**

Participation is required in the 2901/4409/8901 Lectorials and in the Q&A following presentations. Participation will be judged by ability to ask thoughtful and useful questions.

#### **Assessment Task 1: Presentation**

**Details of task:** Students are required to present an assigned journal article. Presentations will take place during the third lecture hour. There will be up to 6 articles and students may be grouped (depending on the enrolment number) so that each group will present one paper. Presentations will take 40 minutes and the rest of the time will be used for Q&A. Students will be marked for their understanding of the paper, presentation skill, as well as their participation during the Q&A time. Presentations will begin in week 2 and proceed throughout the semester. More information will be made available during the first week of the course.

### **Assessment Rubrics**

**If this assessment task is supported by the use of assessment rubrics, please include copies here, or provide a link where students can find them.**

**Word limit (where applicable):** N/A

**Value:** 30%

**Presentation requirements:** 40 minute presentation

**Estimated return date:** See schedule

**Hurdle Assessment requirements (where applicable):** N/A

**Individual Assessment in Group Tasks (where applicable):** individuals will be judged on their own component of the presentation

### **Examination(s)**

The examination material of the mid-semester examination will be all that is covered in the lectures up to and inclusive of the week before the examination.

The mid-semester exam is compulsory. There will be no special examinations for the mid-semester exam. Instead for students who would normally meet the requirements for a deferred exam (e.g. medical certificate), the weighting will be moved to the final exam. Students who do not sit the mid-semester exam and do not meet the necessary requirements for a special exam will receive a zero.

The final examination will be held according to the published university schedule posted at <http://timetable.anu.edu.au/>. It is the student's responsibility to be informed about changes to the examination timetable. The examination material of the final examination will be everything covered in the lectures, including material already covered in the mid-semester examination.

Should you have a university-approved reason for missing the mid-semester examination or for not writing or presenting a research paper, your final examination will be weighted up to account for the missed work.

## **SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS**

The University offers a number of support services for students. Information on these is available online from <http://students.anu.edu.au/studentlife/>

### **Other Information**

Building Access Hours

Both CBE and HW ARNDT are:

TEACHING PERIOD = Mon – Fri 07.45 to 21.15 and SAT, SUN and Public Holidays is not accessible by students.

NON TEACHING PERIOD = Mon – Fri 08.00 to 18.00 and SAT, SUN and Public Holidays is not accessible by students.

RSE has a Frequently Asked Questions page where you can find relevant policies and information on a broad range of topics, the onus is on the student to familiarise themselves with this page and the information available.

<https://www.rse.anu.edu.au/students/students/frequently-asked-questions/>