Global Health, Poverty, and Economic Development (Econ 3523-001)

Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30-11:45 am, Cate 1, Room 338

Fall 2018

Dr. Aparna Mitra

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Office Hours: Tue, 3-4 pm

Thu, 3-4 pm, and by appointment

Course Description:

This course will explore contemporary problems and issues in global health using an interdisciplinary approach. Students will have an opportunity to evaluate health systems in different parts of the world. We will explore the role of education, culture, nutrition, resources, forms of government, and social norms as important determinants of health in both developed and developing countries. Additionally, the course will focus on the massive and persistent problem posed by poverty in many developing countries. 865 million people in the world live with less than 99 cents per day. The destitute often have no voice in the political process and suffer from chronic malnutrition and severe health problems. Poverty leads to compromised health and a lower quality of life. Chronic stress and poverty, in turn, lead to negative mental health outcomes.

This course should be of interest to economists, political scientists, policy makers, caregivers, and medical providers. We will identify and analyze the major causes contributing to global mortality and morbidity by focusing on a few countries and evaluating case studies. Students will critically explore the effectiveness of foreign aid and international agencies in improving the health of the people in the poorer countries of the world. In the end, it becomes clear that investment in health and opportunities provided to all citizens leads to economic growth and development.

Required Texts:

***Additional readings will be posted on Canvas***

1. “Development as Freedom,” by Amartya Sen, Random House, Inc. New York, ISBN 0-385-72027-0, latest edition
2. “The Bottom Billion,” by Paul Collier, Oxford University Press, 2007, ISBN 978-0-19-537338-7
3. “Creating a World Without Poverty,” by Muhammad Yunus, Public Affairs, New York, ISBN 978-1-58648-667-9
4. “The White Man’s Burden,” by William Easterly, Penguin Books, ISBN 978-1-04-303882-5, 2006 or latest edition
5. “Poor Economics,” by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, Public Affairs, ISBN 978-1-58648-708-0, 2012 or latest edition
6. “Infections and Inequalities,” by Paul Farmer, University of California Press, ISBN 978-0-520-22913-6
7. “Half the Sky,” by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, Random House, Inc., ISBN 978-0-307-38709-7

Grading and Methods of Evaluation

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| Assignment | Due Date | Weight |
| **1**.Critical essays/response papers | Weekly assignments all semester | 20% |
| **2**.Midterm Examination | October 4 | 25% |
| **3.**Term Paper (10 pages) | Due December 4 in class  Rough draft due October 25 | 15% |
| **4**.Presentation of Research Paper | Dates and schedules to be posted on Canvas | 5% |
| **5.**ClassParticipation/ Critical Thinking/News Items | All semester | 5% |
| **6.** Final Examination | Friday, Dec 14, 8-10 am | 30% |

About the assignments:

**1**. The short response papers will be based on critical analyses of the readings or you may be expected to take a stand on any issues discussed in the readings. The writing assignments will be unannounced, so it is very important that (1) you attend classes regularly, and (2) you do all your readings prior to class. You may drop one grade. ***There will be no opportunity to make up a missed assignment.***

**2**. The midterm will be an in-class closed book test and will consist of short and long essays. I will provide a detailed study guide before the exam.

**3 & 4**. The term paper should focus on any issues related to poverty, development, and health in a particular country. Details on the organization of the term paper will be posted on Canvas. You are required to present your findings from the research paper in an organized manner in 10-15 minutes. Everyone should participate, discuss, and comment on the content of the presentations.

**5**. Class participation involves (a) discussing the daily readings, (b) sharing relevant current news/articles, (c) taking a stand on issues, and (d) participating in debates.

**6.** The final examination will be an in-class closed book test and will consist of short and long essays. The final examination will be partially cumulative.

\*\*\*NOTE: PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES BEFORE CLASS BEGINS.

PLEASE DO NOT USE PERSONAL COMPUTERS IN CLASS *EXCEPT DURING CLASS PRESENTATIONS.*

I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE ASSIGNMENTS/PROPOSALS/TERM PAPERS.

THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT FOR THE COURSE

**Course Outline and Reading List –** A ***detailed list*** of the readings will be posted on Canvas

You should complete all readings prior to the class period

I will post additional readings and reports on Canvas

I will also post a detailed readings outline on Canvas

**TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE CONTENT**

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**1. What is Development?**

Growth and Development

Human Development

The Millennium Development Goals

Case Study

**2. Poverty and Development**

Definition of poverty

The Bottom Billion

Poverty Traps

Poverty as Capability Deprivation

**3. Grameen Bank and development**

**4. Global Health**

Poverty and Health

Social Determinants of Health

Global Health from an Interdisciplinary Perspective

Education and Health

Health and Economic Growth

Poverty and Mental Health

**5. Women’s Agency and Children’s Health**

Women’s health issues and reproductive health

The case of missing women

Children’s health

Culture and health

**6. Global hunger and malnutrition**

**7. Diseases**

Communicable and non-communicable diseases

HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis

Water and Sanitation in Poor Countries

Environmental degradation and diseases

The role of non-governmental organizations

Challenges for global health

**8. Foreign Aid and Development**

The role and contributions of Aid Agencies in improving global poverty and health

Criticisms of foreign aid

**9. Corruption and Development**

**10. Innovative solutions to global poverty, hunger, and health**

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Make-up Exam Policy: Only **documented reasons** will be accepted to reschedule a test. In case of a verifiable emergency that might cause you to miss a test, leave a message at the number given above as soon as possible. Failure to provide valid documentation within a week after the missed test will result in a grade of zero.

Attendance:It is very important that you attend all classes, as we will often cover materials that are not included in the textbook. You are responsible for all materials covered in lectures, whether or not they are in the readings. Moreover, you are expected to be aware of any information, assignments, schedule changes, etc., announced in class. **Please be punctual at all times.**

Drop Policy: It is the student's responsibility to complete the course or withdraw from the course in accordance with University Regulations. Students are strongly encouraged to verify their grade status before dropping a course after the first withdrawal date.

Academic Dishonesty: All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. I have zero tolerance for any kind of cheating, plagiarism, and dishonesty.

Americans with Disabilities Act: If a student requires an accommodation based on disability, the student should meet with the instructor in his/her office during the first week of the semester. **Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.**