

## Econ 4853: World Economic Development Syllabus

### General Course Information:

Class Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10:15am, 140 Kaufman Hall  
Final Exam: Monday, December 11, 8:00-10:00am, 140 Kaufman Hall  
Learning Management System: [canvas.ou.edu](https://canvas.ou.edu)

### Instructor Information:

Name: Dr. Joan Hamory  
Email: [jhamory@ou.edu](mailto:jhamory@ou.edu) Office: 439 Cate Center One  
Student Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:30pm (in person or by Zoom appointment)

This syllabus is a contract between you and me.  
By taking this course you agree to abide by the policies and rules listed within.

### Course Description:

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In this course, we will explore how “economic development” is defined and measured, and how countries around the world compare to each other on this basis. We will seek to understand why some countries have grown so rich while others remain quite poor. We will survey and critically evaluate current international development issues, policies, and programs. We will focus on both macroeconomic and microeconomic issues, bearing in mind the diversity between and within less-developed economies. Preparatory readings will be drawn from news articles, blogs, academic journals, texts, and popular press books. Class meetings will contain a mix of lecture, group work, and discussion. Students will be assessed on their understanding of and ability to critically evaluate the issues we study, as well as their ability to produce a culminating project discussing a recent development program.

### Prerequisites:

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The OU Department of Economics 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:

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#### **Email:** [jhamory@ou.edu](mailto:jhamory@ou.edu)

I check my email regularly and will try to respond quickly to questions. During the semester, I try to respond within 24 hours on weekdays, and 48 hours on weekends. If you are urgently awaiting my response to your email, feel free to email me again to put that message back at the top of my inbox.

#### **Student hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:30pm (in person or via Zoom appointment)

I am also available at other times by appointment if you cannot make these times.

## Readings/Canvas:

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There are two required books for you to access, purchase, borrow, or otherwise obtain for this class:

- Banerjee, A.V. and E. Duflo (2011). *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. New York: PublicAffairs.
  - Free access to the virtual version of this book through Bizzell: click [here](#)
  - Link to purchase a physical copy through Amazon: click [here](#)
- Fisman, R. and E. Miguel (2008). *Economic Gangsters: Corruption, Violence, and the Poverty of Nations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
  - Free access to the virtual version of this book through Bizzell: click [here](#)
  - Link to purchase a physical copy through Amazon: click [here](#)

We will read most of these two books over the course of the semester. Additional required readings will be drawn from news articles, blogs, academic journals, texts, and popular press books; these will be posted on Canvas. Students are expected to have completed all assigned reading prior to class, and to come to class prepared for questions and discussion.

## Requirements and Grading:

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### Grading:

Grades will be determined by class participation, unannounced reading quizzes, two exams, an in-class presentation, and a culminating final project. Weights in your overall course grade will be assigned as follows:

Class participation	10%
Reading quizzes	10%
Exam #1	25%
Exam #2	25%
In-class presentation	10%
Final project	20%

### Requirements:

The following is a detailed description of the course requirements.

#### 1. *Class Participation (10%)*

You are expected to attend class and actively participate. You will be assigned a set of readings for each class meeting. You are expected to complete these readings prior to class, and to be ready to discuss them. This class benefits greatly from your input. We'll have small group exercises that will promote discussion and help you to master the material. You are responsible for all announcements made and for all material covered in class, whether you are present or not.

#### 2. *Reading Quizzes (10%)*

There will be 6 *unannounced reading quizzes* during the semester. These quizzes will occur during class time, and will be closed book and closed notes. They will test your knowledge of the reading you were supposed to have completed for that class. You will receive a grade for all six quizzes (2="well done!", 1="I think you most likely did the reading but your answer isn't quite right", 0="Your answer is wrong / does not suggest you have done the reading"). *Your four highest quiz grades will count in your overall grade* (weighted for a total of 10% of your overall grade).

#### 3. *Exams (25%, 25%)*

*There will be two exams in this class – a midterm and a final, both weighted 25% 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, and noted on the Canvas course calendar. The exam format will be some combination of true/false, multiple choice, and

short answer written 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 wrote (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.

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.

#### **4. *In-class Presentation (10%) and Final Project (20%)*<sup>1</sup>**

As a culmination of everything you have learned from this course, you will choose an international development program that interests you – where a “development program” is defined broadly to include any charity, business, or other program that seeks to improve the lives of others.

- You will research this organization, and design and deliver a *short Powerpoint presentation (~5 minutes) to the class* on a program implemented by this organization. More details on this presentation and what it should entail can be found in the “Presentation Information Sheet” on Canvas. Presentation dates will be announced well in advance, and posted on Canvas.
- You will write a *10-page paper* that discusses this program, the international development problem that it addresses, how the implementor measures and evaluates the successfulness of this program, and how you would improve on their evaluation in order to get a good measure of program impact. Further detailed information on project requirements, including project deadlines, can be found in the “Final Project Information Sheet” on Canvas.

#### **Additional Help:**

If you feel like you are struggling through the material, let's chat about it! I am here to help!

#### **Expectations:**

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You can expect me to:

- Be respectful of you and your learning.
- Engage you in lecture, discussion, 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:**

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**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>. In particular for this course, in order to be fair to students who put in hard work to succeed, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any evidence of cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of 0 on the assignment/exam. In addition,

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<sup>1</sup> The idea for this amazing project came from a great friend, colleague, and fellow development economist, Dr. Jessica Hoel at Colorado College. I think it's important to note the origin of great ideas that were not our own, and you should do this too in all of your writing.

*I will report* incidences of cheating to the Office of Academic Integrity, 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:** The Accessibility and Disability Resource Center is committed to supporting students with disabilities to ensure that they are able to enjoy equal access to all components of their education. This includes your academics, housing, and community events. If you are experiencing a disability, a mental/medical health condition that has a significant impact on one or more life functions, you can receive accommodations to provide equal access. Possible disabilities include, but are not limited to, learning disabilities, AD(H)D, mental health, and chronic health. Additionally, we support students with temporary medical conditions (broken wrist, shoulder surgery, etc.) and pregnancy. To discuss potential accommodations, please contact the ADRC at 730 College Avenue, (ph.) 405.325.3852, or [adrc@ou.edu](mailto:adrc@ou.edu).

**Mental Health Support Services:** If you are experiencing any mental health issues that are impacting your academic performance, counseling is available at the University Counseling Center (UCC). The Center is located on the second floor of the Goddard Health Center, at 620 Elm Rm. 201, Norman, OK 73019. To schedule an appointment call (405) 325-2911. For more information, please visit [University Counseling Center](#).

**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 your professor or the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center at 405/325-3852 as soon as possible. Also, see the Institutional Equity Office [FAQ on Pregnant and Parenting Students' Rights](#) for answers to commonly asked questions.

**Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement:** Anyone who has been impacted by gender-based violence, including dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, harassment, and sexual assault, deserves access to resources so that they are supported personally and academically. The University of Oklahoma is committed to offering resources to those impacted, including: speaking with someone confidentially about your options, medical attention, counseling, reporting, academic support, and safety plans. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, please contact [OU Advocates](#) (available 24/7 at 405-615-0013) or another confidential resource (see "[Can I make an anonymous report?](#)"). You may also choose to report gender-based violence and discrimination through other means, including by contacting the [Institutional Equity Office](#) ([ieo@ou.edu](mailto:ieo@ou.edu), 405-325-3546) or police (911). Because the University of Oklahoma is committed to the safety of you and other students, I, as well as other faculty, Graduate Assistants, and Teaching Assistants, are mandatory reporters. This means that we are obligated to report gender-based violence that has been disclosed to us to the Institutional Equity Office. This includes disclosures that occur in: class discussion, writing assignments, discussion boards, emails and during Student Hours. For more information, please visit the [Institutional Equity Office](#).

**Final Exam Preparation Period:** Pre-finals week will be defined as the seven calendar days before the first day of finals. Faculty may cover new course material throughout this week. For specific provisions of the policy please refer to OU's [Final Exam Preparation Period policy](#).

**Emergency Protocols:** During an emergency, there are official university [procedures](#) that will maximize your safety.

**Severe Weather:** If you receive an OU Alert to seek refuge or hear a tornado siren that signals severe weather.

1. Look for severe weather refuge location maps located inside most OU buildings near the entrances.
2. Seek refuge inside a building. Do not leave one building to seek shelter in another building that you deem safer. If outside, get into the nearest building.

3. Go to the building's severe weather refuge location. If you do not know where that is, go to the lowest level possible and seek refuge in an innermost room. Avoid outside doors and windows.
4. Get in, Get Down, Cover Up.
5. Wait for official notice to resume normal activities.

Additional [Weather Safety Information](#) is available through the Department of Campus Safety.

**Armed Subject/Campus Intruder:** If you receive an OU Alert to shelter-in-place due to an active shooter or armed intruder situation or you hear what you perceive to be gunshots:

1. Avoid: If you believe you can get out of the area WITHOUT encountering the armed individual, move quickly towards the nearest building exit, move away from the building, and call 911.
2. Deny: If you cannot flee, move to an area that can be locked or barricaded, turn off lights, silence devices, spread out, and formulate a plan of attack if the shooter enters the room.
3. Defend: As a last resort fight to defend yourself.

For more information, visit [OU's Emergency Preparedness site](#).

[Shots Fired on Campus Procedure – Video](#)

**Fire Alarm/General Emergency:** If you receive an OU Alert that there is danger inside or near the building, or the fire alarm inside the building activates:

1. LEAVE the building. Do not use the elevators.
2. KNOW at least two building exits
3. ASSIST those that may need help
4. PROCEED to the emergency assembly area
5. ONCE safely outside, NOTIFY first responders of anyone that may still be inside building due to mobility issues.
6. WAIT for official notice before attempting to re-enter the building.

[OU Fire Safety on Campus](#)

### **Tentative List of Topics Covered During the Semester:**

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| • Measuring Economic Development           | • Household Distribution, Bargaining, & Violence |
| • Modern Economic Growth Theory            | • Property Rights                                |
| • Inference in Economic Development        | • (Micro)credit, Risk, and Insurance             |
| • The Lasting Impact of Initial Conditions | • Cash Transfers                                 |
| • The Legacy of Colonialism                | • Urbanization and Migration                     |
| • Health and Nutrition                     | • Corruption                                     |
| • Education                                | • Foreign Aid                                    |
| • Demographics and Population Policy       |  |

A detailed schedule and reading list will be posted on our course Canvas page.