Instructor: Kassahun Melesse
Office Hours: Wednesday 1 pm-2 pm, 232B, Ballard Extension or by appointment.
Email: Kassahun.Melesse@oregon.state.edu

Course Description
The course introduces students to key issues in the economics of development along with the quantitative methods required to conduct advanced research in these topics. Topics include: the measurement of poverty and inequality, the analysis of health and education policies, the role of land, labor, credit and insurance markets in economic development, technology adoption, agrarian contracts, gender issues, and the political economy of development.

Objectives:
The course objectives are:

- To introduce important theoretical and policy related issues in international development
- To equip students with advanced economic theory and statistical methods to address policy relevant research questions in economic development.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:

- Develop economic models to analyze issues related to global poverty and underdevelopment
- Apply advanced statistical and numerical methods to address policy relevant research questions in economic development.

Prerequisites: AEC 613, AEC 626 (or equivalent)

Learning Resources: There is no required textbook for this course. The course is based on articles published in top journals in economics listed below. Required readings are marked with an asterisk.

Evaluation: Final grades in AEC 643 will be computed using the following weights:

Problem Set (5) 25%
Proposal: 30%
Referee Report (1) 10%
Replication Project and Presentation: 15%
Book Review: 10%
Participation: 10%
Proposal: Students are expected to develop a research idea and write well thought-out research proposal that includes a review of the literature, a theoretical model and an empirical strategy to carry out the study.

Replication Project and Presentation: Students are required to choose an empirical paper from the readings, replicate all the major results in the paper using the data used by the authors, and present their findings in class.

Referee Report: You need to submit two 3-4 pages referee reports that briefly summarize the paper, critical analyze the study in question, and identify areas of improvement.

Book Review: Students will write a critical analysis of one of the books listed under Books for Review.

Participation: Students are expected to read the assigned readings and actively participate in class.

I. General Readings


II. Books for Review


III. Books and Articles on Empirical Methods

Topics

I. Analytical Tools and Empirical Methods in Development Economics

Week 1

1. Growth Theory


2. **Household Economics**


**Week 2**

3. **Measurement of Poverty and Inequality**


4. Empirical Methods in Development Economics


**Week 3**

II. Human Capital

1. Nutrition


2. Health


Kremer, Michael and Rachel Glennerster (2011) “Improving Health in Developing Countries: Evidence From Randomized Evaluations”, Handbook of Health Economics, Volume 2


**Week 4**

3. **Education**


### III. Markets and Economic Development

1. **Credit Markets**


**Week 5**

2. **Risk and Agricultural Insurance**


### 3. Land Markets


### Week 6

#### 4. Labor Markets and Migration


*Migration*


**IV. Contracts and Agricultural Productivity**


**Week 7**

**V. Technology Adoption**


**VI. Gender Issues**


Week 8

VII. Public Goods and Infrastructure


VIII. The Political Economy of Development

1. Institutions and Economic Performance


Week 9

2. Conflict


3. Corruption


Week 10

IX. Behavioral Economics and Development


Students with Disabilities:

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at http://ds.oregonstate.edu. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Academic Honesty:

If you violate academic honesty in my course, you will receive an F on the work in question and/or in the class. “Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another.” Violations include: Cheating, Fabrication, Assisting, Tampering, and Plagiarism. The full OSU Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct is available at: http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses-0