Economics 265: Agriculture and Economic Development

University of California, Riverside
Winter 2015

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Winter 2015 Office Hours:
Mon. 10:00-12pm
or by appointment

Course Description

The goal of this course is to expose students to a variety of issues and techniques that could be explored further in the writing of a dissertation. The focus will be on economic development in general and issues related to the agricultural sectors in developing countries in particular. The course will adopt a quantitative approach to policy analysis. It seeks to provide students with an understanding of how to integrate microeconomic theory and econometrics in order to assess the welfare, efficiency, and effectiveness of alternative policies.

Course Requirements

The grade for the course will be calculated as a weighted average of the following components:

1. A 15-20 page paper related to a topic on the syllabus
   The paper will be due on the last day of class. 50%

2. Provide references, present, and lead the discussion in class
   for one area of research. 10%

3. A journal with 10 reaction pieces to readings on the syllabus
   (One reaction piece will be due each week. These should have about
   one page of summary and one page of critical analysis for each reading.) 20%

4. Presentations and class participation 20%

Students are required to be present during the scheduled final exam. Final papers will be presented during this time.
Brief Course Outline

1. Introduction
   a) Quantitative Analysis of Development Policy
   b) Agricultural Issues in Developing Countries

2. Measures of Agricultural Protection: Indicators and Applications

3. Household Models: Theory and Applications

4. Productivity, Efficiency, and Farm Size
   a) Agricultural Productivity and Development
   b) Efficiency and Productivity Measurement
   c) Farm Size and Productivity
   d) Adoption of New Technologies
   e) The Fertilizer Subsidy Debate

5. Poverty and Income Diversification
   a) Poverty, Growth, and Distribution
   b) Income Diversification and Pathways Out of Poverty

6. Land Reform and Land Markets

7. Student Topics (2 weeks)
   1. Asset based approaches to poverty
   2. Rural non-farm employment and pathways out of poverty
   3. Synergies between CCTs and rural development policies
   4. India’s National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)
Course Outline and Readings

1. Introduction

a) Quantitative Analysis of Development Policy


b) Agricultural Issues in Developing Countries


Overview (pp. 1-25, WDR 2008)
Growth and Poverty Reduction in Agriculture’s Three Worlds (Chapter 1, WDR 2008)
Emerging National Agendas for Agriculture’s Three Worlds (Chapter 10, WDR 2008)

2. Measures of Agricultural Protection: Indicators and Applications

3. Household Models: Theory and Applications


4. **Productivity, Efficiency, and Farm Size**

a) *Agricultural Productivity and Development*


b) *Farm Size and Productivity*


c) Efficiency and Productivity Measurement


d) Adoption of New Technologies


**e) The Fertilizer Subsidy Debate**

### 5. Poverty and Income Diversification


**a) Poverty, Growth, and Distribution**

b) *Income Diversification and Pathways Out of Poverty*


c) Cash Transfer Programs: Issues and Impacts


6. Land Reform and Land Markets


7. Student Topics (Approximately 2 weeks)