

DEVELOPMENT POVERTY AND FAMINE (ECHI2003, ECHI2013 and ECHI8007)

2009

Times and places

The lectures for this course will be held on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the Hayden Allen Building GO53 and Thursday at 10:00 in Lecture Theatre 1 in the Arndt Building.

Tutorials, held once a week, are at the alternative times and places: Tuesdays 1 p.m. in Crisp GO17; Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. in Crisp GO17; Thursdays 11:00 in Crisp GO15.

Method of Assessment and Workshop Requirements

Pass Level: The method of assessment for this course, at the Pass level, is the following: between 20 and 40 per cent of the total marks will be allocated to an essay to be based on one of the eight topics set. (The exact weighting applied is explained below.) The essay is to be no longer than 2500 words in length. If a student wishes to attempt to write an essay on a topic other than one of those set, s/he should see the lecturer first to determine if the topic suggested is set at an appropriate level of difficulty.

The essay must be placed in the box marked 'Essays for Development Poverty and Famine' around the corner from the administrator's office in the Arndt Building by 5 p.m. on Friday 29th May.

Those doing an essay on the topic of economic development in China can hand their essay in one week later - by 5 p.m. on Friday 5th June.

An essay submitted later will have marks deducted from the initial mark allocated to it. One mark is deducted (from an essay mark out of 20) for each day late. Late essays should be given directly to the Administrator, not placed in the essay box, otherwise they will be recorded on the date the essay box is next cleared.

The examination and attendance at tutorials (see below) make up the rest of the marks. In the examination a student will be required to answer three questions out of a choice of some 7 to 8 questions.

The final weighting of marks for the essay and the examination will be chosen by the lecturer such as to maximise the student's final mark.

Honours Level: Those students who wish to attempt the honours level for this course have two choices: (i) write the examination for the Pass level for this course. In addition, s/he must write an essay of some 4500 to 5000 words on one of the topics set.

Alternatively (ii) attend an extra lecture a week with the topic heading: **Poverty, Public Policy and Development**. The course outline is set out on page 5 and 6 below. To attend these additional lectures students must have done or be doing Economics 3 and EMET1101. Students attending this course will not have to attend tutorials for ECHI2003. However, they are welcome to do so if they wish. The extra lecture for this course will be on Wednesday at 8 a.m. in Lecture Theatre 1 in the Arndt Building.

Marks Assigned to Tutorials-Workshops: *Attendance at tutorials and workshops is compulsory. Up to five percent of the final mark will be deducted from the final mark for non-attendance at tutorials/workshops. Ten (10) per cent of the final mark will be allocated to a tutorial presentation. This presentation will be based on the essay that the student has decided to do for this course.*

The Organisation of Tutorials-Workshops: It is not possible to cover in lectures all the material that could be incorporated into a course such as this. In an attempt to partially overcome this difficulty students are provided with the opportunity to investigate some relevant topic in their own time. The results of these investigations will initially be presented at a workshop at which a brief paper (no more than 550 words written in note form) will be presented. This workshop paper may then form the basis for the essay mentioned above. The workshop paper should be tightly worded.

This paper should be made available to all students attending the workshop at least a day before the workshop. If the student(s) presenting the workshop also thinks that, to gain a better idea of the material to be covered, there is a particular paper(s)¹ that should be read, a copy of this paper should also be provided to other members of the workshop. The matter of how this material can be made available in time will be discussed in the first tutorial.

A list of essay topics, plus suggested reading, is provided in this handout below. Out of this list a student needs to select one on which to work. While the suggested reading is reasonably comprehensive, it is not necessarily complete. The student should expect to read more widely than the reading guides indicate.

After the first five weeks into the semester the workshops will begin in the sixth week into the course. The order in which the various topics will be discussed is as follows:

<u>Week Beginning Monday</u>	<u>Topic.</u>
30 March	The role of women in economic development
6 April	HIV/AIDs and economic development

¹No more than two papers should be assigned for extra reading.

27 April	Corruption and development
4 May	Biological sciences and economic development
11 May	Trade and economic development
18 May	Globalization
25 May	Slow growth in Africa
1 June	Poverty mitigation in China.

Topics covered in the lecture course for Development, Poverty and Famine.

The content of this course varies from year to year. This year the topics will be although not necessarily in the order listed here:

1. The fundamental factors that facilitate economic development in developing countries.
2. Empirical evidence on the distribution of total world income amongst the population of the world.
3. A broad discussion of the causes of famines and how famines may be mitigated with the application of appropriate public policy. Particular topics discussed are: (i) explanations of the Great Bengal Famine of 1943; (ii) the causes of famines in late nineteenth century India; (iii) how failures in various markets systems may contribute towards precipitating famines; (iv) the appropriate design of public policy to mitigate these markets failures in the attempt to mitigate famine; (v) application of some of these ideas to understanding how Bangladesh avoided famine in the late 1990s.
4. A range of topics concerned with the use of microfinance systems in developing countries to diminish the level of poverty.
5. The deep factors that determine the level of gross domestic product per capita in developing countries.
6. Recent demographic history suggests that an increase in the level of per capita real income in some developing countries tends to induce a decline, and in others tends to induce an increase in the level of the total fertility rate for the country concerned. The relevant lectures are concerned with attempting to explain these contradictory demographic experiences by making use of the theory of the quality/quantity theory of fertility.

