Anne Beeson Royalty   Class Meeting: MW 3:30-4:45
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Office: Bryan 462D   TA: Kassie Richardson
Office Hours: Wednesday, 4:45-6:00   KLRICHARDSO@uncg.edu
         And by appointment

ECO 100
Fall 2023

ECO 100 Economics of a Global Sustainable Society

Course Description:
Sustainable development, with a natural emphasis on non-Western nations; will consider issues around such topics as demographics, development theories, the environment, health and education, the role of institutions, etc.
MAC: MAC Global and Intercultural

Course Overview Fall 2023:

Economics of Global Poverty: Exploring Evidence-Based Solutions Using Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) and Big Data

This introductory course, tailored for undergraduates with no economics background, illuminates the dynamic interplay between economics, culture, and poverty. It offers a comparative analysis of economic conditions in poor countries with a brief introduction to poverty in the U.S. as a point of comparison.

Students will delve into the nuances of economic mobility in different communities in the U.S. exploring how these cultural dynamics impact poverty. Then for most of the semester we will broaden our view to examine the unique challenges faced by impoverished communities worldwide. With an emphasis on diverse cultural contexts, we'll explore education, health disparities, agriculture, and clean water access.

Students will gain insights into how varied cultural elements shape poverty and the efficacy of interventions by studying economists' use of the tools of randomized controlled trials and big data. These methodologies will guide students in understanding culturally sensitive strategies for poverty alleviation.

By the end of the course, students will appreciate the dynamic cultural elements impacting global poverty, comprehend evidence-based solutions, understand the role of randomized controlled trials and big data in policy and practice, and apply basic economic principles within diverse cultural frameworks to alleviate poverty.

Student Learning Outcomes

MAC Competency in Global Engagement and Intercultural Learning
Courses in this competency provide students with knowledge and critical understanding of similarities and differences across world cultures over time and emphasize the development of global perspectives and skills to engage cross-culturally.

Student Learning Objectives for MAC Global Engagement and Intercultural Learning
SLO #1: Describe dynamic elements of different cultures.
SLO #2: Explain how similarities, differences, and connections among different groups of people or global systems affect one another over time and place.

To achieve these SLOs within the context of this course, students who successfully complete this course will be able to critically analyze global poverty issues through achievement of the following course specific SLOs:

1. Investigate the dynamic challenges impoverished communities face globally: Students will focus on the intertwined issues of clean water access, education gaps, and health concerns, understanding how these factors vary across different cultures.

2. Appreciate the role of evidence-based methodologies in problem-solving: Learners will explore the use of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) in crafting effective strategies for poverty alleviation, with emphasis on cultural and geographical diversity.

3. Enhance critical evaluation of poverty interventions: Engage in analysis and dialogue to assess the effectiveness of diverse poverty interventions, based on the book "More than Good Intentions" by Dean Karlan, and Jacob Appel and their relevance to various cultural contexts.

4. Assess the role of context in poverty research: Participants will dissect how RCTs help uncover contextual variables that influence poverty outcomes and how these insights enhance the efficacy of interventions across different cultures and systems.

5. Apply economics principles to poverty alleviation strategies that are culturally sensitive and effective.

Required Text and Subscription:

Book: More Than Good Intentions: How a New Economics is Helping to Solve Global Poverty
Dean Karlan & Jacob Appel
Dutton Press, New York: 2011

Discussion Platform: Packback Questions with Instruct

Packback is included with "First Day Complete." If you do not participate in "First Day Complete," Packback will require a paid subscription to "Packback Questions with Instruct" (also sometimes called "Packback Instruct") for $39.

How to Register on Packback:

1. Click "Packback" **within Canvas** to access the community for our course.
2. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.
3. In order for your grade to be visible in Canvas, make sure to **only access Packback via Canvas.**

Questions for Packback should be sent to help@packback.co.

For more information about Packback, go to Canvas Home Page and click on the Packback link.

Evaluation and Grading
Evaluation will be based on a combination of quizzes, discussion assignments on Packback, homework assignments, participation in classroom discussion and attendance, and a final project. The course average will be calculated by averaging the scores of all quizzes, Packback posts, homework assignments, in-class discussion and the final project using the following weights:

Type of Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
6 online Quizzes during class time (1 dropped, no makeups)	30%
7 Discussions and Responses on PackBack (1 dropped,) no makeups	
(2 responses to classmates per new Discussion)	15%
5 Homework or Teamwork Assignments (1 dropped)	20%
Class Attendance	10%
Final Project	25%

Final Project
For the final project, each student will create a 3.5 minute video presentation (details to come). I will compile the videos and we will watch them together and discuss on the last two days of class. **NOTE: Class attendance will be required on those two days -- Monday, November 27 and Wednesday, November 29.   There will be penalty of 5% per day missed on a student's final project grade.**

• If you must miss one of these days due **extreme circumstances** that are **beyond your control** you may petition to have this penalty waived. In such circumstances, students should contact the instructor **as soon as possible** (**preferably before the presentation days**) and provide **tangible evidence** to support their claim. Examples of situations that are generally **_not_**

justifications for waiving the penalty include conflicts with work   schedules, conflicts with end-of-semester travel arrangements, and conflicts with other courses.

Grading Details

PACKBACK DISCUSSIONS

- Packback is an online discussion platform powered by artificial intelligence. This platform is specifically designed to encourage curiosity and increase critical thinking and writing skills. AI is used to create a "Curiosity Score" for each of your posts. You will get real-time feedback as you work on your post.
- There will be 7 Packback Assignments during the semester. One will be dropped. They are usually **bi-weekly and are always due on Sundays at 11:59PM except for during Fall Break**. In order to receive full credit, you should submit the following:
  - 1 Question of your own – often, but not always, based on a prompt pinned at the top of the Packback page but sometimes left to you to devise a question based on a topic that has interested you in the class.
  - 2 Responses to your classmates
  - Each assignment will be worth 10 points in total: 5 points for your question and 2.5 points for each response.
  - To receive full credit, your curiosity score for the post or response from Packback must be 50 or greater.
  - Posts that have curiosity scores of less than 50 will receive half credit.
  - A missing post receives a score of zero.

QUIZZES

- Quizzes, except the first one, will be on Monday.
- Quizzes will be online, not F2F, but during our regular class period.
- You may use the materials on Canvas.
- There will be 6 quizzes and one will be dropped.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This class does not have a traditional textbook. This makes attendance even more important than usual; therefore attendance is required. Each student will be allowed three classroom absences. These "free" absences are intended to be used for illness, not trips to the beach (as much as I love the beach 😊).

Also, as noted above, class attendance will be required on the days of the final project presentations -- Monday, November 27 and Wednesday, November 29. There will be penalty of 5% per day missed on a student's final project grade for those two days.

END-OF-SEMESTER GRADES

At the end of the semester, grades for each category of assignments (quizzes, discussion assignments on Packback, homework assignments, participation in classroom discussion and attendance, and a final project.) will be converted to a 100-point scale and averaged using the weights above. You will receive a score of zero for any work not submitted beyond the allowed number of dropped scores as described above. Your final grade in the course will be a letter grade. Letter grade equivalents for percentages, out of 100% are calculated as follows:

93% or higher	A	76 – 79.9%	C+	66 – 69.9%	D+
90 – 92.9%	A-	73 – 75.9%	C	63 – 65.9%	D
86 – 89.9%	B+	70 – 72.9%	C-	60 – 62.9%	D-
83 – 85.9%	B			< 60%	F
80 – 82.9%	B-				

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

I will make changes to the following schedule as needed.

CLASS	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
1	8/16 Wed	Syllabus Day and Introductions	
2	8/21 Mon	Introduction to Global Poverty	In-class group exercise to be completed, if necessary, individually as homework Submit by Sun 8/27
3	8/23 Wed	Poverty and Upward Mobility Close to Home	
	8/27 Sun		Submit Monday's Exercise Submit Packback 1 Discussion and Responses Read IMF Report for Mon 8/28
4	8/28 Mon	Poverty and Upward Mobility Even Closer to Home / Most Promising Interventions (IMF Report)	
5	8/30 Wed	Online Quiz 1 (No Class Meeting)	Online Quiz 1 (No Class Meeting)
	9/4 Mon	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS	
6	9/6 Wed	Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) Classroom Experiment	
	9/10 Sun		Submit Packback 2 Discussion and Responses
7	9/11 Mon	RCTs and the COVID Vaccine	
8	9/13 Wed	RCTs for Testing Social Policies	
9	9/18 Mon	Online Quiz 2 (No Class Meeting)	Online Quiz 2 (No Class Meeting)

10	9/20 Wed	Good Intentions Chap 1	
	9/24 Sun		Submit Packback 3
11	9/25 Mon	Good Intentions Chap 1	
12	9/27 Wed	Good Intentions Chap 2	
13	10/2 Mon	Online Quiz 3 (No Class Meeting)	Online Quiz 3 (No Class Meeting)
14	10/4 Wed	A Few Concepts from Behavioral and Traditional Economics	
	10/9 Mon	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS
15	10/11 Wed	Good Intentions Chap 9, "To Learn" Education RCTs	Packback 4 Due
16	10/16 Mon	Education RCTs	In-class Quiz 5 at end of class
17	10/18 Wed	Education RCTs	
	10/22 Sun		Packback 5 Due
18	10/23 Mon	Online Quiz 4 (No Class Meeting)	Online Quiz 4 (No Class Meeting)
19	10/25 Wed	Education RCTs	
20	10/30 Mon	Good Intentions, Chap 10, "To Stay Healthy" Health RCTs	
21	11/1 Wed	Health RCTs	
	11/5 Sun		Packback 6 Due
22	11/6 Mon	Online Quiz 5 (No Class Meeting)	Online Quiz 5 (No Class Meeting)
23	11/8 Wed	Health RCTs	FINAL PROJECT DUE

24	11/13 Mon	Good Intentions, Chap 8, "To Farm" Farming RCTs	
25	11/15 Wed	Farming RCTs	
	11/19 Sun		Packback 7
26	11/20 Mon	Online Quiz 6 (No Class Meeting)	Online Quiz 6 (No Class Meeting)
		THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS	THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS
27		Final Project Presentations	**Attendance Required**
28		Final Project Presentations	**Attendance Required**

Accessibility Policy & Information
UNCG complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must register with the Office of Accessibility Resources & Services   https://oars.uncg.edu/ located in 215 Elliott University Center: (336) 334-5440.

Generative Artificial Intelligence Use Policy for this Course (e.g. ChatGPT)
I do not encourage the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT in this class since the assignments are such that I do not believe these tools will be as useful as they might be in some settings. However, I also do not prohibit its use. AI is allowed with attribution. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work (this includes in-text citations and/or use of quotations, and in your reference list). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty.

 Please note that while ChatGPT and other AI platforms can write a grammatically correct paper or appear to solve a math problem, it may be unreliable and limited in scope. Always fact-check and verify the AI-generated content by cross-referencing it with reputable sources. Additionally, exercise critical thinking to identify and address any inaccuracies that might arise.

Also be aware that every platform has its own terms of use and will approach data privacy and security differently. Please be mindful of these platforms' terms.

Academic Integrity Policy
Academic Integrity is fundamental to the university enterprise and is therefore expected at all times. By submitting any assignment for this course, you are agreeing to abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BorFGGhJvbDHUExSZmFFaWFmb00/view?resourcekey=0-j827WLPLcnwgX_Pj_dCz9Q

Health Concerns
Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at https://shs.uncg.edu/ or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting https://shs.uncg.edu/srp or reaching out to recovery@uncg.edu

8/16/23