

AEM 4551/CRP 6490/SOC 4450
Comparative Perspectives in Poverty Reduction Policy

Spring 2010 Syllabus
M/W 2:55-4:10 PM

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TEACHING ASSISTANT:

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COURSE OBJECTIVE:

This course aims to build student awareness and understanding of facts about poverty domestically and internationally and of different policies intended to reduce the incidence and persistence of poverty. The course exposes students to different disciplinary and geographic perspectives on issues of poverty dynamics and socioeconomic mobility and to the evidence on different policy interventions. Sponsored by the Institute for the Social Sciences 2008-11 theme project on Persistent Poverty and Upward Mobility (<http://socialsciences.cornell.edu/0811/desc.html>).

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

Open to juniors, seniors and graduate students by application. Submit a one page statement of interest, identifying prior relevant academic training and personal and/or professional experience that will enable contributions to the seminar and prepare the student to fully engage with the course material.

READINGS:

A packet of key readings is available from the Campus Store and most reading are posted on the course Blackboard site.

HOME PAGE:

The course home page is on Blackboard. The page provides you with announcements, information about the course, links to the syllabus, lecture notes, useful web sites, and all the usual, good things available on Blackboard sites. We strongly recommend that you check the course web site frequently during the semester, especially for announcements prior to class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

We strictly enforce Cornell's Code of Academic Integrity. We strongly encourage you to discuss course material with your classmates outside of class. However, the written work you turn in and the oral presentations you make must be entirely your own. At the minimum, a violation of the code of academic integrity will result in a failing course grade.

GRADES AND POINT ALLOCATION:

There is no "curve" in this class; you are not competing against your classmates.

<u>Exercise</u>	<u>Points</u>
Weekly discussion questions	50%
Course term paper	50%

There are no examinations in this course.

No extensions are granted. Late or missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Each week, students will be expected to reflect on the readings and lecture presented on Wednesday and prepare a set of questions for discussion the following Monday. These questions should be posted to the course Blackboard site by Sunday at 4pm so that everyone can review the questions before the Monday discussion. The questions should be in short paragraph form and provide a context for how and why the question emerges from the lecture and readings. Examples of question format will be provided on the blackboard site. Questions will be graded for the understanding they evince of the readings and lecture and for their contribution to stimulating a useful group discussion in class.

TERM PAPER:

Each student will be required to write a 10-20 page research paper. The paper should take the form of a critical, interpretive literature review focused on a topic related to the course. A list of possible topics will be provided but each student will work out a topic with one of the instructors. The paper will be graded on the thoughtfulness and comprehensiveness of the literature review and whether it illuminates key questions in the topical area. Papers will also be graded on the overall quality of the written product. Students with writing problems are urged to seek help from the Cornell Writing Center in order to improve the quality of their papers. The paper will be due May 14.

OFFICE HOURS:

Prof. Barrett's regular office hours are Wednesdays 10 AM - 12 noon. During office hours, I always drop whatever I am doing to address your concerns. Outside those times, please feel free to email questions to me at any time or to call for an appointment. Please also feel free to drop by my office any time, but please understand that I am often out of the office or busy and unable to visit with you right away outside of office hours. So I may have to ask you to come back later.

Prof. Christopherson's regular office hours are 1:30-2:45 M/W by appointment. To make an appointment, email me and let me know the reason for the appointment so I can prepare. I also make appointments outside these hours when necessary. I can deal with many problems by email and respond rapidly.

TA Office hours will be held in Ms. Michelson's office, 425 Warren Hall ...

COURSE OUTLINE:

The course is comprised of several modules, each comprised of lecture and discussion sessions. After the first week, discussions will be held on Mondays, lectures on Wednesdays. The intent is that students absorb the lecture material and associated reading, then prepare the discussion questions due

on Sunday for Monday's in-class seminar discussions. This sequencing allows students ample time to absorb and reflect on the core material and strikes a good balance between faculty lectures and more inclusive discussions.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

<u>Week #:Dates</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
1: Jan 25-27	L: Introduction (SC) Reading: M. Ravallion and M. Lipton HDE chapter;	Poverty/Mobility Concepts/Measures (CB)
2: Feb 1-3	D: Concepts/Measures	
<u>Module 1: Domestic Poverty Policy</u>		
2: Feb 1-3	Reading: Berube and Kneebone 2006; Jargowsky, Glasmeier	L: Spatial/Racial Dimensions (SC)
3: Feb 8-10	D: Regional Development	L: EITC/Welfare (SC)
4: Feb 15-17	D: EITC/Welfare	
<u>Module 2: International Poverty Policy</u>		
4: Feb 15-17	Readings: food aid book? Devereux? Coady et al., CCTs review	L: Transfers, targeting & safety nets (CB)
5: Feb 22-24	D: Transfer programs/targeting Reading: Timmer, WDR 2008	L: Agriculture (CB)
6: Mar 1-3	D: Agriculture	
<u>Module 3: Education</u>		
6: Mar 1-3		GL: Developing countries (David Sahn)
7: Mar 8-10	D: Developing countries	GL: OECD countries (Steve Morgan)
8: Mar 15-17	D: OECD countries	
<u>Module 4: Health/Nutrition</u>		
8: Mar 15-17		GL: Food security (Christine Olson)
9: Mar 29-31	D: Food security	GL: Health care (Jordan Matsudaira)
10: Apr 5-7	D: Health care	
<u>Module 5: Labor Markets</u>		
10: Apr 5-7		GL: Migration/Immigration (Dan Lichter)
11: Apr 12-14	D: Migration/Immigration	GL: Job Access/Mobility (Matt Freeman)
12: Apr 19-21	D: Job Access/Mobility	
<u>Module 6: Political Economy of Poverty</u>		
12: Apr 19-21		GL: OECD countries (Chris Anderson)
13: Apr 26-28	D: OECD countries	GL: Africa (Nic van de Walle)
14: May 3-5	D: Africa	L: Wrap-up (SC/CB)

Key

CB=Chris Barrett, D=Discussion, GL = Guest lecture, L=Lecture, SC=Susan Christopherson