COURSE SYLLABUS
FOR
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS 643
Economic Development
Purdue University
Spring 2018

Class: Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 – 4:15pm in Smith Hall, Room 201

Instructor: Jacob Ricker-Gilbert
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:

This course will cover theoretical and empirical models of microeconomics of international agricultural development, with particular emphasis on household and individual behaviors related to production, investment and marketing decisions. The course will critically review the current literature in microeconomic development with attention to identification issues that arise in various contexts and how these issues are addressed. Topics to be covered include agricultural household models and applications, intra-household resource allocation, land tenure and land markets, labor market and migration, rural credit markets, technology adoption, input and output markets, shocks and risk coping, health, nutrition and education. We will try to identify the frontier of this literature and look for ways that it can be expanded and ideas for future research.

Prerequisites:
Economics 607
Ag Economics 651

Course requirements:

(1) One of the main goals of this course is to conduct a critical reading of the current literature in microeconomic development. I expect you to do all of the required reading and to participate in class discussions. Each of you is expected to present and lead the discussion for two papers in the reading list (to be decided in the second week of the class). You are responsible for preparing your own lecture notes to be distributed to the class before your lecture.

(2) A research proposal (25%): The proposal should include a well stated research question, a literature review, a set of hypotheses either derived explicitly from a theoretical model or
based on an existing economic theory, an empirical strategy for testing the hypotheses, and a detailed description of the data that you may use and how you will run the hypothesis test with careful attention to information that you will need for identification. The proposal should not be longer than 14 pages (double spaced, 1 inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font or equivalent, exclusive of references and tables). If you want to add results and conclusions it can be longer.

- 1 page Abstract of research proposal due on September 6.
- 1st draft of proposal due on November 27.
- Review of a colleague’s proposal due on December 4.
- Final paper due December 14th @ 5:00pm.

The final proposal will be due on December 7. I strongly encourage you to start to think about your proposal as early as you can.

(3) Problem sets (25%): There will be 3 problem sets throughout the semester. The problem sets will include model building and empirical exercises with the emphasis on the latter.

- 1st Homework: Handed out on September 20, and due by October 4.
- 2nd Homework: Handed out on October 18, and due by November 1.
- 3rd Homework: Handed out on November 1, and due by November 15.

The empirical exercises include duplication of the econometric results for some published works, critical review of the empirical strategies used in other papers in the reading list, etc. Late Home works are not accepted.

(4) Referee reports (20%): You are expected to complete two referee reports for two draft manuscripts. Late reports are not acceptable.

- 1st report: Papers handed out on September 6, and your reports due by September 20.
- 2nd report: Papers handed out on October 4, and your reports due by October 18.

Late referee reports are not accepted.

(5) Final exam (30%). Either in class or take home. Date and time TBD

Texts: There will be no required text for this class. However, I recommend you have the following textbooks for your own reference:

Bardhan and Udry’s book provides rigorous treatments of some of the important topics in the field of development micro-economics. We will use a few chapters in this class. Deaton’s book is an excellent reference book for researchers and practitioners working on empirical research in the development field. Ray’s book is a popular textbook in development economics for advanced undergraduate or master’s students. It has a systematic coverage of topics and issues in development economics. We will also use a few chapters in this class.

I will make the relevant chapters available on blackboard at least a week before these materials are discussed in class.

Policies

1. Academic Integrity: Incidents of cheating on Exams or plagiarism on Manuscripts or Critiques will result in a failing grade for the course. If you are uncertain what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, then it is your responsibility to schedule a meeting with the instructor to discuss these issues before the end of the first week of the semester.

2. Incomplete grades are not given in AGEC 643 unless extremely extenuating circumstances warrant.

3. Late assignments will not be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances.

4. If you have circumstances that require special arrangements, then it is your responsibility to bring these needs to the attention of the instructor. You should do so in the first week of the semester.

Students with Disabilities

I am happy to accommodate students with disabilities. If you have a disability that requires academic adjustments, please make an appointment to meet with me during the first week of classes to discuss your needs. Please note that university policy requires all students with disabilities to be registered with Adaptive Programs in the Office of the Dean of Students before classroom accommodations can be provided. It is your responsibility to register with Adaptive programs.

Emergencies

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor’s control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructors or TA via email or phone. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

To report an emergency, call 911. To obtain updates regarding an ongoing emergency, sign up for Purdue Alert text messages, view www.purdue.edu/ea. There are nearly 300 Emergency
Telephones outdoors across campus and in parking garages that connect directly to the PUPD. If you feel threatened or need help, push the button and you will be connected immediately. If we hear a fire alarm during class we will immediately suspend class, evacuate the building, and proceed outdoors. Do not use the elevator. If we are notified during class of a Shelter in Place requirement for a tornado warning, we will suspend class and shelter in the basement. If we are notified during class of a Shelter in Place requirement for a hazardous materials release, or a civil disturbance, including a shooting or other use of weapons, we will suspend class and shelter in the classroom, shutting the door and turning off the lights.

Readings by topics (*) for required reading.

1. Agricultural Household Model (AHM) and Applications

1.1. AHM with or without Missing Markets [Aug. 21].


1.2. Empirical Applications [Aug. 23].


2. Review/Introduction of empirical methods (August 28 & 30)


3. Intrahousehold models and applications [September 4 and 6]

RESEARCH PROPOSAL ABSTRACT DUE ON SEPTEMBER 6.


4. Land tenure security, land markets and land reform [September 11, 13, 18, 20]

1ST ARTICLE REVIEW DUE ON SEPTEMBER 20


No Class [September 25-27]

5. Land productivity and Land size [October 2 & 4]

1ST HOMEWORK DUE ON OCTOBER 4


Carletto et al. (JAE, 2017), “From Guesstimates to GPStimates: Land Area Measurement and Implications for Agricultural Analysis.”


Fall Break, No Class [October 9]

6. Rural Labor Markets and Migration [October 11, 16 & 18]

2ND ARTICLE REVIEW DUE ON OCTOBER 18

*Bardhan and Udry. (1999). Development Microeconomics, Chapter 4.


Potentially No Class [October 23 & 25], JRG in Kenya

7. Technology adoption [October 20, Nov. 1, 6 & 8]

2ND HOMEWORK DUE ON NOVEMBER 1


8. Factor and Product Markets, and the Roles of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Infrastructure [November 13, 15 & 20]

3RD HOMEWORK DUE ON NOVEMBER 15

8.1. Factor Markets


8.2. Product Markets & ICTs


8.3. The Economics of Infrastructure


9. Credit Markets [November 27 & 29]

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DRAFT DUE NOVEMBER 27.


10. Shocks, Vulnerability, Risk-Coping and Precautionary Behavior [December 4 & 6]

**REVIEW OF A COLLEAGUE’S RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE DECEMBER 4.**

10.1. Risk sharing among households


10.2. Ex ante and Ex Post coping Mechanisms by Households themselves


10.3. Long-term impacts of Shocks and imperfect insurance


10.4 Index Insurance


OTHER TOPICS AND READINGS [time permitting]

FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE DECEMBER 14 @ 5:00 PM.

11. Education, Health and Nutrition Interventions


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12. Health and Nutrition Interventions


