COURSE SYLLABUS
FOR
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS 643
Economic Development
Purdue University
Spring 2019

Class: Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 – 4:15pm in Pao Hall, B157

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) Class participation (10%). 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 or three 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 (20%): 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 3.
- 1st draft of proposal due on November 26.
- Review of a colleague’s proposal due on December 3.
- Final proposal due December 13th @ 5:00pm.

I strongly encourage you to start to think about your proposal as early as you can.

(3) Problem sets (30%): 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 17, and due by October 1.
- 2nd Homework: Handed out on October 8, and due by October 22.
- 3rd Homework: Handed out on November 5, and due by November 19.

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 3, and your reports due by September 17.
- 2nd report: Papers handed out on October 22, and your reports due by November 5.

Late referee reports are not accepted.

(5) Final exam (20%). 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. 20].


1.2. Empirical Applications [Aug. 22].


2. Review/Introduction of empirical methods (August 27 & 29)


3. Intrahousehold models and applications [September 3 and 5]

RESEARCH PROPOSAL ABSTRACT DUE ON SEPTEMBER 3.


4. Land tenure security, land markets and land reform [September 10, 12, 17, 19] , Recorded lecture on Sept. 17

1ST ARTICLE REVIEW DUE ON SEPTEMBER 17


No Class [September 24-26]

5. Land productivity and Land size [October 1 & 3]

1ST HOMEWORK DUE ON OCTOBER 1


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

**Fall Break, No Class [October 8]**

5. **Rural Labor Markets and Migration [October 10, 22 & 24]**

**No class on October 15 and 17**

**HOMEWORK 2 DUE ON OCTOBER 22**

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


7. Technology adoption [October 29, 31, Nov. 5, 7 & 12]

2ND REFEREE REPORT DUE ON NOVEMBER 5


8. Factor and Product Markets, and the Roles of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Infrastructure [November 14, 19 & 21]

3RD HOMEWORK DUE ON NOVEMBER 19

8.1. Factor Markets


8.2. Product Markets & ICTs


8.3. The Economics of Infrastructure


9. Pre-Analysis Plans and Machine Learning [Nov. 26]


10. Credit Markets [December 3 & 5]

REVIEW OF A COLLEAGUE’S RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE DECEMBER 3.


11. Shocks, Vulnerability, Risk-Coping and Precautionary Behavior [time permitting]

11.1. Risk sharing among households


**11.2. Ex ante and Ex Post coping Mechanisms by Households themselves**


11.3. Long-term impacts of Shocks and imperfect insurance


11.4 Index Insurance


OTHER TOPICS AND READINGS [time permitting]

FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE DECEMBER 13 @ 5:00 PM.

12. Education, Health and Nutrition Interventions


12. Health and Nutrition Interventions


