ECON 4381- 010: SPECIAL TOPICS: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Course Syllabus
Spring 2021
12:30p.m.- 1:45p.m. TR Rassman Business 103

Instructor: Dr. Edwar E. Escalante
Email: eescalante@angelo.edu
Office: Rassman Business 102A
Office Hours (Online only): MW: 3:15 PM – 5:15 PM
TR: 1:45 PM – 3:45 PM or by appointment

Book:


Additional Readings:

_Required_ additional readings will be placed on the course Blackboard site.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Why some nations are wealthy, while others are not? What can be done, if anything, to alleviate poverty? These are some of the oldest questions in economics, at least since Adam Smith wrote _An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations_. This course will continue the inquiry by analyzing the theoretical and empirical underpinnings of economic development.

Class sessions will primarily be discussion based. The goal is not ‘knowledge transference’ from the professor to the students but rather ‘joint inquiry.’ Once the course is completed, I expect you to be comfortable with the theory and history of developing areas. You should be able to clearly articulate a position on why some nations prosper and why others fail.

GRADING

Grades will be assigned according to students’ final scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90+</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89.9</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-79.9</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69.9</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>59.9 or less</td>
<td>F</td>
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Please do not ask me to raise your grade. I never – NEVER! – grant such requests. I am not in the business of giving grades: I merely report the grade that you earn.

Final scores are broken down into the following components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40%</td>
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**Participation:** Each week you will submit 2 questions on Blackboard related to the required reading. Questions should be substantive (25-100 words each including setup). Usually including why the question is relevant. They will be due Monday night. *Each question should concern a different reading.* Each set of questions will be graded based on two criteria: evidence that you have done the reading and thoughtfulness. Good questions will be circulated at the beginning of each class to stimulate discussion.

Part of your grades will also be based on your ability to respond the questions of your fellow classmates during the discussion in class. As every important aspect in life a good portion of success is about showing up!

There will be thirteen participation grades. At the end of the semester, I will drop the two HIGHEST participation grades. The remaining grades will count toward the participation portion of your grade. I will post these grades on Thursday night after week discussion.

**Writing:** The writing component of the class is designed with the goal of generating analytical abilities. All papers should be double spaced with page numbers and include name and title. They should also be well written. I recommend using the writing center at the university. *Writing grade* has three components:

**Short Articles:** You will turn in two short articles through the semester. Each of these should be 500 - 1,000 words. Articles handed in after class on the due date will not be accepted. *No quotes.* I want to see your original idea written up as you would the opinion article in a newspaper. Your article should look like, read like, and ‘feel’ like an op-ed or a newspaper column. This article should relate to the topic of the class: Economic Development.

**Term Paper:** After you have turned in your two short articles, you will pick one of them to develop into a term paper in consultation with me. The rough draft should be at least 2,000 words long. You can submit this final paper before the deadline so I can provide feedback and you would be able to correct the paper if you want to improve your grade.

You final *writing grade* will be article 1 (30%), article 2 (30%) and final paper (40%).

**Extra Credits:** Extra Credit may be given for additional quiz or work like attending relevant lectures. We will have three conferences during this semester. I strongly suggest you attend these events since they may define your grade at the end of the semester. They are VERY important. At the end of the semester an extra credit (100) will replace a lower than 100 score in any participation grade.
A grade of zero will be given for any paper or participation missed. If the paper due date was missed for a University-excused reason (i.e., representing the University in a competition, a health emergency, or a family emergency) the student will have the opportunity to make up the paper. Otherwise, the grade of zero will remain. Final class grades will be posted in Ramport only.

Covid-19: If any student feels symptoms it should get tested as soon as possible. If I receive confirmation from students’ affairs office that the student has tested positive, I will not count the participation grades the student will miss due to quarantine.

COMMUNICATION

The easiest and fastest way to communicate is by email (eescalante@angelo.edu). I encourage a professional behavior on this matter to your professor and fellow classmates. Establishing a communication with your professor is not a colloquial text to a friend. Given the academic environment I ONLY respond emails that come with a proper salutation: Dr. Escalante or Professor Escalante.

CLASSROOM RULES AND BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to show respect to classmates, instructors, and especially guest speakers. These are rules that I will enforce during this class:

1. Do not talk during class meetings. Talking is disruptive to the instructor and to your fellow classmates.
2. Do not arrive late to class and do not leave the classroom during class meetings. Exceptions may occur for medical emergency, physiological urgency or situations where prior instructor approval has been granted.
3. Do not use (including viewing of) communication devices (phones, iPad, etc.) during class meetings. All electronic devices should be silenced during class meetings. This includes laptops.
4. Do not read/view other unassigned materials (newspapers, magazines, etc.) during class meetings.
5. Do not exhibit disruptive posture during class meetings. E.g. sleeping, slouching, laying, resting feet/head on furniture, etc.
6. Do not use notebook computers during class meetings unless prior instructor approval has been granted.
7. Do not bring/use food and/or tobacco products during classroom meetings unless prior instructor approval has been granted.
TENTATIVE OUTLINE AND ASSOCIATED TEXTBOOK CHAPTERS

This is a tentative list of topics and readings. More precise reading assignments will be given over the course of the semester, if necessary. The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (Jan 25-28)</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>The Development Gap</td>
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<td>Week 2 (Feb 01-04)</td>
<td>Information and Incentives</td>
<td>Hayek (1945)</td>
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<td>Demsetz (1967)</td>
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<td>Week 3 (Feb 08-11)</td>
<td>Goals of Development</td>
<td>Banerjee and Dufflo (2007)</td>
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<td>Buchanan (1964)</td>
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<td>Week 4 (Feb 15-18)</td>
<td>Foreign Aid</td>
<td>Easterly (2007)</td>
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<td>Leeson &amp; Skarbek (2009)</td>
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<td>Week 5 (Feb 22-25)</td>
<td>Getting the Institutions Right</td>
<td>North (1991)</td>
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<td>Article 1 Due</td>
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<td>Week 6 (Mar 01-04)</td>
<td>Property Rights</td>
<td>Alchian (1965)</td>
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<td>Week 7 (Mar 08-11)</td>
<td>Political Self-interest and Constraints</td>
<td>Buchanan (1986)</td>
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<td>Tullock (1967)</td>
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<td>Week 9 (Mar 22-25)</td>
<td>Law and Legal System</td>
<td>La Porta et al. (2008)</td>
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<td>Week 10 (Mar 29-Abr 01)</td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Ross (2015)</td>
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<td>Article 2 due</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Week 11 (Apr 05-08)</td>
<td>Informal Institutions</td>
<td>Escalante &amp; March (2019)</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Week 12 (Apr 12-15)</td>
<td>--NO CLASS— (Blackboard Assignment TBD)</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Week 14 (Apr 26-29)</td>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Week 15 (May 03-06)</td>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>Boettke, Coyne, Leeson (2008)</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10 (Section 010)</td>
<td>FINAL PAPER @ 1:00 pm</td>
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Topics and Readings
*Not all of them will be assigned in class.

I. Understanding the central problem: Information and Incentives


II. The goals of Development


III. Foreign Aid


IV. Getting the Institutions Right


V. Property Rights


VI. Political Self-interest and political constraints


VII. Political Institutions


VIII. Law and Legal system


IX. Geography and Natural Resources


X. Development and Informal Institutions


XI. Violence


XII. Corruption

TBD

XIII. Culture


ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is expected on all work. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their online experiences. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

We adhere to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the Angelo State University Student Handbook: Angelo State University's Academic Integrity Policy. The University "faculty expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom setting and may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials."
PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism at ASU is a serious topic. The Angelo State University’s Honor Code gives specific details on plagiarism and what it encompasses. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word for word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. We use the APA Style Manual of the American Psychological Association as a guide for all writing assignments. Quotes should be used sparingly. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Bb Safe Assignment or Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center: Angelo State University's Writing Center Website.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ADA. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Ms. Dallas A. Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Located in the Houston Harte University Center 112

TITLE IX at ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence
Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex. You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form
Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
Phone: 325-942-2022
E-Mail: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY (OP 10.11 Grading Procedures)

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required.

STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

“A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.” Please see ASU Operating Policy 10.19.

COPYRIGHT POLICY

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.
COURSE SYLLABUS STATEMENT ON REQUIRED USE OF MASKS/FACIAL COVERINGS BY STUDENTS IN CLASS AT ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.