Syllabus

Honors Seminar - Economics 4339-801

Professor Ann Carlos                      Spring 2002
Office: Economics 208A                   Phone: 492-8737
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Objectives: The primary objective of this seminar is to provide a framework which will lead to the successful completion of your honors thesis for those of you planning to graduate in May 2002 and to help successfully launch the thesis project of those of you planning to graduate in December 2002. I see this seminar as providing you with a unique opportunity. It gives you the chance to think about economics as economists and to ask to what extent you agree or disagree with the material that you have learned over the past few years. It, also, allows you to do your own economic analysis on a topic that interests you. My hope is that you will learn that the doing of, as well as the learning of, economics can be both satisfying and fun.

The seminar will be structured around the question of development very broadly defined. The question why the whole world is not developed is an important part of the current policy debate. I think it is important to think about this issue and the policy implication that surround it. To that end, we will read all or parts of:


We will also use the one page Economics Focus in The Economist as the basis for discussion of contemporary issues.

As this is a seminar course, you will each be expected to have done the required reading and be ready to enter into the discussion. Each week someone(s) will be responsible for leading the discussion. In addition, the course is directed towards helping each of you start or complete you honors thesis. You will be required to submit written material to me on a regular basis. Also you will each present this work to the class. The group will be responsible for providing constructive feedback.

Evaluation: Students graduating and completing their honors theses this semester will receive a grade based on their honors thesis, oral defense, and class participation. Students who do not graduate this semester will receive a grade based on their thesis proposal and class participation. The proposal should include a literature review, a statement of thesis objectives and a discussion of the thesis relates to the literature.
Economics 4339 does not count towards economics major credit hours, but only as elective hours towards the total Arts and Sciences hours required for graduation. However, it does provide you with a framework within which you can work on your honors thesis and the support of your peers as you go through the process.

Calendar:

Honors Deadlines: May Graduation

Meeting for all honors students - January 17, 2002, 3.30pm

Theses due - April 1, 2002
Oral defenses end - April 8, 2002

Honors Deadlines: December Graduation

Meeting for all honors students - January 17, 2002

Applications due - April 22, 2002
Theses due - October 29, 2002

Class sessions: Part of each class session will be devoted to presentation and discussion of thesis work. The remainder will be used to discuss the readings as assigned.