**Syllabus INTA 4740 A**

**Seminar in International Political Economy**

**Georgia Tech, Fall Semester 2018**

Thomas D. Boston, Professor of Economics and International Affairs

Class Location: Habersham Building Room G – 17

Class hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 9:30 – 10:45 AM

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Office hours: 11:00 –12:30 TTH and by apt.

This is the first part of a two-semester capstone course for majors in Economics and International Affairs (EIA). The course is designed to review some of the major learning outcomes of EIA and give you practical experience in conducting empirical research. The three major objectives are as follows:

1. Strengthen your understanding of economic theory and international relations and their application to international political and economic environment.
2. Strengthen your understanding of the interdependent, multicultural world in which we live.
3. Strengthen your econometric skills so as to enable you to empirically model political and economic events and policies and monitor and evaluate their impact.

**INTA LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of the class you should be able to conduct a scientific analysis of an international policy, project or program. The class will focus specifically on empirical techniques for evaluating policies, projects and events in low-income developing countries. By the end of the semester, you will be proficient in the basic skills that are required to understand institutional environment within which policies and programs are implemented; collect and organize data for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating policy impacts, construct empirical research models designed to estimate policy impacts, write a research paper that summarizes your findings, present your findings in a professional manner.

**Related Learning Objective:** By the end of the class you are expected to have mastered three related skills:

1. The ability to understand the nature of a problem international relations or international economic development, collect primary or secondary data and use it to build an econometric model so as to monitor and evaluate the impact of a policy, program, or project.

2. The ability to write a proposal and construct a research design for an empirical investigation.

3. The ability to make a professional presentation of your research findings.

**Means of Assessment**

1. Students will be assessed on their ability to make formal presentations to class on key discussion topics related to international relations and development policy and issues.
2. Students will also be assessed on their ability to design an effective impact evaluation, collect data, and apply an econometric model to conduct empirical research. (Note: The class does not assume you have a working knowledge of econometrics econometrics.)
3. Students will also be assessed on their ability to write and present the findings and results of their research before an audience of their peers.

**At the end of the semester, students must demonstrate a satisfactory mastery of the following skills:**

1. Ability to make a persuasive and informative presentation.
2. Ability to perform well on several assigned econometric exercises using econometric software. The specific evaluation techniques students will master include the following: Ordinary least squared regression; Logistic Regression; Difference in Difference Analysis; Mixed Modeling Methods; and Two-stage Least Squares.
3. Successfully demonstrate the ability to conduct applied econometric research by preparing a research proposal, collecting data, designing a research methodology, writing a research paper, and presenting results before peers.

**Seminar Method**

The seminar method of teaching and learning will be used. Students are encouraged and expected to participate actively in all discussions. Respect for differences of opinions, beliefs, and political philosophies is a must.

**Class Reference Material:**

**Required:** Linda Morra-Imas and Ray Rist 2009 *The Road to Results: Designing and Constructing Effective Development Evaluations* (Washington DC: The World Bank) 582 pp. Available free at the World Bank website Open Knowledge Repository: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/2699>

2018 World Development Report: Learning to Realize Education’s Promise, World Bank Group, Download at <http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2018>

**Grading**

Grades will be based the following activities (1) Mid-term examination (30%); (2) Second Examination (25%); (3) Class Presentations (10%); (5) Exercises and assignments (10%); (6) Proposal for final research paper (5%) Final research paper and presentation (20%).

**Grading Scale**

The grading scale is as follows: A = 90% to 100%; B = 80% to 89.9%; C = 70% to 79.9%; D = 60% to 69.9%.

**Georgia Tech Honor Code will always be enforced. See** [*www.honor.gatech.edu*](http://www.honor.gatech.edu)*.”*

Unless informed otherwise, all assignments, examinations and presentations are to be accomplished independently

**Lectures Topics:**

**Topic #1 Introduction to the Course, Student Introductions, discussion of course objectives, overview of course material. -August 21**

**Topic # 2: The Challenges of Global Development**

**Where are we Now**

United Nations. World Bank, (2015) The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2014. Pp. 1 – 59 **– August 23 -Funke**

UN System Task Team (2012) Review of the Contributions of the MDG Agenda to Foster Development: Lessons for the Post-2015 Agenda – **Tues August 28**

**Where to next: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

Jeffrey D Sachs 2012. “From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals”. Lancet. Volume 379: pp2206 – 11. **Thursday Aug 30**

United Nations General Assembly, 21 October 2015. A/RES/70/1. 70th session, agenda items 15 and 16. Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015. “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” **Thursday Aug 30**

World Bank Group, World Development Report, 2012, Gender Equality and Development , Overview pp xx – 45 **Tues Sep 4**

**A Practical Application of SDGs and Evaluation-The Education Challenge**

**Note: All readings below are taken from the following document which should be downloaded electronically at no cost.** World Bank Group, 2018 World Development Report, Learning to Realize Education’s Promise.

Download at <http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2018>

**Overview:** Learning to Realize Education’s Promise pp 1 – 36, **Thurs Sept 6**

Chapter 1: Schooling, Learning and the Promise of Education PP 38 – 56, **Tues Sep 11**

Chapter 2: The Great Schooling Expansion-and Those Left behind, PP 58 – 70 **Thurs Sep 13**

Chapter 3: The Many Faces of the Learning Crisis, PP 71 – 90, **Tues Sep 18**

S**tudent Practical Exercise Thur. Sep 20**

**Education Data Exercise**

**Topic #3: The Importance of Measurement**

Chapter 4: 2018 World Development Report, Learning to Realize Education’s Promise.

To Take Learning Seriously Start by Measuring, PP 91 – 106 **(Tues Sep 25)**

Dani Rodik (2009) Diagnostic before Prescription, Journal of Economic Perspective **(Tues Sep 25)**

**Midterm Examination Tuesday October 2**

**Guidelines for writing research paper, Thursday October 4**

**Fall Break Tuesday Oct 9**

**Topic #4 Preparing to Conduct Empirical Research**

Note: All readings in this section from the following: Irra-Imas 2009 The Road to Results: Designing and Constructing Effective Development Evaluations: World Bank website or download free at Open Knowledge Repository:

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/2699>

Chapter 1: Introducing Development Evaluation: What Is Evaluation; Origins and History of Evaluation; The Development Evaluation Context; Why Conduct Evaluations? Thurs **October 11**

Op. Cit. Chapter 4, Understanding the Evaluation Context  **Thurs**  **October 11**

Op. Cit. Chapter 5. Considering the Evaluation Approach **Tuesday October 16**

Op. Cit. Chapter 7. Selecting Designs for Cause-and-Effect Relations **Tuesday October 16**

Op. Cit. Chapter 8. Selecting and Constructing Data Collection Instruments **Thurs October 18**

Op. Cit. Chapter 10. Planning for and Conducting Data Analysis **Thurs October 18**

**Topic # 5. Impact Evaluation Modeling**

Techniques to be mastered:

* Ordinary Least Squares Regression and practical exercise **Oct 23 & 25**
* Logistic Regression Analysis and practical exercise **Oct 30 & Nov 1**
* Difference in Difference Methods and the practical exercise **Nov 6 and Nov 8**

**Test #2 Take Home practical Data Exercise Issued Nov 8, due Nov 13**

**Topic #6. Research Design and Research Paper**

Research Topic and background info due **Nov 13**

Preliminary Literature Review and Bibliography due **Nov 15**

Preliminary Research Design and proposal due **Nov 20**

Submission and Presentation of Draft Final Paper takes place **Nov 27 & 29**

Submission of Final Research Paper **5:00pm Day of Final Exam**