In this course, we will use economic theory and analysis to aid our understanding of conditions in sub-Saharan Africa. We examine why developing countries in Africa face extreme poverty, high child mortality, low levels of education, poor health, and high levels of child labor and which policies, if any, might be effective in alleviating these problems. Emphasis will be placed on analyzing current economic issues and policies in their historical context. The course is organized around a series of broad questions, which will be explored with reference to particular societies. We will examine the historical roots of the current structure of African economies, the economic reform process, agricultural and industrial development, patterns of poverty and income distribution, health and education and international economic relations.

Prerequisites: Econ 102 and Econ 103. Econ 302 strongly recommended.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation:**
Grades will be based on the following:
- Map quiz on African geography (5%)
- 2 midterm exams (25% each)
- Final exam (45%)
- Each student is expected to be able to discuss the required readings assigned for each class.

**MAP QUIZ:** Wednesday, September 12 (in class)

**MIDTERM #1:** Monday, October 8 (in class)

**MIDTERM #2:** Wednesday, November 7 (in class)

**FINAL EXAM:** Saturday, December 15, 1:30-4:30 PM

**Readings**
Required course reader available in the Illini Union Bookstore.

**Recommended readings:**
Africa News and Development Blogs:
News:
BBC Africa: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/default.stm
All Africa: http://allafrica.com

Blogs:
http://blogs.worldbank.org/impactevaluations/
http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/
http://blogs.cgdev.org/globalhealth/
http://africacan.worldbank.org/
http://psdblog.worldbank.org/psdblog/
http://chrisblattman.com/
http://karengrepin.blogspot.com/
http://www.owen.org/
http://sahelblog.wordpress.com/
http://marcfbellemare.com/wordpress/

Class Schedule:
1: Introduction (8/27)

2-3: Economic Development Overview (8/29, 9/5)
Readings:
Debraj Ray, Development Economics, Chapter 1 & 2

MAP QUIZ: Wednesday, September 12 (in class)

4-6: Development Program Evaluation (9/10, 9/12, 9/19)
Readings:

7-9: Health and AIDS (9/24, 10/1, 10/3)
Readings:


MIDTERM #1: Monday, October 8 (in class)
11-12: Education and Human Capital (10/10, 10/15)
Readings:


13-16: Theories of Social Organization and Risk-Sharing (10/17, 10/22, 10/24, 10/29)
Readings:
Debraj Ray, Development Economics, Chapter 10.3 (only p.388-395), Chapter 11


Debraj Ray, Development Economics, Chapter 15.1, 15.2, 15.3.

17-18: Agriculture and Development (10/31, 11/5)
Readings:


MIDTERM #2: Wednesday, November 7 (in class)

20-22: States, Markets, and Structural Adjustment Programs (11/12, 11/14, 11/26)
Readings:

23: Civil Wars and Conflict (11/28)
Readings:

24-25: Trade Patterns and Liberalization (12/3, 12/5)
Readings:

26: Discussion of past African growth and future prospects (12/10)
Readings:


27: Final Exam Review Session (12/12)

FINAL EXAM: Saturday, December 15, 1:30-4:30 PM