# COURSE SYLLABUS

# AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL INSTITUTIONS

# Course optional

**Credits:** 3 ECTS

**Professor: Juan Carmona -** Email: [jucar@clio.uc3m.es](mailto:jucar@clio.uc3m.es)

Offfice & offices hours: 18.2.D06.

Class time & location: 18.1.A12

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

The fact that up to 80% of the active population is employed in agriculture makes the study of agrarian societies a key feature in development economics. This master's course explores the intricate web of rural societies, land dynamics, cooperative mechanisms, and sustainable development strategies. Topics encompass land tenure systems, cooperative models, microcredit, technological change, and market access. The course includes the problems associated with agricultural, and land policies, particularly land and tenancy reforms allowing a better understanding of the problems facing policy makers today. Additionally, the examination of gender bias, particularly regarding property rights in developing countries, the management of Natural Resources and the vulnerability of agricultural systems to the adverse effects of climate change are explored

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The course consists of 22 hours taught in 11 sessions of two hours. Students will be expected to assist all classes, having read the assigned 10 reading (s) so that they can participate in debates. Additionally, students will be responsible for delivering a **short class presentation** on the compulsory readings in groups of two. The presentation should last for 15 minutes, followed by 5 minutes of comments, and conclude with 3 questions for the class to engage in further debate. Students are expected to include a brief summary of the reading, identify the author's main question and its relevance to the ongoing discourse, discuss the chosen methodology, evidence, and data, present any potential criticisms, and conclude with three thought-provoking questions for the class to deliberate.

Students will be assigned to make a **class presentation** during the final session, in groups of three or four. This presentation should focus on a subject related to the program or involve a case study (refer to the four examples provided at the end of this document for guidance). Furthermore, students are expected to submit around **the 25 of May** a comprehensive 2,500 words essay (final exam) on one of the Sessions covered in the course. It is essential that students adhere to the fundamental guidelines for writing scientific papers and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the theoretical literature covered throughout the course.

**EVALUATION**

Presentations on Sessions 15%

Final presentation 30 %

Discussion 15 %

Long Essay 40 %

**PROGRAM**

**Session 1: Introduction to Rural Societies and Development**. **(07 march)**

a) The Moral Economy of the Peasant: a critique

b) The farmer and the state

**Required reading :**

Banerjee, A. V. and E. Duflo (2007). "The Economic Lives of the Poor." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* **21**(1): 141-167.

**Optional readings:**

Popkin, S. (1979). The Rational Peasant. The Political Economy of Rural Society in Vietnam. Berkeley, University of California.

Scott, J. C. (1998). Seeing like a State. New Haven, Yale, chpt. 7.

**Session 2: Land Tenure Systems. (13 march)**

a) Land rights, tenure security and agricultural development

b) Contract choice, state intervention and agrarian growth

**Required readings**

Fenske, James (2014), “Trees, tenure and conflict: Rubber in colonial Benin”, *Journal of Development Ecnoomics*, 110, 226-238.

**Optional readings:**

Alston, l. J., Harris, and Mueller. (2012). "The Development of Property Rights on Frontiers: Endowments, Norms, and Politics." Journal of Economic History 72: 741-770.

Bessley (1995), “Property rights and investment incentives: Theory and Evidence from Ghana”. Journal of Political Economy, 103-5, 903-937.

Platteau, Jean-Philippe (1996), “The Evolutionary Theory of Land Rights as Applied to Sub-Saharan Africa: A Critical Assessment”, Development Economics, 27, 29-86.

Feeny, David (1984), “The Development of Property Rights in land: A Comparative Study”, in Bates (Edit), *Toward a Political Economy of Development*, U.C.P, 272-99.

Hayami, Y. and Otsuka, K (1993), “Contract choice and Enforcement in an Agrarian Community. The Case of Upland Farming in Indonesia”, in Hayami and Otuska, The Economics of Contract Choice, Oxford,pp. 107-127.

**Session 3: Land Redistribution and Agrarian Reform (14 March)**

1. Why agrarian reform?
2. The state and the village: a case study

**Required reading:**

Griffin, Kachman & Ichowitz, (2002) "Poverty and the distribution of land." *Journal of Agrarian Change*: 302-321.

**Optional readings:**

Albertus, Diaz-Cayeros, Magaloni & Weingast,(2016), “Authoritarian Survival and Poverty Traps: Land Reform in Mexico” *World Development*, 77, 154-170.

Binswanger, H., Deininger, K. Feder, G. 1995. “Power, Distortion, Revolts, and Reform in Agricultural Land Relations”, *Handbook of Development Economics*, edited by Chenery H. and Srinivasan, T.N., Amsterdam: Elsevier, 3: 2659-2772.

Carmona & Simpson (2020), “The Limits to Land Reform”, in *Why Democracy Failed. The Agrarian Origins of the Spanish Civil War*, Cambridge, CUP.

Banerjee, Gertler and Ghatak (2002), “Empowerment and Efficiency: Tenancy Reform in West Bengal”, Journal of Political Economy, 110-2, 239-280.

Lipton, Michael (2009), *Land Reform in Developing Countries: Property Rights and Property Wrongs*, Routledge.

**Session 4. Agricultural Productivity and Technological change (20 March)**

a) Factors Affecting Agricultural Productivity in developing countries.

b) Mechanical and biological technologies. Barriers to technology adoption.

**Required reading:**

Paravil, Govindan (1992), The Green Revolution in India: A Case Study of Technological Change, *Technology and Culture*, 33-1, 737-56.

**Optional readings:**

Alston & Pardey (2014), Agriculture in the Global Economy, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 28-1, 121-146.

World Bank (2008), “Supporting smallholder competitiveness”, in *World Development report*. chapt 6.

Olmstead, A. L. and P. W. Rhode (2001). "Reshaping the Landscape: The Impact and Diffusion of the Tractor in American Agriculture, 1910-1960." *Journal of Economic History* **61**(3): 663-698.

**Session 5. Food Security in Rural Communities (21 March)**

1. Definition and dimensions of food security. Famines.
2. The consequences of food insecurity and malnutrition.

**Required readings:**

Sen, Amartya (1981), “Drought and Famine in the Sahel”, in *Poverty and Famine,* chapter 8, 13-130.

**Optional readings:**

Sen, Amartya (1981), *Poverty and Famine. An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*. Oxford, Clarendon Press.

Ray, Debraj (1998), “Poverty and Undernutrition”. In *Development Economics*, Princeton, Chapter 8.

Pinstrup-Andersen, Per (2009), Food security: definition and measurement, Food Security, 1:5-7.

Banerjee & Duflo (2011), *Poor Economics*, New York, chapter 2: A Billion Hungry People?, pp. 19-41.

**Session 6. Market Access and Value Chains in developing countries (04 april)**

1. Agricultural change and market integration. Farmers and commodity chains. Food regulation and industrial organization.
2. Regulating international commodity markets. Can fair trade be considered as a viable alternative?

**Required readings:.**

Bacon, Christopher (2005), “Confronting the Coffee Crisis: Can Fair Trade, Organic, and Speciality Coffees Reduce Small-Scale Farmer Vulnerability in Northern Nicaragua?”, *World Development*, 33-3, 497-511.

**Optional readings:**

Bates, Robert (1989), Beyond the miracle of the market. The political Economy of the Agrarian Development in Kenya, Cambridge University Press.

Bates, Robert (2005), Markets and States in Tropical Africa, U.Cal. Press., chapters 1-3.

Dragusanu, R, D.Giovannucci & N.Nunn (2014), “The Economics of Fair Trade”, Journal of Economic Perspective, 28(3), 217-36.

Ruben & Fort (2012), “The Impact of Fair Trade Certification for Coffee Farmers in Peru”, World Development, 40-3, 570-82.

Simpson, James (2004) “Selling to Reluctant Drinkers: the British Wine Market, 1860-1914”, Economic History Review, LVII, pp.80-108.

World Bank (2008), World Development report. Chapter 5, Bringing agriculture to the market.

**Session 7. Cooperatives and Rural Development (05 april)**

1. Farm cooperatives and collective action/ Farmers and commodity chains
2. Farm cooperatives and government market intervention

**Required reading:**

Bernard & Spielman (2009), Reaching the rural poor through rural producer organizations? A study of agricultural marketing cooperatives in Ethiopia. *Food Policy*, 34.

**Optional readings:**

Banerjee et alii (2001), Inequality, Control \_Rights, and Rent Seeking: Sugar cooperatives in Maharashtra”, Journal of Political Economy, 109-1.

Hoffman, E., & Gary D. Libecap. (1991). Institutional Choice and the Development of U.S. Agricultural Policies in the 1920s. The Journal of Economic History, 51, 397-411.

O'Rourke, K. (2007). "Culture, conflict and cooperation: Irish dairying before the Great War." *The Economic Journal* **117**(October): 1357-1379.

**Session 8. Rural Finance and Microcredit (17 april)**

1. Credit in agrarian economies.
2. Why is the impact of microcredit so limited?

**Required readings:**

Guinnane, T. (1994) “A Failed Institutional Transplant: Raiffeisen’s Credit Cooperatives in Ireland, 1894-1914”, *Explorations in Economic History*, **31**, pp.38-61;

**Optional readings:**

Banerjee, Duflo, Glennerster & Kinnan (2015), “The Miracle of Microfinance?”, American Economic Journal, 7, 22-53.

Page & Rohini (2018), “Ending global poverty: why Money isn’t enough”, Journal of Economic Perspective, 32-4, 173-200.

Breza & Kinnan (2018), “Measuring the equilibrium impact of credit: evidence form the Indian microfinance crisis”, NBER WP.

Arméndariz & Morduch (2005) The economics of microfinance, MIT Press, chapter 5, “Beyond Group Lending”, pp. 119-43.

**Session 9. Gender Inequality in Rural Societies (18 april)**

1. How does gender inequality impact food security? Property rights and gender bias.
2. What are the gender-specific challenges in agriculture and food production?

**Required reading:**

Quisumbing, Kumar & Behrman (2017), “Do shock affect men’s and women’s assets differently? Evidence from Bangladesh and Uganda”, *Development Policy Review*, 3-34.

**Optional readings:**

Quisumbing & Doss (2021), Gender in agriculture and food system, in *Handbook of Agricultural Economics*, vol.5, 4481-4549, especially part 4, 4510-4533. .

Sonia Bhalotra, Abhishek Chakravarty, Dilip Mookherjee & Francisco J. Pino (2019), Property Rights and Gender Bias: Evidence from Land Reform in West Bengal, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 2019, 11(2): 205–237.

Joireman, Sandra Fullerton. 2008. ‘‘The Mystery of Capital Formation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Women, Property Rights and Customary Law.’’ *World Developme*nt 36(7): 1233–46

Cheryl Doss and Agnes Quisumbing (2021) Gender, Household Behavior, and Rural Development. (Keijiro Otsuka and Shenggen Fan, Editors), *Agricultural Development: New Perspectives in a Changing World*. Washington, DC: chapter 15, pp. 503-528.

Agarwal, B., Anthwal, P. and Mahesh, M. (2021) ‘How Many and Which Women Own Land in India? Inter-gender and Intra-gender Gaps’, *The Journal of Development Studies*, 57(11), pp. 1807–1829.

**Session 10.** **Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management. (23 april)**

1. Social capital and common-pool resources (CPR)
2. Assessing the impact of climate change on agricultural productivity and its implications

**Optional readings:**

Sen, Amartya (1981), Poverty and Famine. An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation. Oxford, Clarendon Press.

Burguess & Donaldson (2010), Can Openness Mitigate the Effects of Weather Shocks? Evidence from India’s Famine Era, AER, 100-449-453.

FAO (2015) Climate change and food security: risks and responses. FAO.

Ostrom, E. and R. Gardner (1993). "Coping with Asymmetries in the Commons: Self Governing Irrigation Systems Can Work." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 7(4): 93-112.

Bardhan, Pranab (2005), Scarcity, Conflicts and Cooperation, MIT Press. Cchapter 11 .

Burguess & Donaldson (2010), Can Openness Mitigate the Effects of Weather Shocks? Evidence from India’s Famine Era, AER, 100-449-453.

Albert, Bustos & Ponticelli (2021), “The effects of climate change on labor and capital reallocation”, NBER working paper

FAO (2015) Climate change and food security: risks and responses. FAO.

McGuirk & Nunn (2023), Transhumant Pastoralism, Climate Change and Conflict in Africa, Review of Economic Studies, forthcoming.

**Session 11: Student presentations: Case studies. (30 april)**

Each group of 4/5 will have to present a case study based on one of the following subjects. I include for guidance 4 questions on each topic. I strongly suggest to add two or three more questions of your choice.

* **Land consolidation policies in developing countries..**
  + How do we explain the fragmentation and scattering of small landholdings?
  + What are the reasons why consolidation might need public intervention?
  + How does land consolidation impact access to land and land rights?
  + Do we have cases of successful land consolidation intervention and why?
* **Agriculture insurance for poor farmers .** 
  + While agricultural insurance is widely available in many countries, it's often less accessible to smaller and poorer farmers, why?
  + Some countries have implemented targeted programs to address these issues. Do you think public intervention is crucial to address this issue?
  + How does the provision of insurance differ between the agricultural and livestock sectors?
  + Do we have cases of successful targeted programs and why?
* **The impact of climate change in rural women and food security**
  + What are the specific challenges faced by women and men in relation to climate change and food security, and how can a gendered approach address them?
  + Do we need public intervention to address this question? Why?
  + How do different land ownership regimes affect this problem?
  + Do we have cases of successful targeted programs and why?
* **Collective action and the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices in developing countries.** 
  + What are the benefits of local collective action in promoting the adoption of sustainable soil management techniques among smallholder farmers?
  + What are the reasons why local collective actions might need public intervention?
  + How do different land ownership regimes affect this problem?
  + Do we have cases of successful targeted programs and why?