This course will focus mainly on the microeconomic fundamentals of economic development. We will study causes of poverty and underdevelopment, poverty measurement issues, and policies to improve wellbeing. We will concentrate on topics such as nutrition and health, education, labor markets, intra-household allocation of resources and policies to alleviate poverty. Empirical evidence from developing economies will be used extensively.

Requirements: this course requires the completion of 4 group assignments, and one individual in class final exam. The weights in the final grade are as follows:

Assignments 50%
Final 50%

Tentative Course Outline:

Class 1 Oct 3 Introduction -- Measuring Poverty
Class 2 Oct 10 Measuring Poverty & Determinants of Poverty
October 17 NO CLASS
Class 3 Oct 24 Fertility, Early Childhood, Education,
Class 4 Oct 25 Education & Provision of Education
Class 5 Oct 31 Nutrition, Labor Markets
Class 6 Nov 7 Health
Class 7 Nov 14 Intra-household Allocations & Child Labor
Class 8 Nov 21 Infrastructure
NO CLASS Nov 28 Thanksgiving
Class 9 Dec 5 Foreign Aid

FINAL Dec 9 Final Exam

Readings – All readings will be available at the CHALK course website: https://chalk.uchicago.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp
Material indicated with * are suggested readings

1. **Measuring Poverty**  
*How much poverty? Measurement difficulties*


2. **Determinants of Poverty**  
*Proximate Causes, Underlying Causes - Institutions, Geography*


3. **Fertility**


4. Investments in Human Capital

Early Childhood


Education and Income Generation


Resources and Outcomes


Provision of Education

5. Nutrition and Labor Markets


6. Investments in Health

Thomas, Duncan, Elizabeth Frankenberg et al. (2003). “Iron Deficiency and the Well-Being of Older Adults: Early Results from a Randomized Nutrition Intervention,” mimeo

Disease and Investments in Education


Economic Consequences of Illness and death


7. Intra-household Allocation


8. Child Labor


9. Infrastructure


10. Foreign Aid


