

Global Studies 298 Burkina Faso Study Abroad Spring 2016: The Face of Economic Development in Africa

Historically, public and media perception is that the prospects for economic development in Africa are bleak and discouraging. Take, for instance, this excerpt from a December 7, 2005 New York Times article entitled, “Amid Squalor, An Aid Army Marches to No Drum At All”:

“Since 1981, the United States Agency for International Development said in a troubling report in September, outsiders have sought to fix Malawi's ills through more than 20 economic adjustment programs devised by the World Bank and eight related loans from the International Monetary Fund. International charities poured in countless private dollars. Overseas development assistance -- foreign aid -- totals about \$35 per person, and makes up \$8 of every \$10 spent on economic development. Yet despite that, the report states, only Yemen, Ethiopia and Burundi have worse rates of chronic malnutrition than does Malawi, where 49 percent of all children are stunted. Moreover, that rate has not improved for 15 years. Malawi is now suffering through one of the worst hunger emergencies in Africa. The ostensible cause is drought. The real reason, however, is worsening poverty. Many of the 12 million or so people are now so poor that they have nothing to fall back on in good times, much less bad ones. By most appearances, neither legions of charity workers nor phalanxes of money-toting economic structural adjusters have done much except, perhaps, to prevent stunting among even more malnourished children. Why?”

However, a recent McKinsey Global Institute report, “Lions on the Move: The Progress and Potential of African Economies” (June 2010), seems to indicate the reality might be different:

“If recent trends continue, Africa will play an increasingly important role in the global economy. By 2040, Africa will be home to one in five of the planet's young people and will have the world's largest working-age population. Global executives and investors cannot afford to ignore the continent's immense potential. A strategy for Africa must be part of their long-term planning. Today the rate of return on foreign investment in Africa is higher than in any other developing region. Early entry into African economies provides opportunities to create markets, establish brands, shape industry structure, influence customer preferences, and establish long-term relationships. Business can help build the Africa of the future.”

Using these contrasting images as its basis, this course will focus on examining development issues and studying how individuals experience economic development in Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso shares many of the same challenges as Malawi (from the quote above) yet has immense potential. The main theme of the course will be how individuals respond to incentives. We will study policies that have succeeded, or failed, to offer the right incentives to individuals (whether in a household, a firm, a village, or a country) and examine the impact of these policy decisions.

Course Goals:

1. Investigate the complexity of Africa's development problems and examine the role of incentives in solving them.
2. Explore the variety of individual experiences in coping with globalization.
3. Challenge preconceived notions about the meaning of globalization and development and how it impacts Burkinabé individuals in particular.

These goals will be met by a combination of pre-trip lectures, readings (assembled in a course packet), and site visits in Burkina Faso.

Course Requirements:

1. Attend all lectures and site visits, participate fully in class discussions, and have completed all the required readings.
2. Keep a daily journal in Burkina Faso in which you will record what you observe in relation to the course themes and the readings. Answer 3 essay questions that will be distributed and collected during our time abroad.
3. Prepare a presentation on one of the assigned topics relating to Burkina Faso.

Course Evaluation:

Grades will be based on attendance and participation (40%), daily journal and essay questions (35%), and student presentation (25%).

Readings:

The course's required readings are linked off the course website and will be handed out to everyone at the first meeting and provide a background on economic development issues in Africa.

Recommended Travel Guide:

Burkina Faso: The Bradt Travel Guide (2nd edition came out in January 2012) is the only English-language travel guide exclusively about Burkina Faso and it's fantastic. Here is a quote from it:

"Burkina Faso flies under the radar of even the most adventurous of travelers. For us, this was its greatest strength. There is no 'checklist' tourism: as a result, wherever we went, and whatever we did, we were warmly welcomed, and able to share in the lives of the Burkinabé people. We found ourselves sleeping amid sand dunes listening to desert blues guitar and sharing home-made beer under the shade of mango trees. There are a thousand and one more adventures to be had here, and all of them stay long after the flight home."

On-campus meetings:

Meeting #1: Introduction, Logistics, and Course Overview

Meeting #2: Economic Development in Africa and Discussion of Development Program Evaluation

Required Readings:

Birrell, Iam. 2012. "Our Image of Africa is Hopelessly Obsolete." *The Guardian*. August 26, 2012.

Easterly, William. 2006. "The West Can't Save Africa" *Washington Post*, February 13, 2006.

Duflo, Esther, Rachel Glennerster, and Michael Kremer. 2006. "Using Randomization in Development Economics Research: A Toolkit." NBER Technical Working Paper No. 333 [http://www.nber.org/papers/t0333]

McKinsey Global Institute Report. 2010. "Lions on the Move: The Progress and Potential of African Economies"

Miguel, Edward. 2008. "Is It Africa's Turn?" NBER Economic Research on African Development Successes Conference. [http://bostonreview.net/BR33.3/miguel.php]

Recommended Readings:

Easterly, William. 2009. "Can the West Save Africa?" (<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14363>), *Journal of Economic Literature*, 47(2): 373-444.

Meeting #3: Student Presentations focused on economic, political, and historical issues related to economic development in Africa, with a specific focus on how these issues impact Burkina Faso

Meeting #4: Group dinner or African film

Development-related Blogs:

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/>

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/globalhealth/>

<http://africacan.worldbank.org/>

<http://psdblog.worldbank.org/psdblog/>

<http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com/>

<http://chrisblattman.com/>

<http://karengrepin.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.owen.org/>

<http://www.chinaafricarealstory.com>

<http://texasinafrica.blogspot.com>

Additional Recommended Readings:

Economic Development Overview

Banerjee, Abhijit and Esther Duflo. 2011. *Poor Economics*. Public Affairs Publishing.

Easterly, William. 2008. "Can the West Save Africa?" (<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14363>)

Radelet, Steven. 2010. *Emerging Africa: How 17 Countries are Leading the Way*. Brookings Institution Press.

Bloom, David E, and Jeffrey D Sachs. 1998. "Geography, Demography, and Economic Growth in Africa." *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, (2), 207-295.

Aker, Jenny and Isaac Mbiti. 2010. "Mobile Phones and Economic Development in Africa." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 24(3): 207-232.

Education and Human Capital

Akresh, Richard, Damien de Walque, and Harounan Kazianga. 2013. "Cash Transfers and Child Schooling: Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation of the Role of Conditionality" Working paper.

Pritchett, Lant and Rukmini Banerji. 2013. "Schooling is Not Education!" A Report of the Center for Global Development Study Group on Measuring Learning Outcomes.

Udry, Christopher. 2004. "Child Labor." Yale University, manuscript.

Social Organization

Fafchamps, Marcel. 1992. "Solidarity Networks in Preindustrial Societies: Rational Peasants with a Moral Economy." *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 41 (1), 147-176.

Trade Liberalization and Macro Development Policies

McMillan, Margaret, Dani Rodrik, and Karen Horn Welch. 2002. "When Economic Reform Goes Wrong: Cashews in Mozambique." *National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper*, 9117.

Goodnow, Cecelia. 2006. "Olympia Couple Uses their Shea-Butter Business to Build a Brighter Future for Togo." *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, September 7, 2006.

Agriculture and Development

Richards, P. 1985. *Indigenous Agricultural Revolution: Ecology and Food Production in West Africa*. London: Hutchinson. Chapters 1, 2, 6, and Conclusion.

Binswanger, Hans, John McIntire, and Christopher Udry. 1989. "Production Relations in Semi-Arid African Agriculture." Editor Pranab Bardhan, *The Economic Theory of Agrarian Institutions*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, pp. 122-144.

Health and Economic Development

Case, Anne C. 2002. "Health, Income and Economic Development." ed. B. Peskovic, and N. Stern, Annual World Bank Conference on Economic Development, 2001-2002. New York, Oxford University Press, pp. 221-241.

Cohen, Jessica and Pascaline Dupas. 2010. "Free Distribution or Cost-Sharing? Evidence from a Randomized Malaria Prevention Experiment." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 125(1): 1-45.

Lanjouw, Jean. 2002. "A Patent Policy Proposal for Global Diseases." ed. B. Peskovic, and N. Stern, Annual World Bank Conference on Economic Development 2001-2002. New York, Oxford University Press, pp. 189-209.

Glennerster, Rachel, and Michael Kremer. 2000. "A Better Way to Spur Medical Research and Development." *Regulation*, 23 (2), 34-39.

HIV/AIDS

Canning, David. 2006. "The Economics of HIV/AIDS in Low-Income Countries: The Case for Prevention." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 20(3), 121-142.

Thirumurthy, Harsha, Joshua Graff Zivin, and Markus Goldstein. 2008. "The Economic Impact of AIDS Treatment." *Journal of Human Resources*, 43(3): 511-552.

Institutions

Nunn, Nathan. 2008. "The Long-term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123(1): 139-176.

Civil Wars and Conflict

World Bank. 2003. "Chapter 1: Civil War as Development in Reverse." In *Breaking the Conflict Trap*, p13-32.

Annan, Jeannie and Christopher Blattman. 2010. "The Consequences of Child Soldiering." *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 92(4): 882-898.

Collier, Paul. 2009. "Development in Dangerous Places: A Forum on Global Poverty and Intervention." *Boston Review*, July 2009, online. (<http://new.bostonreview.net/BR34.4/collier.php>)

Micro-credit

Dehejia, Rajeev, Heather Montgomery, Jonathan Morduch. 2012. "Do Interest Rates Matter? Credit Demand in the Dhaka Slums." *Journal of Development Economics*, 97(2): 437-449.

Tentative Schedule in Burkina Faso (meetings/excursions subject to change):

Monday May 16, 2016-Monday May 30, 2016 (travel dates are tentative)

Monday, May 16, 2016

15:15 Arrive Chicago airport

18:15 Depart Chicago

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Lodging: Ouagadougou, Hotel l'ODE

Meals: Dinner (Ouagadougou)

20:30 Arrive in Ouaga

Transport to hotel

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Lodging: Ouagadougou, Hotel l'ODE

Meals: All meals (Ouagadougou)

7:00-11:30 Free time

(Me: buy program cell phone, get cash, buy mosquito nets, send camping cots to Houunde)

11:30 Internet café for students to email home

12:30-14:00 Lunch

15:00-17:00 Meeting with US Embassy (arrive at embassy at 14:30 for security/passport check)

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Lodging: Ouagadougou, Hotel l'ODE

Meals: Breakfast/Dinner (Ouagadougou), Lunch (PC site)

9:00-11:00 Meeting with women's shea butter production association, Songtaaba

12:00-13:30 Lunch

15:00-17:00 Meeting with IPA (Innovations for Poverty Action)

19:30 Dinner with IPA staff

Friday, May 20, 2016

Lodging: Ouagadougou, Hotel l'ODE

Meals: All meals (Ouagadougou)

9:00-11:00 Meeting with ISSP—Demography/Sociology Research Center at University of Ouaga

11:30-12:30 Lunch with ISSP faculty

13:00-16:00 University of Ouaga English club meeting

19:30 Dinner at with English Club Board of Directors

Saturday, May 21, 2016

Lodging: Bereba (Host families)

Meals: Breakfast (Ouagadougou), Lunch (Hounde) Dinner (Bereba)

8:00 Drive to Bereba

12:30 Lunch in Hounde

15:30 Installation with host families in Bereba village

19:00 Dinner with host family

Sunday, May 22, 2016

Lodging: Bereba (Host families)

Meals: All meals (Bereba)

7:00 Breakfast (with host family)

8:00-16:00 Community service project with University of Illinois students and local NGO Friends of African Village Libraries (FAVL)

12:00 Lunch in Hounde

19:00 Dinner with host family

Monday, May 23, 2016

Lodging: Bereba (Host families)

Meals: All meals (Bereba)

7:00 Breakfast (with host family)

9:00-12:00 Tour of village: Meet with village chief. Visit to cotton storage site. Visit to irrigation and dry season gardens, village market, village school/health clinic, taste local millet drink. Meet with local non-governmental organization FAVL that is involved in establishing and running libraries in rural villages. Meet with village librarian and students to discuss impact of library.

12:00 Lunch (with host family)

16:00 Traditional drumming/dancing

19:00 Group dinner with all UIUC students, host families, and FAVL

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Lodging: Gaoua, Hotel Hala

Meals: Breakfast (Hounde), Lunch (Diebougou), Dinner (Gaoua)

7:00 Depart Bereba

7:45 Breakfast (in Hounde)

8:30-10:00 Drive to Peace Corps site

10:00-14:00 Peace Corps site visits

14:00-15:30 Drive to Gaoua

19:30 Dinner

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Lodging: Gaoua, Hotel Hala

Meals: All meals (Gaoua)

7:00-16:00 Site visits with NGO Plan International (education sector and household economic security sector) At each site, meet with local villagers and leaders to discuss the impact of the program on their village

12:00 Lunch (in route or in Gaoua depending on site village locations)

19:30 Dinner

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Lodging: Banfora

Meals: Breakfast (Gaoua), Lunch (Banfora), Dinner (Banfora)

8:00 Drive to UNESCO World Heritage Site

9:00-11:00 Explore UNESCO site with guide

11:00-13:00 Drive to Banfora

13:00 Lunch Banfora

14:00 Afternoon free Banfora

19:30 Dinner

Friday, May 27, 2016

Lodging: Bobo-Dioulasso

Meals: Breakfast (Gaoua), Lunch (in route), Dinner (Ouaga)

7:30 Drive to Victoria's Secret village

9:00-12:00 Meeting with Victoria's Secret Women's Organic Cotton Cooperative

12:00-13:00 Drive to Bobo-Dioulasso

13:00 Lunch

15:00-17:00 Meeting with Muraz Centre (Health clinic) in Bobo

19:30 Dinner

Saturday, May 28, 2016

Lodging: Ouaga

Meals: Breakfast (Bobo), Lunch (in route), Dinner (Ouaga)

8:00-14:00 Drive to Ouaga

19:30 Dinner

Sunday, May 29, 2016

Free day in Ouaga

16:00 Meet at hotel l'ODE

17:00-19:30 Departure reception/farewell dinner

19:30 Transport to airport

22:30 Depart Ouaga

Monday, May 30, 2016

14:00 Arrival in Chicago

Hotel Contact Information:

If someone needs to get in touch with you for an emergency, they need to contact the University of Illinois Study Abroad office which has a 24/7 emergency number (217-333-6322). Ask to talk with Stacy Billman or Anna Fairbairn if it is during regular business hours or whichever person is on-duty if it is after hours.

Here is the hotel contact information, but keep in mind that no one at these hotels will speak English, so unless the person who is calling can speak French, it will not be helpful to call the hotel.

Ouagadougou:

Hotel l'ODE:

Phone: 226-50-36-34-66

Bereba Staying with Host Family: Limited cell phone coverage