EEP 260: WORLD FOOD, POPULATION & POVERTY (3 credits)
(Course web site: http://www.msu.edu/course/eep/260/)

Fall 2010
Tu-Th 8:30-9:50
116 Natural Sciences Building

Professor Rick Bernsten
Department of Agricultural Economics
Michigan State University

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
Description, analysis, and alternative solutions to food, population, and poverty problems, including the role of new technology, institutional change, government policies, trade, and foreign aid.

The course explores current concepts and issues related to world food, population, and poverty; and their interrelationship. The concepts presented provide students with an analytical framework for critically assessing these issues.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon successfully completing EEP 260, students should know key facts, issues, and concepts related to world food, population, and poverty, and be able to:

- discuss the interrelated causes of world food, population, and poverty problems,
- apply basic economic principles to analyzing world food, population, and poverty issues facing developing countries, and
- utilize the internet to retrieve information related to course topics.

III. COURSE CONDUCT
1. Classes will follow the lecture/discussion mode. Videos will supplement lectures and readings.

2. Class attendance is required. Select a seat by the third class period (September 10, Thursday) and sit in the same seat each day. You are responsible for arriving in class on time and signing the attendance sheet that will be circulated daily. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet after class, or you will be counted as absent.

3. Academic honesty. Academic dishonesty on papers, exams, or quizzes will result in a zero grade for that item. Academic dishonesty on an extra credit assignment will result in a reduction of your final grade by the percentage points value of the assignment.

4. For each course topic, you will be provided study questions for the reading and a lecture outline. Quiz and exam questions will be drawn from these materials and the videos.

5. To develop geographic literacy, students are expected to learn the location of the countries refereed to in class, the readings, and the videos (see the maps posted on the course www page).

IV. REQUIRED TEXTS AND OTHER MATERIALS
1. The Course Packet is available at Ned's Book Store (332-4200), across the street from the Union. Included is a list of readings for each topic. To pass the course, student must read the articles in the course packet.

2. Handouts will be distributed in class.

3. Students are encouraged to purchase a 6-month mail subscription to the Christian Science Monitor (26 issues for $13). The CSM is also available on-line at http://www.csmonitor.com/
V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Basic Requirements:
   
   **Readings.** All assigned readings are included in the Course Packet. You will be assigned 30-40 pages of readings course topic. Most of the readings are development-related articles that appeared in newspaper or were downloaded from the internet. To help you identify key points in each article, you will be given study questions for each assigned article. Readings quiz and exam questions will be drawn from the study questions.

   **Reading Quizzes.** During the semester, you will take approximately 10 ten-minute quizzes on the assigned readings. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and will cover the readings assigned for the coming week’s topic. Make-up quizzes will not be given to late or absent students. However, in computing your readings quiz average, your lowest grade will be dropped. If you miss 1 quiz, it will be counted as your lowest quiz grade. If you miss 2 or more quizzes, you will receive a zero for the second and subsequent missed quizzes.

   **Exams.** You will take two 80 minute exams and a final exam. The second exam will cover course material since the first exam and the final exam will cover the last one-third of the course. Exams will include multiple choice, essay, and short answer questions--based on the lecture notes, readings (study questions), and videos. You may only take a make-up exam if you e-mail me before the exam to explain why you will be absence; and present a medical excuse when you take the make-up exam. The grading scale is: 4.0 (92-100%), 3.5 (85-91), 3.0 (80-84), 2.5 (75-79), 2.0 (70-74), 1.5 (65-69), 1.0 (60-64).

   **International News.** All students must select a country (Brazil, Ghana, People’s Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Philippines, South Africa, Venezuela, or Zimbabwe) and follow the news about your country by viewing on the internet a newspaper from your selected country. You must select the country that you will follow on the WWW on September 10 (Thursday). Each Thursday at the end of class, you will be asked to update your classmates on the news in your country and turn in a copy of the news story that you have read. News stories submitted after class will not be accepted for credit.

   **Exploring Study Abroad Opportunities.** In late September, you will be given an assignment that requires you to identify a study abroad program in a DEVELOPING country in which you would like to participate, and gather information about the program, the country, and other information that you need to plan your study abroad experience. On Thursday, September 30, 12-6 pm, MSU will hold its Fall Study Abroad Fair (2nd floor of the MSU Union). Attending the Fair will give you a chance to explore programs offered by MSU. Alternatively, you can find a study abroad program that is advertised on the internet and report on that program. This assignment is due on October 5 (Tuesday).

   **Peace Corps Essay.** Following the December 1 (Tuesday) presentation by MSU’s Peace Corps recruiter, you will submit a 3 page typewritten essay answering the following questions: 1)What skills could you contribute as a Peace Corps volunteer? 2) What apprehensions or concerns do you have about joining the Peace Corps? 3) In which developing country would you most like to serve and why? 4) If Peace Corps accepted you, why would you accept or reject the offer? For this assignment, you will assume that you applied to join the Peace Corps and are being interviewed by the recruiter. This assignment is due on December 8 (Tuesday).

   **Class Participation.** You are expected to come to class prepared to contribute to class discussion. Attendance will be taken daily. Your class participation grade is based on both your attendance and your contribution to class discussion. Students who are absent for more than 20 percent of the scheduled classes will receive a failing grade for the course. To be counted as present, each day you must sign the attendance sheet.

2. Extra Credit Options

EEP 260 offers several opportunities for you to broaden your understanding of the topics covered and to raise your grade. You may select any or all of the following options. You must type all extra credit papers. Students who select any of the options discussed below must obtain a detailed description of the assignment from the course www site and follow the specific guidelines noted for each option.
Critical Book Review—Read a novel written by an author from a **DEVELOPING** country and write a critical review.

**Purpose.** Because third world novels typically depict the human side of development--the hopes, fears, and problems people face in their daily lives--they give a human context to the theories and statistics that make up much of the development debate. This assignment gives you an opportunity to learn how people in developing countries live and the struggles that they face each day.

**Possible Books.** A novel by an African, Asian, Latin American, or Caribbean author. See your instructors for suggestions.

**Requirements.** After reading the book, submit a 5-page, double-spaced review that includes: 1) a summary of the book (e.g., setting, main characters, plot, authors purpose), 2) your assessment of the book, 3) a discussion of major "development-related" problems the characters faced, and 4) your assessment of policies/programs needed to solve these problems.

**Due Dates.** After selecting a book, you must complete and return to me the "Indication of Interest: Critical Book Review" form by September 17 (Thursday). Critical Book Reviews are due November 12 (Thursday).

**Credit.** This option is worth a **maximum of an additional 5%** on your final grade.

Development Interview—Interview a MSU **GRADUATE** student from a **DEVELOPING** country and write a report.

**Purpose.** International students from many different countries attend MSU. This assignment gives you an opportunity to learn first hand about a developing country from a MSU graduate student.

**Possible Students/Countries.** Any GRADUATE student from a DEVELOPING country in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, or the Middle East. See me for help in identifying a student to interview.

**Requirements.** Based on the interview, submit a 5-page, double-spaced report that discusses: 1) the general characteristics of the country, 2) major changes in the country during the past 10 years, including successes in increasing food production, reducing population growth, and reducing poverty, 3) the most important problems facing the country, and 4) prospects for--and constraints to--solving the country's food, population, and poverty problems.

**Due Dates.** If you wish to do a Development interview, you must complete and return to me the "Indication of Interest: Development Interview" form by September 17 (Thursday). Interviews are due on November 12 (Thursday).

**Credit.** This option is worth a **maximum of an additional 3%** on your final grade.

Development Seminars—Attend up to 3 campus seminars on development-related topics.

**Purpose.** Campus seminars cover a wide range of development topics. This assignment gives you an opportunity to learn more about development issues that are of particular interest to you.

**Possible Seminars.** Weekly seminars--sponsored by the African, Latin American, and Asian Studies Center, CASID, CIBER and academic departments--will be announced in class.

**Requirements.** Attend a development-related seminar and submit a 2-page double-spaced Seminar Report in which you: 1) summarize the seminar, 2) discuss the presenter's approach, and 2) discuss insights you gained by attending the seminar.

**Due Dates.** Seminar Reports are due no later than 2 weeks after the seminar is held.

**Credit.** This option is worth a **maximum of an additional 1%** on your final grade for each seminar you attend. You may submit 3 Seminar Reports for extra credit.

3. **Honors Option**

Students in the Honors College may do a research paper to meet their Honors Option requirement (see the course **www page** for information about the Honors Option). If you wish to do the Honors Option, please see me during the second week of class. Students who select the Honors Option must turn in your Honors Proposal by September 24 (Thursday). Honors research papers are due December 3 (Thursday).
VII. COURSE GRADING

Your course grade will be based on the grades you earn on exams, readings quizzes, Exploring Study Abroad, the Peace Corps Essay, News on the Internet, and class participation—plus extra credit assignments that you complete. Students who complete all assignments, tests, and quizzes; and participate in class should expect no less than a 2.5. To improve your grade, take advantage of one or more of the extra credit options.

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<tr>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Grade Weights</th>
<th>Date/Date Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10/12 (Tuesday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>11/10 (Tuesday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12/17 (Friday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exploring Study Abroad</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10/5 (Tuesday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>News on the www</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Weekly (every Thursday)</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peace Corps Essay</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>12/8 (Tuesday)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Extra Credit Options</th>
<th>Grade Weights</th>
<th>Date/Date Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indication of Interest Form</td>
<td>5% maximum</td>
<td>9/17 (Thursday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Book Review</td>
<td>3% maximum</td>
<td>11/12 (Thursday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development Interview</td>
<td>3% maximum</td>
<td>11/12 (Thursday)</td>
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<td>Development Seminars</td>
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<td>Within 2 weeks after the seminar</td>
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VII. COURSE PERSONNEL

You are encouraged to make appointments with your instructor to discuss course concepts, reading assignments, extra credit projects, or to just chat about the course.

Rick Bernsten, Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics. Rick served in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone and has worked in Belize, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, the Philippines, Senegal, Zimbabwe, and Central Asia.

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Byron Reyes, Grader. Byron, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics. Byron is from Ecuador.

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Grade Requirement Notice for ABM and FIM Majors

All ABM and FIM majors are required to complete this course with a grade of 2.0 or higher. Students in these majors who do not achieve a grade of at least 2.0 will be required to repeat this course. Students with questions about this requirement should contact the ABM/FIM academic advisor.