

**Syllabus
Econ 490A
La Ceiba
University of Mary Washington**

Fall 2013 TR 12:30 – 1:45 1004 College Avenue

Instructor: Dr. Shawn Humphrey

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Office Hours: TR from 4:15 pm – 6:15 pm.

Required Texts:

Seth Godin “Linchpin: Are You Indispensable?”

Daryl Collins, Jonathan Murdoch, Stuart Rutherford, and Orlanda Ruthven “Portfolios of the Poor: How the World’s Poor Live on \$2 a Day”

Ruth Stark “How to Work in Someone Else’s Country”

Steven Pressfield “Do the Work”

Steven Pressfield “The War of Art”

Tim Ferris “40 Hour Work Week”

Additional Readings can be found on Dropbox.

Course Requirements:

Progress Reports: Students will be organized around Team Projects (see Dropbox for *Projects Overview*). Three progress reports will be submitted detailing the team’s progress on their respective projects. See Dropbox for the *Progress Report Overview*

Blog: A blog will be utilized throughout the semester to facilitate discussion of course readings and among the various project teams. See Dropbox for *Blog Overview*.

Team Project Presentation: On four occasions throughout the semester a Project Team will present to the class regarding their progress. See Dropbox *Team Project Presentation-Overview*.

Fieldwork Preparation: Each team will be responsible for preparing a list of tasks and materials needed to complete their projects in Honduras. The materials needed must be gathered and presented to the class during the last week of the semester. See Dropbox for *Fieldwork Preparation Overview*.

Individual Meeting Times: We will be working on five projects throughout the semester. I will set up a time outside of our regular schedule to meet with at least one project representative every two weeks.

Grading:

Progress Reports	30	points
Blog	25	points
Team Project Presentation	20	points
Fieldwork Preparation	10	points
Total:	75	points

Final Grades: (Your Score/75)

A	=	93 – 100%
A -	=	90 – 92 %
B +	=	87 – 89%
B	=	83 – 86%
B -	=	80 – 82%
C +	=	77 – 79%
C	=	73 – 76%
C -	=	70 – 72%
D +	=	67 – 69%
D	=	60 – 66%
F	=	< 60%

Course Objectives:

1. Provide students the opportunity to:
 - A. Lead without clear delegated authority
 - B. Present and articulate an idea in multiple forms before a group
 - C. Research, design, implement, and evaluate a team project
 - D. Gain experiential wisdom in microfinance, economic development and non-profit management
 - E. Feel the consequences of their choices

Other Course Objectives:

1. Students will be able to apply what was learned in coursework to new scenarios outside standard university courses
2. Students will be able to identify their personal values and learning goals and direct themselves by creating personalized learning experiences that may include alternative means of learning
3. Students will be able to clarify and refine their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses in content of relevant disciplines and in skills such as time management, organization, professionalism, and so forth
4. Students will be able to recognize their knowledge and lack of knowledge
5. Students will be able to connect their undergraduate experiences and their post-graduation lives

Course Policies: See Dropbox for *Student Expectations* documents

1. No open lap tops during group discussions
2. No phones
3. Punctual with respect to coming to class and turning in assignments and replying to emails

Course Structure

1. Project Teams

A. Students enrolled in the course are organized into the following teams:

- i. Loans
- ii. Esfuerzo de Amor
- iii. Education

B. Each team has a list of objectives to be accomplished over the course of the semester. Some of those objectives include the continuation and improvement of past programs. Other objectives include the introduction of new programs. Successful completion of these tasks requires:

- i. Exhaustive research in academic journals.
- ii. Comparative analysis of similar programs implemented by other organizations.
- iii. Detailed design of a program that works for our clients.
- iv. Implementation of their Program

C. During class meetings, we meet as a group and then break out into teams. As a group, we review course readings and receive weekly updates from various teams on their progress. As teams, we continue to make progress on our assigned tasks.

i. Course meetings on T are reserved for:

- a. Covering various readings and Team issues
- b. Bringing together all LC related materials
- c. Reviewing “To Do List” for the week
- d. Breaking out into individual teams to continue progress on team projects.

ii. Course meetings on R are reserved for:

a. Team Project Presentations
b. A Team presents to the entire group for 15-20 minutes. Then the Project team meets individually for 10 minutes with each of the other teams to field questions and provide additional information. Then we come back together for the last 20 minutes for any group discussion.

D. Project Teams meet individually with the instructor outside of class (every two weeks).

Course Readings:

Illich “To Hell with Good Intentions”

King – “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knFojb020bY>

Godin “Linchpin: Are You Indispensable?”

Gawande “The Checklist”

Pressfield “Do the Work”

Pressfield “War of Art”

Ferris “40 hour Workweek”

J - Tales from the Hood “American Culture 102”

J - Tales from the Hood “Honesty 101- What We Get”

J – Tales from the Hood “Aid Myths: The Myth of the Win-Win

J – Tales from the Hood “Not Strings Attached”

Datar “Clients Must Come First”

Dunford “Microfinance: a Means to What End?”

Lewis “Storm Warnings from International Microfinance”

J – Tales from the Hood “Confronting the Demons of Ethnocentrism”

J - Tales from the Hood “Our Own Kind”

J – Tales from the Hood “Between Arrogance and Defeat”
Edwards “The Irrelevance of Development Studies” (pp. 116-28)

Ruth Stark “How to Work in Someone Else’s Country”

Assignments Schedule (*Subject to Change*):

R 08/29: Blog Entry #1 is due: Why am I here?
T 09/03: Blog Entry #2 is due: Who is La Ceiba?
T 09/10: Blog Entry #3 is due: Illich or MLK?
R 09/12: Blog Entry #4: Are you a Linchpin?
R 09/26: Progress Report #1 Due
R 09/26: Team Presentation: Loans
T 10/01: Review Progress Report #1
R 10/04: Team Presentation: Education
R 10/10: Team Presentation: EDA
T 10/15: Fall Break (No Class): Letter of Evaluation
R 10/31: Progress Report #2 Due
R 10/31: Team Presentation: Loan
T 11/05: Review Progress Report #2
R 11/07: Team Presentation: Education
R 11/14: Team Presentation: EDA
T 11/26: Fieldwork Preparation Due
12/15 (12-2:30): Team Project Presentations

Team Meeting Schedule (Outside of Class)

Meetings will occur every two weeks on Tuesday during office hours (4:15-6:15). Expect 15 minutes.

Loans Team:

9/10
9/24
10/08
10/22
11/05
11/27

Education and EDA Teams:

9/17
10/01
10/29
11/12
12/03