COURSE TITLE: Social Economics
COURSE CODE: ECON 3002
LEVEL: 3
SEMESTER: 2
NO. OF CREDITS: 3
PRE-REQUISITE(S): ECON 2002 and ECON 2003

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name of instructor(s): Mr. Roger Mc Lean
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Office hours: Wednesday 3- 5pm
Preferred method of contact: Face to face during office hours
COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to give students a feel for the “economics” around the key social challenges faced by developing counties in general and Caribbean territories in particular. It focuses on the applying the tools of economic analysis to such areas as Poverty alleviation, Equity, Unemployment, Health, Gender, Demographic change and Social Policy response. Social Economics, in addressing these areas, adopts a holistic approach and one that is skewed toward the normative and historical side of Economics.

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

Social Economics exposes students to different view of the discipline. It exposes students to a different understanding of economic issues in general and the economics around key social issues specifically. Through this course, students will be given a thorough understanding of how social issues can be analyzed from an economic perspective.

The course is designed for students reading B. Sc. Economics programs.

CONTENT

This course is structured around three aspects of the economics of social sector issues. These aspects are labeled: Introduction, Rationale and Response.

1. Under Introduction the following topics are addressed:
   1.1 Definition of Social Economics
   1.2 Genesis of Social Economics
   1.3 Key tenor of Social Economics

2. Under Rationale the following topics are addressed:
   2.1 Growth and Unemployment
   2.2 Unemployment and Poverty
   2.3 Poverty and Equity
   2.4 Demographic and Related Transitions in the Midst of New Threats
   2.5 Vulnerability and Volatility in Small Island States
   2.6 Crime and its Socio-economic implications
3. Under *Response* the following topics are addressed:
   3.1 The Social Policy Response
   3.2 Health and Development
   3.3 Gender and Development
   3.4 The Fiscal Response

Each of these areas raises important economic questions and the course will explore both the theoretical and policy dimensions of these questions.

**GOALS/AIMS**

The goal of this course is to build an understanding of the philosophical underpinnings of Social Economics and the importance of the key issues of the course to the achievement of sustainable growth and development of Caribbean economies among our students.

**GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

This course seeks to expose students to the required tools and approaches that will provide them with the ability to:

1. Assess the economic dimensions of the key social challenges that are faced by small island territories;
2. Identify the factors that are central to these social challenges; and
3. Identify the key policy requirements for addressing these challenges that will ultimately achieve a sustainable path to development.
OBJECTIVES FOR BROAD SECTIONS

At the end of section 1, Introduction, students must be able to:

• Have a clear understanding of the genesis of Social Economics,
• Understand and identify the philosophical underpinnings of Social Economics and the issues that are central to the area

At the end of section 2, Rationale, students must be able to:

• Identify the key social challenges faced by SIDS of the Caribbean that are linked to areas that include Unemployment, Poverty, Demographic and Related Transitions and Crime; and
• Identify the inter-relatedness of these challenges by analyzing the trends associated with these social “ills”.

At the end of section 3, Response, students must be able to:

• Identify the theoretical framework behind the provision of support to vulnerable segments of society and highlight, through empirical evidence, the lessons to be learnt in the administering of such programmes that are applicable to the Caribbean context;
• Identify the relationship between health and development using this to identify and critically evaluate this sector’s response in the Caribbean and the economic implications of the response to date; and
• Identify the relationship between gender and development using this to identify and critically evaluate the response to key gender related issues in the Caribbean and the economic implications of the response to date.
• Identify and critically evaluate the reform initiatives that have been articulated looking specifically at Social Sector Reform, Fiscal Reform and Health Sector Reform in the Caribbean;
• Clearly outline the key prerequisites for the successful implementation of such reforms as a means of addressing the challenges faced by SIDS; and
• Provide a review of Social Policies in the Caribbean and Identify, based on a review of the policies, the key requirements for the successful creation and implementation such policies in the Caribbean
COURSE ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed by means of a course work assignment, which accounts for 20% of the full mark and a final exam which accounts for the remaining 80% of the total mark.

The coursework assignment will take the form of a group project. These group projects are to be presented to a panel headed by the course lecturer and comprising lecturers, and other specialists in the field. One quarter of the coursework mark will be based on the presentation of the group research project.

The Final Examination will take place at the end of the semester and will entail a two (2) hour paper. Students will be required to answer three (3) questions, one of which will be compulsory. The examination will cover all areas of the course.

Both the course work assignment and the final examination will be assessed on the basis of the course objectives outlined above.

POLICIES TO NOTE

General Examination Regulation

19. Any candidate who has been absent from the University for a prolonged period during the teaching of a particular course for any reason other than illness or whose attendance at prescribed lectures, classes, practical classes, tutorials, or clinical instructions has been unsatisfactory or who has failed to submit essays or other exercises set by his/her teachers, may be debarred by the relevant Academic Board, on the recommendation of the relevant Faculty Board, from taking any University examinations. The procedures to be used shall be prescribed in Faculty Regulations.

Cheating

97. (i) Cheating shall constitute a major offence under these regulations.
(ii) Cheating is any attempt to benefit one’s self or another by deceit or fraud.
(iii) Plagiarism is a form of cheating.
(iv) Plagiarism is the unauthorized and/or unacknowledged use of another person’s intellectual effort and creations howsoever recorded, including whether formally published or in manuscript or in typescript or other printed or electronically presented form and includes taking passages, ideas or structures from another work or author without proper and unequivocal attribution of such source(s), using the conventions for attributions or citing used in this University.
EVALUATION

The tutorial sessions as well as the lecturer’s office hours are provided as the avenues through which students are urged to give feedback about the various topics covered during the Course. Meetings with the lecturer outside of office hours can be arranged by contacting the Department of Economics or via email to the lecturer or Course Tutor(s).

TEACHING STRATEGIES

The course will be delivered through two hours of formal lectures and one hour of tutorials per week. The course will also include guest lectures from experts in a number of the subject areas identified in the outline. Students are urged to participate fully during these guest lectures.

Students are required to attend all lecture discussions hosted by the Department, Faculty or wider University related to the subject areas covered in the course. Students will be informed of these lecture discussions as they arise.

HOW TO STUDY FOR THIS COURSE

It is strongly suggested that students cover the required readings for this course and prepare the questions listed in the tutorial for presentation. This will ensure that both the lecturer and the assigned teaching assistant are in a better position to evaluate and assess the quality of analytical and writing competency of the student and advise accordingly.

COURSE CALENDAR

SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction: Social Economics - Its Genesis and Foundations


SECTION TWO: RATIONALE

2.1 Growth and Unemployment: A Case of Misplaced Faith


2.2 Unemployment and Poverty: The Terrible Twins


2.3 Poverty and Equity: The Substance of Development

Renata Lok-Dessallien. Review of Poverty Concepts and Indicators. UNDP


Sanjay G. Reddy1 and Thomas W. Pogge2. How Not To Count The Poor. October 3rd, 2005


2.4 Demographic and related Transitions in the Midst of New Threats


Camara, Bilali, Shelton Nicholls, Roger Mc. Lean, Ralph Henry et al. Modelling and Projecting HIV and its economic impact in the Caribbean: the experience of Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, Summary Report. 1997


2.5 **Vulnerability and volatility in Small States**


2.6 **Crime and its Socio-Economic Implications**


Dills, Angela, Jeffrey Miron, and Garret Summers (2007),”What do Economists Know about Crime?” mimeo, Harvard University.


McElroy, Jerome L.and Andrea J. Roccanti. Crime in the Caribbean: Provisional Evidence


SECTION THREE: THE RESPONSE

3.1 The Social Policy Response


3.2 Health and Development – Response & Reform Initiatives

Cumper, George. “Economic Development, Health Services and Health.”


Dean Jamison et al (Eds). Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries (2nd Edition). World Bank

Report on Caribbean Commission on Health and Development. PAHO/CARICOM, 2006. (Relevant Chapters)


Theodore, Karl. 1998. “Health Financing and Health Reform in the Caribbean: Where do we go from here?” Health Economics Unit, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Thomason, Jane. 1999. “Health Sector Reform in Developing Countries: A Reality Check.” Australian Centre for International and Tropical Health and Nutrition. Australia.


3.3 Gender and Development


UNECLAC/CDCC. 2000. “A Study of Gender Mainstreaming in the Caribbean.” UNECLAC.


3.4 Fiscal Response


