

## **Middlebury College Poverty-Related Courses**

The following is a sample list of courses that explore aspects of poverty. Please refer to the course catalogue to find when these courses are offered.

### **ECON 0325 Economic Development: Theory and Practice (Not offered 2007-08)**

This course will examine why some developing countries attain their goals and others do not. It will try to identify the factors that contribute to, or impede, the development process. By examining current data and applying economic theory, it will access suggested causes of and remedies for poverty, population pressure, unemployment, rural stagnation, and educational deficits. It will consider the roles of foreign trade, investment, and debt in the context of an interrelated world economy. It will also suggest roles to be played by the industrialized countries and international organizations in promoting economic development in the third world.

### **ECON 0330 Urban Economics (Fall)**

How and why do cities form? Why do people live in the suburbs and commute to the Central Business District? Why do tech industries want to locate right next to each other in Silicon Valley? Are toll roads just there to annoy us, or is there some economic rationale for them? This course combines economic theory and empirical evidence to provide an overview of the forces beyond our spatial organization as well as a survey of urban problems relating to land use, traffic, housing, and racial segregation. (ECON 0155) 3 hrs. lect. SOC (C. Myers)

### **ECON 0401 Poverty, Inequality and Distributive Justice (Fall)**

This seminar will explore recent theoretical and empirical research on socioeconomic inequality. The definitions, causes and consequences of inequality at both the individual (micro) and national and international (macro) levels will be considered. (ECON 0211 and ECON 0255) 3 hrs. sem. (P. Matthews)

### **ECON 0425 Seminar on Economic Development (Fall)**

Much of the world still faces the daily pain of poverty. Developing countries have to accelerate their growth rates, eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, address environmental concerns, and create productive employment. We examine the major analytic and policy issues raised by these challenges and study the need for a productive balance between market forces and positive state action. With the help of case studies from Asia, Latin America, and Africa, we focus on different development strategies adopted, the choice of policy instruments, and methods of implementation. (ECON 0250 or ECON 0255; or by approval) 3 hrs. sem. (Staff)

### **ECON 0480 Labor Economics (Fall, Spring)**

This seminar will explore the economics of labor markets from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. Topics covered include: labor force participation, wage determination, welfare and minimum wage policies, education and on-the-job training, compensating differentials, dual labor markets, inequality and discrimination, unions,

immigration, employment relations, and household bargaining. (ECON 0255 required; ECON 0211 strongly recommended) 3 hrs. sem. (Fall: C. Myers; Spring P. Matthews)

**GEOG 0212 Urban Geography (Fall)**

Urban landscapes are the expression of economic, political, and socio-cultural processes layered on top of each other in particular time-space contexts. In this course, students will theoretically and empirically examine the complex and dynamic urban landscape.

Students will gain a theoretical understanding of the location of cities within a larger global economic system of cities, along with the internal organization of economic, cultural, and social functions within cities. We will also examine the processes behind contemporary urban issues such as homelessness, boosterism, urban renewal, gentrification, poverty, and crime. 3 hrs. lect. **SOC NOR** (P. Nelson)

**GEOG 0213 Population Geography (Fall)**

Through a combination of lectures, readings, and exercises, this course provides background and analytical experience in the spatial dimensions of population dynamics. Students will theoretically and empirically examine geographic variations in natural increase, domestic and international migration, infant mortality, disease, and hunger. Topics will include the intersection of settlement-environment-disease, circular migration systems, cultural influences on demographic processes, and linkages between international and domestic migration flows. We will also assess various policy options and their effectiveness in addressing important demographic issues. The exercises will expose students to the vast amount of population data publicly available and introduce them to techniques used to examine and assess population related issues. **SOC DED NOR** (P. Nelson)

**PSCI 0465 City Politics (Not offered 2007-08)**

Cities have always been central to political life in the United States, but scholars disagree over how power is distributed in cities, which groups exercise the most authority, how cities relate to their economic and political environments, and whether it is legitimate to view cities as microcosms of state or national politics. We will consider these general debates as we read major works on U.S. urban politics, addressing issues such as racial and ethnic politics, immigration, suburbanization, and cities' positions in the global economy. (One course in American politics.) 3 hrs. sem.

**PSYC 0230 Psychology and Work: An Introduction to Industrial/Organizational Psychology (Spring)**

Students will learn how psychology is applied in industry and business settings. In particular, we will examine the psychological assessments used in hiring, evaluating, and training employees; issues involving harassment at work; organizational attitudes and behavior; and employee satisfaction, stress and well being, work motivation, and leadership. Students will design a structured interview and perform job analysis, read empirical research, and address the basic issues of validity in work assessments. (PSYC 0105; open to seniors by waiver only) 3 hrs. lect./1 hr. disc. **SOC** (M. McCauley)

**SOAN 0235 The City and Its People (CW 5) (Fall)**

We all live somewhere, and increasingly we find ourselves living in an urban environment. In this course we will explore current topics in urban sociology, with particular emphasis on the power of place, culture, and community in U.S. cities. We will study the historical, cultural, and political conditions that have shaped contemporary U.S. cities, such as New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles. We will examine how cities change and resist change through the lens of such subjects as migration, poverty, urban arts, crime, and education as it pertains to the city. Students will read a variety of ethnographic and sociological materials, in order to gain an understanding of the complexities of both urban life and processes of representation. Limited places available for students to satisfy the College writing requirement. 3 hrs. lect./disc. **SOC NOR** (L. Owens)

**SOAN 0387 Medical Anthropology: Approaches to Affliction and Healing (Spring)**

This course explores personal, bodily, and social dimensions of human suffering and well-being through cross-cultural ethnographic research. Using studies of chronic illness, gendered violence, witchcraft, and multiple personality and spirit possession, we will examine how experiences such as pain, madness, and contagion are produced and understood. We will compare the constitution of the body and the person in disparate healing practices, from biomedical analytics and pharmaceuticals to "biological citizenship" after Chernobyl. We will also consider the impact of systemic inequalities, social movements, and population sciences on health and illness worldwide, through studies of child survival, urban poverty, new reproductive orders, and international responses to AIDS and emerging infectious diseases. (SOAN 0103 or SOAN 0159 recommended). 3 hrs. lect./disc. **SOC CMP** (D. Napier)

**SOAN 0326 Latin American Culture and Society (Not offered 2007-08)**

Latin America is a paradise for cultural anthropologists because, with its long history of invasion and cultural hybridization, it is a meeting ground for people from all over the world. This course looks at how the Americas south of the Rio Grande have been symbolized, constructed and contested in debates over national character, the culture of poverty, and dependency on foreign powers. Case material includes peasants, shantytown dwellers, immigrants to the U.S. and the iconic figures of the Vodoun healer, pop star, druglord and guerrillero. Topics include the polarities of identity along the U.S.-Mexican border, African possession cults of the Caribbean, the requirements of survival for the poor of the Brazilian Northeast, the hegemony of "whiteness" in the mass media, and the frustrated messianic strivings of revolutionary Cuba. (0200-level course on Latin America. This course is primarily for students doing study abroad in the region.) (SOAN 0103 or SOAN 0340 or HIST 0285 or HIST 0286 or ECON 0225 or PSCI 0223 or PSCI 0230) 3 hrs. lect./disc., 2 hrs. screen **SOC AAL**

**SOAN 0418 Poverty and Public Policy (Not offered 2007-08)**

This course will explore the nature, extent, demographics, and causes of contemporary poverty, as well as the major policy and program responses to poverty. The course will begin by considering competing definitions of poverty. It will then explore the

composition of the poor, the dynamics of poverty, trends over time and major explanations for poverty in our affluent nation. Finally, the course will examine the various programs and policies meant to alleviate poverty and its consequences, such as government transfer programs, education and training programs, support services, and community and neighborhood development, and education reform strategies. (SOAN 0103 or SOAN 0105 or any SOAN 0200-level or any SOAN 0300-level course.) 3 hrs. sem.