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Office Hours: MW 12-2; F 12:00  
Tuesday (after class)

**Economics 2952**  
**Current Issues: Developing Countries**  
**Spring 2005**  
Tuesdays, 12-1:40  
Room EA 237

**Course Description**

This course will examine the economics of many developing countries, from Colonialism to present, with special emphasis on the Latin American countries of Peru and Argentina. Current financial status in these countries will be scrutinized through an in-depth look at their monetary/fiscal policy and political stability. The course will also address the eco-economy and its relationship to tourism as an integral part of the Gross Domestic Product of these countries. Prereq: College-level reading.

**Required Readings:**

The Kimchi Matters, by Marvin Zonis, Dan Lefkovitz, and Sam Wilkin. 2003 Agate Publishing.

The Other Path, the Economic Answer to Terrorism, by Hernando DeSoto. 1989 Basic Books.

**Objectives**

The students will:

- Explain the past and current economic conditions of the countries studied, using GDP per capita data, unemployment figures, inflation/recession data and other economic indicators
- Gain a knowledge of Colonialism (Peru) and Peronism (Argentina) and the effects on today's economy in each country
- Develop a background of "The Missing" in Argentina, with awareness of its origins and its long-term effects
- Understand how political and economic power have disrupted public goods, including education in developing countries
- Define and explain the exchange rates used by each country, along with effects of devaluation
- Discuss the effects of the trade agreement(s) currently used and those being proposed in countries studied
- Relate the effect of preservation of the eco-economy as related to tourism sites and the well-being economies in countries studied
- Gain a knowledge of the positions of the studied countries with the IMF and the World Bank and how these positions affect the world economy
- Understand the role of the United States in the IMF and World Bank

## Policy Statements:

- Attendance is required! More than one absence will affect your grade. See grading sheet.
- Promptness is expected! If you enter the class after role, you will be marked LATE. Two times LATE will be one absence. See grading sheet.
- Late assignments drop one letter grade for each day late. If you know you are going to be absent, please submit your assignment to me on e-mail (see above) BEFORE the beginning of class time if you wish full credit—the time is indicated when I receive your mail; you may also have a classmate give it to me in class.
- Please notify me if you have a medical condition that may affect your ability to complete this course.
- Any falsifying assignments or cheating will be handled as severely as college policy allows!

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

### January 11

Introduction of Course

Perception Walk

Assignment: The Kimchi Matters. Read the preface, the introduction and Chapters 1, 2. Complete Kimchi Worksheet **Part 1A**.

**Due January 18** (must be typed).

### January 18

Powerpoint presentation of Tanzania; Darlene Voeltz

Assignment: The Kimchi Matters. Read Chapters 3 and 4. Complete Kimchi Worksheet **Part 1B**.

**Due: January 25** (must be typed).

### January 25

Class will meet today at the **Mayo Clinic** in the **Leighton Auditorium** where we will listen to a panel discussion: “Serving the Underserved: The Mexican Immigrant Experience in S.E. MN.” The panel begins at 12:10 p.m. and finishes at 1 p.m. Allow time for parking, or you may want to take the bus downtown. When the lecture ends, we will go to the subway level to view the Photography Exhibit by Jean Gunderson: *Voices from the Ravine: Mexican Immigrant Experience in Southeastern Minnesota*.

Assignment: Outline the major points discussed by the panel; include your reaction.

**Due: February 1** (must be typed).

## February 1

Kim Sin, guest speaker: “My Journey to America.” Kim was born and raised in Cambodia. He will share a powerful multimedia presentation that documents the Sin family’s journey to America as a result of the Khmer Rouge conflict. He will also share his experience growing up in America. Kim moved to America with his family in 1983. He attended Mayo High School, and then completed the Digital Arts AS degree at RCTC in 2001. He is employed as a Communications Technician and has worked in Media Services at RCTC since February 2000.

Ask pertinent questions during appropriate times.

Assignment: Outline the major points. Summarize your reaction.

**Due: February 8** (must be typed).

## February 8

FULBRIGHT presentation. We will meet in Room CF 202. Others will be joining us.

Assignment: The Kimchi Matters: Chapters 5, pages 56-61; Chapter 7.

Complete Kimchi Worksheet Part 2.

**Due: February 22.**

## February 15

No Class: President’s Day.

February 22

Jose Ferreria, guest speaker. Jose grew up in Lima, Peru. He received his MBA in the United States and has been working in the accounting department for Mayo Clinic for more than a year. He is on a six-year green card working visa here in the U.S. and will share his family’s story and experiences of living under both a military coup dictatorship and now under a democracy.

Ask pertinent questions during appropriate times.

Assignment: Outline the major points. Summarize your reaction.

**Due: March 1** (must be typed).

## March 1

Round Table Discussion

Assignment: The Kimchi Matters. Chapter 8 p.111-114; Chapter 10.

Complete Kimchi Worksheet **Part 3**.

**Due March 8.** (must be typed).

## **March 8**

Round Table Discussion.

Assignment: The Other Path. Chapters 1 and 2.  
Complete Other Path Worksheet 1.

**Due: March 22** (must be typed)

## **March 15**

SPRING BREAK

## **March 22**

Round Table Discussion.

Assignment: The Other Path. Chapters 3 and 4.  
Complete Other Path Worksheet 2.

**Due: March 29** (must be typed)

## **March 29**

Film Clips about Argentina. Depending upon availability: Evita, Motorcycle Diaries,  
The Official Story: The Missing; Mission; etc.

Assignment: The Kimchi Matters, Chapter 14, pp. 213-223; and Conclusion.  
Complete Kimchi Worksheet Part 4

**Due April 5** (must be typed).

## **April 5**

Fen Shen, guest speaker. Fan is a Chinese-born professor of English here at RCTC will present a synopsis of his recent book: A Gang of One: Memoirs of a Red Guard. This book is Fan's depiction of what his life was like in Communist China during the Cultural Revolution. It is the Common Book at RCTC this year, so many of you may have read it for one of your classes. If you have, refresh a bit before this class. If you have not, try to borrow a copy from someone and peruse through it before class. He will entertain questions after his remarks.

Ask pertinent questions during appropriate times.

Assignment: Outline the major points. Summarize your reaction.

**Due: April 12** (must be typed).

April 12      Oral Projects

April 19      Oral Projects

April 26      Oral Projects

May 3        FINAL

May 10 \*\*\*Flex Day

## **GRADING SCALE**

## **Points**

Attendance:

100

One free absence. Each additional absence  
will be a deduction of 10 points.

Oral Project with Powerpoint presentation

100

15-20 minute presentation of country/issue of choice

Guest presenter/panel outline

60 (15 each)

Worksheets on Readings (must be typed)

90 (15 each)

FINAL: 40-minute Critical Writing

50

All notes/books as references

400

Grading Policy:

100-90 = A

89-80 = B

79-70 = C

69-60 = D