

Independent Study (Econ 4398-02)

Instructor: Dr. Thomas R. DeGregori
Phone: (713)-743-3838 (I prefer to receive emails)
E-mail: trdegreg@uh.edu
Homepage: <http://www.uh.edu/~trdegreg/>
Office: 209 D McElhinney Hall
Office Hours: TBA

ALL STUDENTS TAKING ANY INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSE FROM ME IN ANY SEMESTER WILL PRINT-OUT THE POSTED SYLLABUS FOR THE COURSE BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO ENROLL FOR IT. THEY WILL TAKE IT WITH THEM TO FILL OUT THE PETITION USING THE INFORMATION IN THE SYLLABUS AND THE EXACT WORDING BELOW.

Students who take ECON 3351 or my ECON 4389 course may also take my ECON 4398-Special Problems in Development in which they will add three of the assigned choices which they did not use for the regular class.

There are a limited number of topics on which students will do their papers. They correspond to topics that students taking my courses in Spring 2014 will research for class presentation. Students taking 3351 or 4398 will be required to work with the group in class doing the presentation and be part of the presentation unless they have a course conflict. More details on presentation and topics will be provided, posted and sent out to all students registered for my courses.

Topics for 4389 are:

- Trends in Food Safety over the last 100 years or so.
- Trends in technology in Food Production, Preservation, Preparation and Nutrition over the last 100 years or so.
- Biotechnology in agriculture- Yields, Safety (in production and consumption), Environmental Impact and Benefits (Ex. Vitamin A enhanced rice)
- Trends in Global Poverty and Hunger since 1950.
- Trends in Global Life Expectancy since 1950.
- Trends in Global Population since 1950.
- Trends in Global Infant and Child Mortality since 1950.

Topics for 3351 are:

- Trends in Global Food Production since 1950.
- Trends in Global Poverty and Hunger since 1950.
- Trends in Global Life Expectancy since 1950.
- Trends in Global Population since 1950.
- Trends in Global Infant and Child Mortality since 1950.
- Neglected Tropical Diseases (there is an online journal covering that topic among other sources).

CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN ONLY TO THOSE WHO ENROLL IN THE SPRING 2014 SEMESTER.

In filling out the petition to take the course write the following:

“Taking ECON 3351– The student will read an additional assigned book and *Cuisine and Empire: Cooking in World History* by Rachel Laudan and *Consider the Fork: A History of How We Cook and Eat* by Bee Wilson Basic Books and add 30 pages to their total page requirement for ECON 3351. The papers are expected to cover the selected topics in greater depth.”

“Taking ECON 4389 and participating in a class project– The student will read two additional assigned books *Ninety Percent of Everything: Inside* by Rose George, and then do a 30 page paper which brings together the presentations of her or his group. This paper is expected to cover the selected topic in greater depth.”

Students taking my ECON 4389 class may search out the articles on dairy and cattle production by Judith L. Capper (sometimes listed as Jude Capper) at Washington State University and email the titles and URLs to me for permission to use them rather than the assigned book.