

**Geneva, Switzerland Summer Program  
ECON-4396**

**“Topics in Global Development, Technology and Entrepreneurship”**

**Course: July 5th – August 2nd, 2010**

**Trip: July 12th – August 2nd, 2010**

**Three Credit Hours**

**UTD Academic Leader: Dr. Maria-Elena Labastida Tovar**

**Maria-Elena Labastida Tovar** lectures in International Finance and Development Economics at The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD). She lived and studied in Geneva, Switzerland where she pursued two master degrees from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and the European Institute of the University of Geneva. She received her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Political Economy from UTD. In addition, she is a candidate for an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in political economy and political science at the University of Geneva. She collaborated at the Mexican Embassy in Morocco, the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) and the multinational Swiss firm Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS Group).

**Course description:**

We are witnessing a shift of paradigm in what is traditional known in academic and policy-making circles as international relations to an increasing use of the term “globalization” or other terms involving the word “global”: global health, global trade, global financial crises, global terrorism, global crime and global warming are some of these terms. It seems that after about 360 years of the advent of the nation-state back in 1648 (with the signing of the Peace of Westphalia treaties) the rigid nation-state paradigm of national boundaries and foreign relations left only to the diplomatic circles, is blurring into an interconnected and thus, interdependent set of relationships among new actors. These actors, other than the nation state, have emerged motivated by the benefits, costs, promises and risks that globalization poses. Some of them, the multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations, an increasing number of research policy institutes (also known as thinks-tanks) and a new actor, the entrepreneur, are all obtaining recognition and predominance in driving global public policy. Yet technology is the ultimate driver. Technology, defined as “the use of scientific knowledge into practical purposes” has made possible to interconnect instantaneously markets, entrepreneurs, prices and

information, surpassing the slower mechanisms of the public policy making and institutions. There is an urgent need for creativity in streamlining and re-thinking public policies in new ways to cope with global challenges without sacrificing the legitimacy and transparency of the institutions. The arrival of the World Wide Web, the development of nanotechnology, biotechnology and many other technological advances has served as engines to shift the paradigm towards new actors and new global challenges and benefits. This course aims to develop a framework to think in a critical and creative way on innovative institutional arrangements and designs that can better adjust to the fastest reality of technology and its interconnectivity with entrepreneurship, markets and public policy.

### **Student Learning Objectives and Outcomes:**

The learning objectives of this course are threefold. First, to offer the student international exposure to regional and multilateral intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and multinationals corporations directly at the source where global public policy making takes place. The student will benefit from the learning experience of visiting intergovernmental organizations, multinational corporations, countries' permanent missions and non-governmental organizations. Also the student will benefit from carrying out research at the United Nations or at the World Trade Organization libraries or having the opportunity to interview staff members of international organizations. Second, the student will learn some of the theories, concepts and debates on global development. Thus, based on the student's practicum, after taking this course the student will be able to apply critical skills to categorize, contrast and judge global development public policies. Finally, the student will be able to apply concepts and principles to new situations to formulate original recommendations to global development public policy problems.

**Visits:** These include the United Nations European Headquarters, the World Bank, the Multinational Corporation SGS Group, the World Economic Forum, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the World Trade Organization, the European Union and Mexican Permanent Missions, the Geneva World Financial Forum, the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS), the Red Cross and the World Microfinance Forum.

**Required books:** "Entrepreneurship, Growth and Public Policy" by Audretsch (2009), "The mystery of capital: why capitalism triumphs in the west and fails everywhere else" by Hernando De Soto, "Imagine there's no country: poverty, inequality and growth in the era of globalization", Surjit S. Bhalla (2002), "The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics", Easterly, William (2002), "The Mystery of Economic Growth", Helpman, Elhanan (2004), "The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power and Politics of World Trade", Rivoli, Pietra (2009).

**Orientation:** Three orientation sessions will be offered to present the course to interested student as well as for Q&A about the course and the trip to Geneva:

Wednesday January 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in GR 3.604

Monday February 15, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in GR 3.606

Friday March 5, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in GR 3.604

**Students:** Undergraduate Students

**Number of students:** 10

**Tuition:** Pay at UTD

**Trip expenses:** Pay at UTD

**Estimated cost:** \$1,835.00 including: double accommodation with communal kitchen. Local transportation is free for visitors (this includes trams, ferries and buses).

**Scholarships:** Students are required to satisfy the Office of International Education (OIE) protocol and can apply for competitive scholarships under the UTD International Educational Fund Scholarship (IEFS). Forms are available at OIE (Jonsson 5.504). Please return your application to the OIE. Please note that completed forms and supporting letters of recommendation must be submitted no later than **March 29, 2010**. No late submissions will be considered -- so APPLY EARLY.

**Payment and refund policy:**

+ Payment

- 50% deposit by April 16, 2010, will hold a place for you.
- 50% final payment is due no later than May 14, 2010.

- Checks or money orders should be made out to The University of Texas at Dallas.
- Submit payments to the Office of International Education, Jonsson 5.504.

+ Refund

- No refunds after April 16, 2010.

**Notes:**

1. Students are subject to the satisfaction of the UTD Office of International Education Protocol. **Deadline: March 29 for Summer 2010.**

2. Students can apply for the *International Educational Fund Scholarship*. **Deadline: March 29 for Summer 2010.**

3. Students are responsible for personal expenses, including meals, air ticket, visits' fees (most of them are free), UTD tuition, etc. It is suggested a budget of \$1,100.00 for meals, laundry and visit fees.

4. These are estimated costs, which may be subject to change.

5. Program arrangements are in process and subject to changes. For more information, please contact Dr. Maria-Elena Labastida at [mlabasti@utdallas.edu](mailto:mlabasti@utdallas.edu). Office: Green Hall 2.512.