



Module 0: Intro to the Course

Williams College ECON 204:
Global Poverty and Economic Development
Professor: Pamela Jakiela

photo: Per Gunvall / World Bank

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will have a better understanding of:

1. The geographic distribution of global poverty, and its evolution over time
2. The geographies, histories, and cultures of low- and middle-income countries
3. The key stages and themes in the history of development thought
4. The range of policies available to reduce poverty, equalize opportunities, improve firm productivity, and promote sustainable development
5. The theory and practice of impact evaluation as it is used to understand the impacts of development projects and other policies intended to alleviate extreme poverty
6. The evidence base associated with such policies

Course Logistics

- Class meetings: Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM in Schapiro 141
- Instructor: Professor Pamela Jakiela (pj5@williams.edu)
 - ▶ Office hours: Mondays from 2–3 PM, Wednesdays from 3–4 PM in 339 Schapiro
- Course websites:
 - ▶ <https://pjakiela.github.io/ECON204/> (course materials)
 - ▶ <https://www.gradescope.com/courses/1231363> (submitting assignments)

Assignments and Grading

Class participation	10 points
Readings comprehension questions	5 points
In-class worksheets	10 points
Stata/R labs	20 points
Colonialism project	10 points
Policy brief	15 points
Final exam	30 points

To Do List

- Read the syllabus
- Readings for next Monday:
 - ▶ Our World in Data: “The history of the end of poverty has just begun”
 - ▶ “Divergence, Big Time” by Lant Pritchett
- Make sure you are ready to work in Stata or R by Wednesday