



**Instructors** Michael Delgado, Huan Li and Brigitte Waldorf  
**Location** RAWLS 1071  
**Time** Fall 2017, Friday 1:30-2:20

### **Course Description**

The AGECE 633 class, or the SHaPE seminar as it is usually called, is designed to introduce you to advanced research in space, health and population economics, including state-of-the-art research methods and tools. The weekly seminar serves as a forum for students to present their own work and receive critical comments and suggestions for improvement from faculty and peers. The seminar is actually a tool to organize the SHaPE group, build cohesion among the group, provide synergies through shared learning, and create a platform for the exchange of ideas. By definition, the composition of the group of students taking this class will be very heterogeneous, ranging from first-year Master's students with an (emerging) interest in the topic, to fourth-year Ph.D. students who are on the edge of entering the labor market with a profile based on this specialty area. We accommodate this as best we can in an open and friendly atmosphere, based on the idea that it is intellectual curiosity and research quality that counts. What you can expect to find in this class is an interested group of typically 15–20 students and 5+ faculty working in this area. This class is really what we make of it.

The seminar is organized as a *weekly brownbag seminar*. Active student participation is essential, including the willingness to share research ideas and provide critical supportive feedback. The emphasis is on open dialogues, stimulating discussions, and exploration of new research ideas. Students will be *responsible for the entire 50 minutes* of one of the weekly seminars. During the assigned seminar, the student has the chance to tap into the collective brain power of all participants with the goal of exploring/advancing their own research. That can be in the form of, for example, a traditional research presentation, or the presentation and critical review of an article, or it can be a more open discussion centered on a research idea. The student assigned the responsibility is encouraged to discuss the 50-minute design with the instructor(s) and is also in charge of sharing the relevant reading a week ahead of time.

### **Credits and Grades**

The main goals of the *SHaPE* sessions are to teach students how to think critically, engage in intellectual discussions, learn new software, methods and tools, and to become an active and cohesive group of researchers in the area of space, health and population economics. Formal testing and evaluation of such skills on a nuanced grading scale does not match the intention and scope of the class. Grades will therefore be based on participation and performed activities. Students who actively contribute to the class will receive the highest passing grade. Note that apologies to the instructors are in order if you cannot attend a meeting. The class is rewarded with 1 credit. You can take it repeatedly throughout your graduate studies.

### **Rewards and Events**

Typically, we organize one or more social events, such as an outing to the theater, bowling, a dinner party, or something similar. Your creativity and help are welcomed. We also organize



“SHaPE graduation receptions” to celebrate the successful defenses of SHaPE students. This semester social events and receptions will be arranged by *Chun Song* and *Sofia Vielma*.

**Website**

The website for the class is available at <http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/academic/agec63300>, and is developed “as we go”. Webmasters are *Tim Smith* and email lists will be maintained by *Yong Jee Kim*. The readings used during the course are all available from the intranet part of the website. You will need a username-password combination, provided to students participating in the class, to access the intranet. Printed copies of the readings will be available from *Marsha Pritchard* in KRAN 619.