Objectives of the course:
1) Increase the understanding of future business leaders as to how business can be a force for good (or bad) in society
2) Lay the foundation of developmental economics and politics
3) Explore in detail, through field visits to war-torn countries, the specific political, cultural, and economic challenges faced by business, culminating in case studies of the positive/negative impact of those business activities

Format of the course (elective worth 4 credits):
- 2 credits (October – December, 2008) for weekly two hour seminar dedicated both to themes in developmental economics and politics and to describing the early findings of a specific country study
- 2 credits (January – March, 2009) for post-field visit case study of impact of business on the frontlines – once again weekly two hour seminar to work with partner organization (eg Catholic Relief Services and US Institute for Peace) to determine lessons learned
- Final presentation of case for the leadership of partner organizations, such that they can benefit from insights gained.
- By competitive application and interview
  o Note: fully 25% of Notre Dame’s graduating class of 200 MBAs applied for the course, with nearly 50 applications
- Limit of 12 students

Field Visit
- Field visits to two formerly war-torn regions scheduled for about Friday, January 2, 2009 through Sunday, January 11: Bosnia and Lebanon
- Contributions of Notre Dame:
  o Design of case studies, interview questions, interview scheduling with business leaders/academics/journalists, examination of specific reconstruction challenges, financial subsidy for field visit expenses
- Contribution of Partner organization – CRS’s
  o Security, logistics, access to business leaders/government ministers, civic and religious leaders, etc, implementation of in-country field visits
“Business on the Frontlines” by Viva Bartkus
Impact of Local and MNC business in post-war reconstruction societies
Syllabus

Week 1:  
**Introduction to “Business for Good”**


Week 2:  
**Principles of Development Economics**


Week 3:  
**Continue with Development Economics**

Selections: Jane Nelson, *The Business of Peace*


Week 4:  
**Principles of International Relations/Development Politics**


Week 5:  
**Discussion the United Nations Global Compact**

Examination of challenges faced by partner organization: CRS

“CRS Strategic Program Plan”, Catholic Relief Services, 2006

United Nations Global Compact reports

Weeks 6, 7  
**Launch of Specific Case Studies/ Preparation for field visits**

Wall, Barbara. “Conflict zones sometimes mean investment opportunities”, 2008


Collaboration with partner organization (CRS) on preparation for field visit and case study, including interview scheduling, logistics, security briefing, vaccinations, visas

**Post-Field Visits to Bosnia and Lebanon**

Weeks 1, 2, 3: Discussion of initial findings, including themes regarding ex-patriot investment, exacerbation of sectarian divides, infrastructure, micro-finance among refugees

Week 4  
Initial review of case study findings with leaders in partner organizations (CRS) to gain their feedback.

Week 5, 6  
Complete case studies on positive/negative impact of business in war-torn areas

Week 7  
Final review of case studies and lessons learned with senior leaders of partner organization