Syllabus
Econ 260: Theories of Economic Development

Jorge M. Agüero
University of California, Riverside
Fall 2006

General information

Time and location: MW 9:40-11am SPR 3123
Office hours: M 11am-12pm, Th 1-2pm (4108 Sproul Hall)
E-mail: jorge.aguero@ucr.edu
Website: http://faculty.ucr.edu/~jorgea/econ260

Course description

This is the first of three courses covering the field of development economics. The goal of this course is to introduce the main issues of development economics from a “macro” perspective, instead of a “micro” view. We will emphasize the theoretical issues in the field but they will be complemented with empirical papers.

Requirements and grading

One paper due December 6 35%.
Three referee reports (due Oct. 16, Nov. 6 and 27) 25%.
One take-home final (between Dec. 11-16) 40%.

The guidelines for the referee report as well as the list of papers to choose from will be posted later on the course website.
The paper can cover any topic related to economic growth from a “macro” perspective. You are encouraged to do an applied paper (i.e., using data) but theoretical ones are also accepted. Please feel free to discuss your ideas with me if needed.

To keep track of your progress you are asked to submit a one-paragraph report with the main idea of the paper on October 18 during class and a two-page report with main structure of the paper (including data sources if relevant) is due during class on November 1. The final paper is due at 5pm (PT) on the day described above. Meeting the deadline is an important part of this exercise, so there will be no extensions. The maximum length (including bibliography and back matter) is 20 pages.

Textbooks

These textbooks are suggested. We will use some chapters from them but most of the readings will be from the papers listed in the course outline.


Course outline and readings

The [*] symbol indicates the required readings. All others are suggested but some of them will be covered in class.
I. Facts and historical perspective


- AD: chapter 8.

- MR: chapters 1 and 2. [*]

- BS: introduction.

- BBM: chapters 1 and 4.


II. Neoclassical economic growth

- BM: chapters 1 and 2. [*]


III. Human capital and endogenous growth


• BBM: chapters 2, 3 and 5.

**IV. Empirics of economic growth**

• AD: chapter 8. [*]


V. Poverty traps

• AD: chapter 5.


### VI. Geography and endowments


### VII. Culture and social capital

• AD: chapter 26 [available at Science Direct]


VIII. Institutions

- AD: chapter 6.


IX. Inequality


**X. Growth strategies**

• AD: chapter 14[*] and 15.


