Syllabus
Econ 260: Theories of Economic Development

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University of California, Riverside
Fall 2008

General information

Time and location: TR 2:10 - 3:30 p.m. SPR 3123
Office hours: T 10am-11am, W 11am-12pm (4108 Sproul Hall)
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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 and less from a “micro” view. We will emphasize the theoretical issues in the field but they will be complemented with empirical papers.

Requirements and grading

Two research ideas (due Oct. 28 and Nov. 25) 15% each.
Two referee reports (due Oct. 14 and Nov. 11) 15% each.
One presentation (to be scheduled later) 10%.
One take-home final (December 9, 10 a.m.) 30%.
The referee report is a critical (but constructive) evaluation of an academic paper. The list of papers is available on the course website.

The research ideas can cover any topic related in applied economics. It should describe the goal and motivation in detail and, as possible, the model, data and methodology to be used. Please feel free to discuss your ideas with me if needed. In both cases (for the referee report and the research ideas) please limit your writings to five pages per piece.

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.
II. Neoclassical and endogenous economic growth

- BBM: chapters 1 and 2. [\*]
- BBM: chapters 2, 3 and 5.
III. Empirics of economic growth

• AD: chapter 8. [*]


VI. The role of infrastructure


V. Geography and endowments


VI. Institutions

- AD: chapter 6.


VII. Inequality


VIII. Environment and development


IX. Growth strategies

- AD: chapter 14[*] and 15.


