Syllabus
Econ 260: Theories of Economic Development

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University of California, Riverside
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General information
Time and location: TR 3:40 - 5:00 p.m. SPR 2206
Office hours: TR 10:00-11:00am (4108 Sproul Hall)
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Course description
This is the first of three courses covering the field of development economics. We will start with main definitions and measurement issues in development and then move quickly to a set of topics with an emphasis on the “microeconomic” themes. 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. 29 and Nov. 26) 15% each.
Two referee reports (due Oct. 15 and Nov. 12) 15% each.
One presentation (to be scheduled later) 10%.
One take-home final (due on December 8, 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 but it must clearly provide a contribution to the field of study. It should describe the goal and motivation in detail and, as possible, the model, data and methodology to be used. If you are thinking about an experiment, you must included valid and feasible funding sources. 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.

Your presentation will be about one of four topics listed below.

1. Equality of opportunity.
2. Mobility and measurement error.
3. Evidence of discrimination in developing countries.

Two weeks prior to your presentation date you must send to the class a list with two key papers that we should all read in preparation for your presentation. This presentation will last an entire session. Make sure that you include the motivation of the topic, provide a brief literature review by identifying the recent theoretical and empirical contributions in the area and discuss possible lines for further research.

Also, this is a good time for graduate students to start using typesetting software instead of your regular word processing. A very popular Windows version of \LaTeX\ is \textit{MiKTeX} (http://www.miktex.org/). You will need an editor for that, where \textit{TextPad} (http://www.textpad.com/) or \textit{WinEdt} (http://www.winedt.com/) are good options. If you are rich you can use \textit{Scientific Word} instead.

**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. Measurement issues: Poverty, inequality, vulnerability and mobility

#### Poverty


#### Inequality


Vulnerability


Mobility


II. Empirics of economic growth


- AD: chapter 8. [*]


III. Poverty dynamics


IV. Intrahousehold allocations: Theory and applications


V. Early life investments


VI. Negative shocks early in life


VII. Corruption


