ECON 184
Economic Development in Africa
Instructor: Jorge Agüero
Winter 2010
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1 General information

Time and location: TR 02:10-03:30 p.m SPR 2365
Office hours: TR 10:00-11:00a.m. (4108 Sproul Hall)
Phone: 951.827.4108
E-mail: jorge.aguero@ucr.edu
Website: http://faculty.ucr.edu/~jorgea/econ184

● Enrollment issues: Karen Ward, 4124 Sproul Hall, (951) 827-1473, karen.ward@ucr.edu.
2 Requirements and grading

- Assignments due: beginning of the class or in my office before the class.
- Dates are final. No exceptions (except medical emergencies).

  Two problem sets 5% each.
  One midterm (week 4 or 5) 25%.
  Structure of presentation (Feb. 4) 10%.
  Group presentation 15%.
  Written summary 10%.
  Participation in class 15%.
  Weekly assignments 15%.

- Best student prize.
3  Textbooks

Required


Suggested


Grades

To convert your overall numeric grade to a letter grade use the following rule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Letter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 or above</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79.9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sub-letter grades (eg., A+, B-, C) will be determined later in the quarter but they usually correspond to breaks of the same magnitude within the bracket.
Communications

- Most communication will take place during class.
- Otherwise I will send an email through ilearn.
- It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that the email listed on ilearn is valid.
- If you do not use your UCR account make the appropriate changes to have your UCR emails sent to your preferred account.
Plagiarism

- Any student found committing plagiarism, not handing in original work of his/her own, or cheating, will be given an F in the course and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University.

- Please read this document and become familiar with the correct ways to cite other’s work. http://wwwconduct.ucr.edu/learnPolicies/Pages/AcademicIntegrity.aspx.
4 Other sources

- News: BBC
  
  http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/default.stm and
  All-Africa News (http://allafrica.com/)

- Course blog: http://appliedmicro.blogspot.com/

- Others:
  - http://bottombillion.com/
  - http://chrisblattman.com/
  - http://aidwatchers.com/
  - http://africaunchained.blogspot.com/
  - http://texasinafrica.blogspot.com/

- Background information for African countries: World Factbook

- Specialized economic journal: Journal of African Economies.
5 Course outline and readings

I Patterns of economic development in Africa.

II Economic growth: capital accumulation.

III Economic growth: geography vs. institutions.

IV Poverty, inequality and race in South Africa.

V Education.

VI Insurance and shocks

VII The Aid debate.

VIII Economic development and conflict.

IX Corruption.
6 Frequently Asked Questions
Q: How much do we have to read for this class?

- Around 40-60 pages per week.
Q: What about your slides, can I use them instead of the readings?

- I would suggest not.
- My slides are NOT lecture notes.
- They are a visual aid for me (I tend to forget things!).
- At best, use them to complement your readings, but not as substitutes.
- You will have the slides available before class.
- Sometimes a day in advance.
Q: Is it enough to come to class to pass this course?

- In the past, successful students (those with B or more) have come to class, read the assigned materials, turned their homeworks on time and study hard.
Q: I need a B to graduate[keep my GPA, etc.], can you help me?

- Of course!
- Make sure you do what successful students do (see previous question).
- Come to my office hours.
- If parts of the course are hard for you please let me know. I am always willing to explain things again in class or during office hours.
- Just don’t come and ask “can you repeat the whole thing again, please?”
Q: I have not taken econometrics yet. Am I in trouble?

- Of course not.
- I will cover the basics in the next two classes.
- But make sure you read the assigned material and if questions persist, come to office hours.
Q: I have a X, Y and Z in my grades, can I still pass the course?

- The syllabus contains the weight for each assignment/exams.
- If that does not help you, within the next two weeks, I will post an spreadsheet where you can do those calculations.
- It is your responsibility to make sure that I post that sheet (I tend to forget things, did I mention that before?).
More questions?