

Syllabus

Econ 181. Economic Development: Theory and Policy

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University of California, Riverside

Fall 2007

General information

Time and location: TR 08:10 - 09:30 a.m. OLMH 1212
Office hours: M 11am-12pm, W 1-2pm (4108 Sproul Hall)
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Course description

The goal of the course is to introduce the main issues of development economics. What affects economic growth, inequality, and poverty? Why do some countries achieve high levels of economic development and others do not? What are the policies governments can implement to change the growth path of their countries? In this course we will initially approach these questions from a “macro” perspective and later introduce a “microeconomic” view of the problems.

The contract

Requirements

All assignments mentioned below must be turned in at the beginning of the class or left in my office before the class meets. Only under extreme circumstances (such as medical emergencies) will late assignments be accepted at the discretion of the instructor. The dates for all exams (once established) and assignments are final.

One paper due November 27	25%.
Four problem sets	5% each.
Midterm exam (around week 4)	25%
One final (Wednesday December 12, 3-6pm)	30%.

The paper

For the paper, students will form groups of 3 by October 11. I will form groups with the students failing to meet this requirement. The groups will have to choose between the following topics: (1) corruption and development, (2) international aid, (3) environment and poverty and (4) international migration. Additionally each group should state the region that will be analyzed: Asia, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa or Eastern Europe. Further guidelines for the paper (goals and structure) will be distributed later in the quarter.

Grades

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

Number	Letter
90 or above	A
80-89.9	B
70-79.9	C
60-69.9	D
Below 60	F

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.

Textbooks

Required

Perkins, D., S. Radelet, and Lindauer (2006) *Economics of Development*, Sixth Edition. Norton. [PRL].

Suggested

Banerjee, A., R. Bènabou, and D. Mookherjee (2006) *Understanding Poverty*. 6th edition. Oxford University Press. [BBM, HC79.P6 U534 2006].

Todaro, M. and S. Smith (2006) *Economic Development*. 9th edition. Pearson.

Ray, D. (1998) *Development Economics*. Princeton University Press. [HD75 .R39 1998].

Plagiarism

The appropriate ways for referencing the material used to write the paper will be discussed in class. 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.

Course outline and readings

Each of the following topics should take us one week, on average. The [*] symbol indicates the required readings. All others are suggested but some/most of them will be covered in class.

I. Measurement of economic development

- PRL: chapters 1 and 2. [*]
- BBM: chapters 1 and 4.
- Ray: chapter 2.

II. Economic growth

- PRL: chapter 3[*] and 4[*].
- BBM: chapters 2, 3 and 5.
- Ray: chapters 3 and 4[*].

III. Poverty and inequality

- PRL: chapter 6. [*]
- BBM: chapters 12.
- Ray: chapters 6 and 7.

IV. Agriculture and industrialization

- PRL: chapter 16[*] and 18[*].
- BBM: chapter 8.
- Ray: chapters 11 to 15.

V. Population

- PRL: chapter 7. [*]
- BBM: chapters 9 and 10.
- Ray: chapter 9.

VI. Education

- PRL: chapter 8. [*]
- BBM: chapter 18.

VII. Health and nutrition

- PRL: chapter 9. [*]
- BBM: chapters 20 and 21.
- Ray: chapter 8 and 13.

VIII. Savings and credit

- PRL: chapter 10. [*]
- BBM: chapter 22 and 23.
- Ray: chapter 14.

IX. Trade and development

- PRL: chapter 19. [*]
- BBM: chapters 6 and 7.
- Ray: chapters 16 and 17.