

ECON 184

Economic Development in Africa

Instructor: Jorge Agüero

Winter 2010

Introduction: About ECON 184

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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

- Kevane, Michael (2004) *Women and Development in Africa: How Gender Works*. Lynne Rienner Publishers. ISBN: 978-1588262387. [HQ1240 5 A35 K48 2004]
- Collier, Paul (2007) *The Bottom Billion* [HC79.P6 C61 2007 and on reserve]
- Moss, Todd (2007) *African Development. Making Sense of Issues and Actors* Lynne Rienner Publishers. ISBN: 978-1588264725. [On reserve]

Suggested

- Easterly, William (2002) *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics*. The MIT Press. ISBN: 978-0262550420. [HC59.72.P6 E17 2001]
- Banerjee, A., R. Bènabou, and D. Mookherjee (2006) *Understanding Poverty*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0195305203. [HC79.P6 U534 2006].
- Fafchamps, Marcel (2004) *Market Institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa: Theory and Evidence*. MIT Press. ISBN: 978-026206236. [HC800 .F33 2004]

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.

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://www.conduct.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://africacan.worldbank.org/>
 - <http://aidwatchers.com/>
 - <http://africaunchained.blogspot.com/>
 - <http://texasinafrica.blogspot.com/>
- Background information for African countries: World Factbook

(http:

//www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html)

- 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 spread sheet 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?